



**PROJECT RECONNECT**

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***Liturgical Date: Year A, Easter 4, 30th April 2023***

***Presenter***                      ***Rev Prof Bill Loader***

***Focus Reading***       John 10:1-10

***Message***                      9 minutes 15 seconds

***"Abundant Life"***

### **Discussion Starters**

- 1** What interested YOU or was new to YOU in this message?
- 2** How does abundant life relate to YOUR faith journey?
- 3** What do you see as signs of abundant life in YOUR church community or what better signs could there be?
- 4** What do you see the shepherd image saying to leadership issues in the wider community?

### **Lectionary readings for the day**

**Psalm 23** Tied to this week's Gospel text, this beloved psalm is drawn towards the image of Christ as the shepherd, when originally this image evoked a different royalty. The shepherd was the king of the nation. In Christian proclamation the tensions involved can be very meaningful.

**Acts 2:44-47** Following the Pentecost event the followers are fully converted to a new way of being. Awe came upon everyone, the Lord added to their numbers those who were being saved. The Holy Spirit is driving and enlivening the young church.

**1 Peter 2: 19-25** The example of Christ is offered so that his followers might not return abuse with more abuse, or threats of abuse, but rather that they might entrust themselves 'to the one who judges justly' (v23).

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**All Age Message:** Rev Prof Bill Loader

***"Finding the Lost Sheep"***

***Length***    5 minutes 45 seconds

### **Precis of AAM**

Bill reorders the story to a modern version with a farmer and his 1 missing sheep which he must find. To God everyone matters – even old sheep. That is how much God cares for us and we need to care for each other.

**Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 23 - pages 260**

### **Rev Prof Bill Loader**

William (Bill) Loader is a retired UCA minister and Professor of New Testament, now living in Orange. He taught for 40 years in the Perth Theological Hall and at Murdoch University. He has written many books on the gospels, sexual issues, and early Judaism. He also has a website with a wide range of resources from children's stories to weekly commentaries on the Lectionary.  
[billloader.com](http://billloader.com)