



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

26 April 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

John 10:1-10,11a (NRSVue)

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸ All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd

Psalms 23 (KJV)

²³ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25



Take Nothing Personally

'There is so much freedom in taking nothing personal.

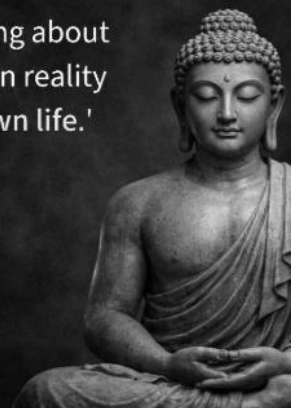
Someone doesn't like you? Okay.

Someone is judging you? So what?

Someone doesn't want to be a part of your life anymore? Bye bye.

Too much time is spent worrying about what others think of us, when in reality You are the creator of your own life.'

fb|Buddha'sTeaching



Peel Valley Congregations

Invite you to join them for the Gowrie Community Church Closing Service of Thanksgiving On Sunday, 31 May 2026 At 11am, 2125 Gowrie Road, Gowrie A combined 5th Sunday TRUC Service

2026 marks the 93rd year of the Gowrie Church on this site and the 136th year of the original Union Church at Gowrie. So much history, so many memories...

Following the service we will convene at the Gowrie Community Hall (behind the Rural Fire Service shed), 238 Sweeneys Lane, a short drive from the church. A barbecue lunch will be hosted by the Peel Valley Congregations and the Gowrie Progress Association.

We hope you can join us.

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Doug Crowell who is in Swan Hill hospital with an infection.
- We also pray for Marg, who is staying 85km from Swan Hill, and is still unable to drive.
- We thank God that Beulah has settled into McKay House very well.
- We pray for the many casualties of war in the Middle East, and in Ukraine.
- We pray for a peaceful world.
- We pray for continued safe travel for Evelyn and Tony.

Meg's Musings

It has been a long, hot and dry summer in the Tamworth region, and for much of NSW.

The consensus is to expect a dry autumn, winter and spring, as an El Nino is developing.

What would it feel like to trust that God has everything in hand, and that we need not be fearful of the consequences of a continuing very dry period?

It can be difficult to see current and possible future circumstances, and yet still be able to say with the Psalmist,

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

This Psalm holds great comfort, and great truth.....let's make it our truth

Blessing from Meg



When the going gets tough, the tough get going.



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Cuppa and a chat always available.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal:

"To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: **"Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."**

Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elder: Margaret Crowell

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- 1 Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- 2 When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- 3 Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- 4 We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- 5 We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- 6 On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

1. Going to bed early
2. Not leaving the house
3. Not going to a party

My childhood
punishments have
become my adult goals



CHURCH SERVICES 11am West
3 May ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



**Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches
Minister's Reflection – Easter 4
Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10**

Most people in Tamworth and across our region do not need a theological lecture to understand what a shepherd does. You know what it means to keep an eye on stock through dry seasons, to check fences after a storm, to get up in the dark when something is not right.

So when Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd," it's not a soft sentimental image. It is a strong one. It is about responsibility and presence.

And Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd" is not just poetry for peaceful times. It is faith spoken in the middle of uncertainty - "*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil.*" That line lands differently when you've walked a few valleys yourself.

It does not take much to see that our world feels a bit like that valley right now. There is conflict in different parts of the world that does not seem to ease. There is economic pressure hitting families hard. Closer to home, many in rural communities are still carrying the strain of drought cycles, floods, and the rising cost of simply keeping things going.

There's a weariness around. Into that world, Jesus doesn't offer slogans. The resurrected Christ offers himself... "*I am the gate... I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.*"

In John's Gospel, Jesus talks about sheep knowing the shepherd's voice. That's an image that rings true out here. Stock respond to a familiar call. They know who belongs.

But there are other voices too hey? Voices we see in the media that stir fear, division and false promises. Jesus is blunt about that in saying that there are those who come only to steal, kill, and destroy. The challenge for us, as individuals and as a church, is learning again to recognise the Shepherd's voice.

What sets the good shepherd apart is that the shepherd stays. When things get risky, the shepherd does not walk away. When the valley gets dark, the good shepherd does not disappear. That matters. One of the quiet fears people carry I have observed is the sense of being left to cope alone. Psalm 23 answers that directly... "*You are with me.*"continued

Christ's flock is made up of sheep that not only listen to their shepherd, but are also able to recognize his voice, to follow him, faithfully and with full awareness, on the pastures of eternal life. ~ Pope John XXIII

Out here, you learn quickly that life isn't always abundant in the way the world defines it. Rain doesn't come on schedule. Markets fluctuate. Plans change. Yet, there's a different kind of abundance that grows in these conditions... a community that shows up when it matters and faith that is steady. For me, that is close to what Jesus is talking about. Abundant life isn't about everything going smoothly. It's about life that is held, guided, and sustained.

So I wonder what might it look like this week to live as people who trust the Good Shepherd? Perhaps it is as this:

- Paying attention to the voices we are listening to
- Choosing trust over fear, even in small ways
- Looking out for one another, especially those doing it tough
- Remembering that we're not just individuals trying to get by, but a flock held together.

Amen

Rev Sam



My Younger Days

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.

But now that I am older,
I've set my body free;
There's the comfort of elastic
Where once my waist would be.

Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I have to wear a nine now,
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those pantyhose-
They're sized by weight, you see,
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?

I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller;
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.

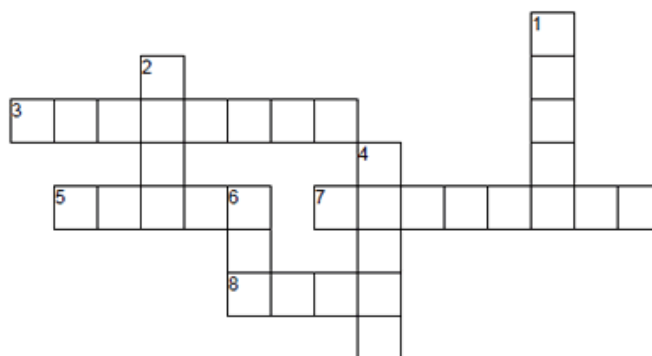
Though my hair has turned to gray
and my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's the outside's changed a bit. ~ Maya Angelou

The Shepherd's Voice

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 3. Someone not known or not familiar
- 5. A farm animal with thick curly wool
- 7. A person who takes care of sheep
- 8. The word or words by which a person or thing is known

DOWN

- 1. The sound made when people speak or sing
- 2. An opening in a fence for entrance or exit
- 4. Someone who steals
- 6. A small area surrounded by a fence in which animals are kept

STRANGER	VOICE	SHEEP	NAME
SHEPHERD	THIEF	PEN	GATE

H I G K T G V L F T Z Z T E Z
 F O L L O W R E A L I M S F T
 V E S H E E P A X I J M T L U
 R Z S A V E D D E F N U H I J
 A Y O E N H X S D E D E I S R
 T C S Q A I N E T D
 A L H E M G O F E M
 F K E E E P B G N R
 P E P L V N E A H O
 F A H M K Y C T G B
 P W E F Y R Q K Q S Y B E L B
 E H R S O J Y J H N B H X E E
 N D D O T A V A X C R B E Y R
 M L V O I C E J G K N O W I W
 M S T R A N G E R J E O F R H



~ Sermons 4 Kids

LIFE	LEADS	NAME	PEN	VOICE
KNOW	STRANGER	THIEF	LISTEN	FOLLOW
SHEEP	ROBBER	GATE	SHEPHERD	SAVED

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus