



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 - Easter 3 Yr A

**Greeter:** Ron

***Meditation Song: Garden*** (Mikali Anagnostis)  
(Please remain seated)

We're making a garden;  
We're working the ground.  
In land that's bombed and torn,  
Your love soaks through the soil;  
new life can yet be born.

All welcome to the building;  
All invited to the fruit.  
On earth God's planned a garden;  
Every hand that's gripped a sword,  
can make a plough-share too.

Come join the work;  
God's bringing life;  
God's bringing life.  
Hands in the dirt;  
enemies are one body now.

Come sing new words;  
God's bringing life;

God's bringing life.  
Lay down your swords;  
the wars you've learned are over now.  
God's turned our weapons into ploughs.

Our hands won't be idle;  
Our hearts won't grow cold.  
In the barren ground before us,  
we can see a garden, we can see a home.

Though drought is round us.  
Though fires will come,  
We've tasted the harvest,  
Our God has drawn us close,  
Your love has made us one.

Come join the work;  
God's bringing life;  
God's bringing life.  
Hands in the dirt;  
enemies are one body now.

Come sing new words;  
God's bringing life;  
God's bringing life.  
Lay down your swords;  
the wars you've learned are over now.  
God's turned our weapons into ploughs;  
New life will come from death somehow.

**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 candle to remind us that,

just as he walked with his disciples down the road to Emmaus,  
so, Christ is with us now.

**Christ is always with us.**

### **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:**

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.  
The road between fear and hope,  
**the road between the place where all is lost  
and the place of resurrection.**

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,  
we are in need of your company.  
**Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Painting the brilliant night sky with stars,  
out of the fabric of your hope,  
you raised creation out of chaos,  
Gracious God, giving life and calling it good.

Walking with disciples down grief's lonely road,  
you sang of how God had raised you from the dead,  
so that listening, they might believe;  
believing they might go  
and invite all to follow you, Bread of Life,  
to feast on your love forever.

Reach out your love to us,  
so we can love others;

fill us with your gifts,  
so we can be your body in the world;  
pierce our darkness with hope,  
so we might bring healing to the broken:  
you raise us to new life,  
Spirit of God.

God in Community, Holy in One,  
hear us as we pray  
**Amen**

### **Song: Holy Holy Holy**

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,  
Early in the morning to you our praise shall be;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore you,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,  
God everlasting through eternity.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide you,  
though the sinful human eye your glory may not see,  
you alone are holy; there is none beside you,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,  
All thy works shall praise your name in earth, and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

### **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:

God of love,  
We come before you as a broken people.  
Our thoughts and deeds distract us from  
your triumphant “yes!” of Easter.  
Though your grace surrounds us everywhere we go,  
though you walk with us on our journey,  
though you take, break, bless, and give,  
we too often say “no!” to your invitation  
to live freely for you and one another.

Forgive us when we turn away from you.  
God of Easter,  
help us to recognise your risen-ness.  
Guide us so we can walk with you,  
cleansing us that we might live life in all its fullness.  
Come to us in the breaking of the bread.  
**Come to us as we are  
but don't leave us as we are;  
In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.  
Amen**

### **Words of Assurance:**

Just as Jesus came to the disciples  
So, he comes to us.  
Just as Jesus walked along beside the disciples,  
So, he walks along beside us.

Hear then the words of Jesus 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.**

### **Song: Sing Alleluia**

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia  
Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

In Christ the world has been redeemed  
In Christ the world has been redeemed  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia  
In Christ the world has been redeemed

His resurrection sets us free.  
His resurrection sets us free.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia  
His resurrection sets us free.

Therefore we celebrate the feast.  
Therefore we celebrate the feast.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia  
Therefore we celebrate the feast.

Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

**Moment for the young at heart: Brian**

**Bible Reading: Christo**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 116 is a prayer of thanksgiving. In the Jewish tradition it is read as testimony to what God has done in the past and for Christians it gives hope for deliverance in the future through Jesus.

**Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

- <sup>1</sup> I love the LORD because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.
- <sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- <sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.  
4 Then I called on the name of the LORD,  
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”

12 What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;  
14 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
15 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
16 O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
18 I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

### **Luke 24:13-35**

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.<sup>[b]</sup> 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,<sup>[c]</sup> who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.<sup>[d]</sup> Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did

not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah<sup>[e]</sup> should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>[i]</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:** [Chris Longfoot](#)

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People:** [Brian](#)

**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: Amazing Grace**

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers toils and snares  
I have already come.  
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,

this word my hope secures.  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as hope endures.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

May the risen Jesus meet us on the road  
and walk with us in every part of our journey.  
May the Holy Spirit open our eyes to recognise Jesus  
and live lives reflecting his love.

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

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Christo & Brian**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Journey with Jesus – He Qi*

*Call to worship - Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship.*

*Opening prayer – adapted from Thom Shuman re-worship.blogspot.com*

*Prayer of confession - adapted from <https://stephenmfearing.wordpress.com/>*

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