

## Opening verse:

... there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha...  
She was devoted to good works and generous acts. Acts 9:36

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Julie

Announce mask wearing please continue to ask you to wear a mask during the service while there is so much virus in the community for the sake of the most vulnerable amongst us. Include call out to St Luke's UCA Highton, Geelong, joining us as a congregation via the livestream because their worship leaders have been knocked out by COVID.

*Light the candle*

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia!**

Come and worship the God who Tabitha knows,  
who delights in giving and the bonds of caring  
Who calls us from death into life.

## Song of praise: Halle, halle, halle, TIS720

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*Halle, halle, hallelujah. x4*

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SONG: [Halle, halle, halle](#), Tune Caribbean traditional. Words: traditional liturgical text, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Acknowledgement of Country

Julie introduce

During our worship through this Easter season, we are hearing recorded acknowledgments of country from all around Australia from places where our members live or travel. As we gather here on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people, let us remember all the peoples of this land now called Australia.

Video: Ray Cameron, Gariwerd

## Welcome and Introduction

Julie

My name is Julie Perrin I'll be your liturgist for today.

I come to you wearing the scrubs made as a thank you gift for Allied Health Workers at the RMH where I am privileged to be the UC Chaplain.

Today we meet Tabitha, the only woman in the NT to be individually named as a disciple of Jesus, a woman whose death brought the apostle Peter hurrying back to Joppa. Tabitha, who embodied the presence of Jesus in good works and generous acts, especially acts of making, knitting and sewing. Tabitha the first person to have a taste of the resurrection like Jesus. Hopefully you will leave the service today curious and wanting to learn more about this woman, Tabitha, whose name means gazelle.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession including Word of Grace

Julie

Great Creator, Maker of all that is,  
Poet and Potter, who is unafraid of mud.

We praise you for making yourself manifest in human loving and humble making  
in care for the vulnerable.

We praise you for the hope implicit in making.

We give thanks for Tabitha, first named woman disciple,  
for her delight in giving and the bonds of care.

For your call to her from death to life.

Forgive us our snagged thoughts, our rushed impatience,  
our habits of buying that overlook making.

Forgive us for being preoccupied, for believing we never have enough time.

Forgive us our compulsions,

when our generosity tips into pride and we neglect the commandment to rest.

Good Shepherd

You bring us to green pastures, to places of peace.

Even in the valley of the shadow

At the frightening door of death,  
the cup of your kindness runs over.

May we dwell with you,

in the place of true belonging

forever. AMEN

May we hear now Christ's word of Grace,

Your sins are known and forgiven,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Song: O Christ the healer we have come, TIS638**

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- 1. O Christ, the healer, we have come  
to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored  
when reached by love that never ends?*
- 2. From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamour to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.*
- 3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires,  
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths  
unconscious pride resists or shelves.*
- 4. In conflicts that destroy our health  
we diagnose the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*
- 5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.*

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SONG: [O Christ, the healer](#), by Frederick Pratt Green, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious.  
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## Bible Reading – Acts 9:36-43

Kirsty

*Julie invites children to come and sit down to listen to the Bible reading*

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, Please come to us without delay. So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, Tabitha, get up. Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

**Thanks be to God**

### With the Children

Tell the story through the first two pictures made by Nicole Batch.

Image 1 – Tabitha making

Image 2 – Tabitha sick and dying

Photos of members of the congregation wearing home made gifts

Julie's shawl wrapped in your mother's love.

Ian what have you got?

Time for the children to show/tell their homemade eggs.

Anna's saying... 'it's her feeling of God.'

Image 3 – Hamish and Oscar Batch wearing beanies made by their mum Nic

Image 4 – Joshua's shorts made by his Auntie Rebecca

Image 5 – Saide's shirt made by her mother from fabric Ray brought from Bangkok

Image 6 – Kirsty's jumper knitted by her dear friend Helen.

Image 7 – Mal's beanie made with love by Helen who also spun the wool, but didn't shear the sheep

Complete the story, last two pictures.

### Song: Jesucristo reina reina ya!, TiS 728

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*(Jesus Christ reigns!)*

1. *Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

*Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

*Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

*Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen!*

*(Jesus Christ heals)*

2. *Jesucristo sana, sana, ya!*

*(Jesus Christ loves.)*

3. *Jesucristo ama, ama, ya!*

*(Jesus Christ lives.)*

4. *Jesucristo vive, vive, ya!*

(Jesus Christ saves.)  
5. Jesucristo salva, salva, ya!

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SONG: Jesucristo Reina Ya, Anon. (from Argentina),  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Bible Reading – Psalm 23

Jenne

Refrain: *Shepherd me O God* AOV1-33

SONG: [Shepherd me O God](#), by Marty Haugen, ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved, from [As One Voice, Vol. 1](#), Willow Connection. WORD OF LIFE. Reproduced with permission under ONELICENSE # 604502

During the reading of the Psalm we will sing the refrain “Shepherd me, O God.” Let’s begin singing it now.

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*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

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The HOLY ONE is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
They make me lie down in green pastures;  
they lead me beside still waters;  
they restore my soul.  
They lead me in right paths  
for their name’s sake.

---

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

---

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

---

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

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You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the HOLY ONE  
my whole life long.

---

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

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**Offering with Song: Mothers of Faith**

A song written to celebrate 50 years of women's ordained ministry and 60 years of women in eldership in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ.

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*For our mothers of faith  
For our sisters in Christ  
For the daughters of God we will praise*

*For their courage and care  
Their compassion and tears  
For their unending prayers we will praise*

***For the women who carried and bore us, now this song we raise!  
For their wisdom and ways so inspire us, now our God we praise!***

*For courageous midwives  
For the unmarried bride  
And her miracle child come to save*

*For the barren of womb  
And the poured out perfume  
Then the watch at the tomb we will praise*

***For the women who carried and bore us, now this song we raise!  
For their wisdom and ways so inspire us, now our God we praise!***

*For the long silent age  
For repression's cruel cage  
For our part in this pain we confess*

*For the gifts we've returned  
And the saints we have spurned  
From this blindness we turn and are blessed*

***For the women who carried and bore us, now this song we raise!  
For their wisdom and ways so inspire us, now our God we praise!***

*For our mothers of faith  
For our sisters in Christ  
For the daughters of God we will praise*

*To our Father above  
With a mothering love  
Won't you lead us in freedom and grace.*

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Music and Lyrics by Malcolm Gordon © 2015 [www.onevoice.org.nz](http://www.onevoice.org.nz). Written to celebrate 50 years of women's ordained ministry and 60 years of women in eldership in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ. Reproduced with permission under ONELICENSE # 604502

Offering Dedication

Like Tabitha, grant us lives of generosity and good works.  
Like Tabitha, grant us to embody Jesus alive in the world.  
Bless the gifts we offer to bring life where it is most needed.

## Prayers of the People

Kirsty

My name is Kirsty and I will lead us now in the Prayers of the People. At the conclusion of the prayers, I invite you to light a taper in the chapel space, or at home, for the prayers of your heart. Today in the spirit of Tabatha, our prayers of the people are framed around a scarf, woven, of many colours. Let us pray:

We begin with a single colour. Beautiful in its own right, strong and defined.

-May we celebrate our individuality, and have the courage to be our true selves and respect others for who they are.

We see there are more colours. Similar, but each slightly different from the one next to it.

-May we look to our left and right and see what we have in common, what we share.

We see the range of colours is surprisingly great from one end to another, changing from red to purple.

-May we look around and celebrate the diversity among us.

We see the colours combined, and the richness that is possible when we join together rather be apart.

-May we work together to achieve your vision, knowing that we can do some much more in community than on our own.

We see the a different range of colours, and realise that they are the same colours as before, just put together in a different combination to create a new possibility.

-May we be open to new ways of doing things, of connecting our many parts in a different way to create something new.

As we look at the whole, we see creativity, a vision of something new brought to life.

-May we live out your vision for a new way of living, one with love and kindness at its centre.

We see care, we see the result of skilled hands taking the time to turn the simple into something beautiful and complex.

-May we care for those around us and those afar, taking the time and celebrating the work of our hands.

In this scarf, we see an object created by so many different people:

those who grew the sheep, those who gathered the wool, those spun and dyed it, those who wove it, those who transported it, those who sold it.

-May we never forget our interconnectedness, the importance of each of the things we do.

Creative God, Healing Jesus, Spirit of compassion,

We pause now to weave our own prayers, for ourselves and our neighbours, for the people and places we know and love, and those we don't know but are connected to through our shared humanity, as we pray for the world, the church and our community.

*Pause*

May we be your hands, continuing your work and generosity in the places we are, giving of ourselves to others, remembering that a small act can have an enormous impact.

Amen.

## Notices

Julie

## Sending Song: Lead me on (NCYC07)

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*Though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil  
While I feel your breath  
Though I may stumble  
And fall in disgrace  
Shine your light and lead me on*

*Chorus (echoes in brackets)  
(Lead me on)  
Like a child (Lead me on)  
Walkin' down (Lead me on)  
Through the dark and shadows  
Lead (Lead me on)  
Lead me on (Lead me on)  
Lead me to the other side*

*Surely goodness and mercy  
Shall follow me  
And I will live in your house  
As long as life can be  
Though I may stumble  
And fall in disgrace  
Shine your light and lead me on*

*Chorus*

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SONG: Lead Me On, by Paul Gioia, from NCYC 07 Songbook, © 2006  
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### Blessing and Sending

**Ian and Julie**

Ian: Go now and celebrate people who have set their hands to crafting, shaping, moulding making.

Give thanks for kindness knitted into garments for skillfully sewn seams and hems for shapely making, for riots of colour, and quiet unassuming presence.

Julie: Go out now into the world  
To live with intention  
to decide to care,  
to be in relationships of making and giving.

Ian: Let the Good Shepherd be your companion,

Julie: May they lead you in gentleness,

Ian: That even in the dark valley,

Julie: You will know the call to life lived in fullness.

Both: **AMEN**

## Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Liturgist:<br>Julie Perrin   | Ian Ferguson<br>(Minister of the Word)  | in Song, 728, Harper<br>Collins Religious, PUBLIC<br>DOMAIN  |
| Acknowledgement of<br>Country:<br>Ray Cameron                            | Prayers of the People:<br>Kirsty Bennett<br>Musicians:<br>Shawn Whelan<br>(co-ordinator)<br>Glenice Cook<br>Helen Burnham<br>James Balsillie<br>Courtney Rohde<br>Joel Hallinan | Musicians: Natalie Sims,<br>Daniel Whelan, Shawn<br>Whelan   |
| Bible readers:<br>Kirsty Brown<br>Jenne Perlstein                        |   | Images:<br>Ian Ferguson  |
| Children's time:<br>Ian Ferguson<br>Julie Perrin<br>Artwork Nicole Batch |   | Editing / Production:<br>Jane Allardice<br>Martin Brown<br>Michael Cameron<br>Ray Cameron<br>Saide Cameron |
| Reflection:  | Postlude Song: <u>Jesucristo</u><br><u>Reina Ya</u> , Anon. (from<br>Argentina), from Together  |  |

## Closing verse:

... there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha...  
She was devoted to good works and generous acts. Acts 9:36