



16th April Easter 2 Yr A 2023

Greeter: Roger T

Meditation Hymn: My Peace (Please remain seated)

My Peace I Leave You
My Peace I Give You
Trouble Not Your Heart
My Peace I Leave You
My Peace I Give You
Be Not Afraid (repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the risen Christ,
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Christ Candle:

We light this light to celebrate that Christ has risen!
Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Call to Worship:

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on,
illuminating the places where you are present.

As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to see you.**

You showed them the appalling marks of evil
pierced on your hands and feet.

You opened their minds to understand
why you had to die to defeat darkness and death.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to receive you.**

Speak your word of peace to us
and let your love shine on the dark areas in our lives.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to hear you.**

Opening Prayer

Encounter with us now, enlivened God
Spring us from the safety-net of our sanctuaries
Expose us to the challenge of your gospel
Coax us to throw our caution to the wind.

May we, who name ourselves Christ's followers today,
embody the command to be his witnesses;
the gathered community scattered to make known your truth,
to teach and tend, revive and reconcile.

Confirm our faith and send us out rejoicing
because we have put our trust in your liberating power.
In the name of the Risen Christ we pray
Amen

Hymn: The day of resurrection (TIS 361)

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his greeting,
may hear, so calm and strong,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victors' song.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful!
and earth her song repeat!
the whole world shout in triumph
her living Lord to greet;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

Prayer of Confession

We come to God knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus
to love God and one another with our whole hearts; but we come also to a
God who reaches out to us with healing and reconciliation.
In this knowledge, let us pray.

Risen Christ,
When our faith stands at the grave,
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,
Forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding
though the truth is there to see,
Forgive us.

When our faith beset by doubt,
sees no further than an empty tomb today,
Forgive us.

Bring to mind the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!

In spite of our doubts,
**may we recognise you in our midst:
real, wounded and resurrected**

In spite of our doubts,
**may we know when we come face to face
with the love that is greater than all deaths**

In spite of our doubts,
may we reach out to touch the wounds of the world's pain
trusting that when grace and love surround them
they will become part of Christ's resurrected body.
**and in all our doubts,
may we live as though we are part of Christ's resurrected body
Amen**

Words of Assurance:

In all our doubts and fears, hear Christ's words of grace to us:
"Your sins are forgiven"
Thanks be to God!

Peace:

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you
And also with you.

Hymn: An upper room did our Lord prepare (TIS 536)

An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace,
he loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Reading: Hector

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

From beginning to end Psalm 16 testifies to a life that finds its ultimate rest in God's protective presence. The psalm is fitting for the Easter season both because it provides support for the notion of resurrection and it identifies God as one who creates, supports, and protects life for all who trust in him.

Psalm 16

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."^[a]
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;^[b]
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and

said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Judith Townsend

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Christo

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

God of great gifts:
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.
We joyfully give these gifts to you,
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.
Amen.

Song: Crown Him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for me,
and hail him as your chosen king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified;
no angel there on high
can fully bear that sight,
but downwards bends a burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
majestic and sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Benediction & Blessing:

Christ is alive
May the risen Christ be with you
Love is alive

May you walk in the love of the risen Christ.
Hope is alive
May you walk in the hope of the risen Christ.
Peace is alive
May you walk in the peace of the risen Christ.
We are alive
May we know the new life of the risen Christ within us.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: David

Acknowledgements:

Image: Holy Textures

Call to worship - based on Moira Laidlaw, and posted on the [Liturgies Online](#) blog

Opening prayer – adapted from 'Encounter with us now Enlivened God' by Jill Jenkins

*Prayer of confession - John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>*

- Cheryl Lawrie, and posted on <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

Benediction: Celtic Blessing