



26 APRIL 2026



Lest We Forget

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 26 April 2026

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Next week 3 May 2026

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Thank You !!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Giant Sale last weekend, either with setting up, packing up or buying items, your support is appreciated.

We raised \$694 in books, \$902 in craft and \$2317 in child care centre resources, which will be used to support our Hands & Feet program. There are still books and child care resources if you would like to browse after church on Sunday.

The Graceful Chapter

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Graceful Chapter



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This week we look at how the books of the New Testament have been transmitted throughout the ages. Sadly the original manuscripts of the Gospels and Letters are no longer in existence, however there are a few pieces of early writings dating back to the 2nd century in the Oxford University Library and in John Rylands University in Manchester. These writings are not dated through chemical or carbon dating techniques, instead they are dated by studying the style of handwriting. Handwriting is a product of human culture and its style and form changes as society changes. Scientists known as Palaeographers track the development of these changes across the centuries and then estimate the approximate date of authorship.

We know that the first accounts of Jesus' life were written around 60 AD in common Greek. This was the most widespread language in the Mediterranean world, just as English is widespread and used in many places today as a global language. The original Greek text of the New Testament was not broken into chapters and verses like today, nor did they include headings. These were all added much later in the 13th century. There are a few places in the gospels where Aramaic is used, the most poignant being when Jesus on the cross quotes Psalm 22:1 saying "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which translates to "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

In the first few centuries after Christ's death and resurrection we know that many stories about his life were kept alive through oral tradition. The introduction to Luke's gospel gives us an insight into why these oral stories were written down, the author of the gospel writes: Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)

Did you know that all of the gospels are written anonymously? The gospels were attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John by Bishop Irenaeus around 185 AD based on tradition. The gospel writers would never have imagined that we would be reading their words so many centuries later.

Whoever these men were, we can be truly thankful for their efforts in gifting us God's living word in scripture, so that we many know the certainty of what we have been taught.

Next week we will look at the Old Testament and the way in which oral traditions and stories about people's interactions with God became the written word.