



Easter Day 2023

Welcome: *Alison*

Meditation Hymn: Come Holy Spirit (TIS 710)

Come, Holy Spirit,
gracious heavenly dove;
come, fire of love (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:

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
The yeast is rising in our hearts
Our wine has vintage taste

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
Our tears are freed to flow and heal
our shattered hopes and hearts

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
Our fears have died, we rise to dream
to love, to dance, to live!

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

Opening Prayer

Risen Lord
You love us
You call us
You change us.

Let us recognise your coming,

however gently or dramatically you approach us.
Let us recognise your coming,
Whoever you use to make yourself known to us.
Let us recognise your coming
whatever time or situation you use to approach us.

Let us recognise your compassionate emergence
into the dark places of our lives.
Your generous summons which you constantly utter.
Your transforming touch upon the bleak places of our world.

Lord of life, of hope, of resurrection,
We make our prayer in your name, Jesus
AMEN

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us
throughout our Lenten journey.
You have celebrated our successes
and our growing understanding of your love;
and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing love.

This day, as we celebrate the joy of Easter,
let us remember that we are to become "Easter People",

people of the Resurrection;
people who know that what was thought to be impossible
has been conquered.

**Forgive our disbelief and fears.
Fill us with your healing love
and help us to become the disciples
that you need to serve in this world.
For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ
AMEN**

Words of Assurance:

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty.
Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!"
We have seen Christ, too,
in every hand, in every gift, in every choice to restore life in this world.
We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us.
"Your sins are forgiven"
Thanks be to God!

Peace:

Know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life.
Walk forward on this journey of faith,
knowing your sisters and brothers are with you.

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

Hymn: Yours be the glory (TIS 380)

1 Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.

Refrain:
Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.

2 See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord is living, death has lost its sting. [Refrain]

3 No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above. [Refrain]

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: John

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

These verses speak to a community of migrants and refugees. They speak to those who have been torn from their homes and homelands, who have seen their loved ones die or disappear. They speak to those who have suffered at the hands of an empire's ruthless power—threatened, coerced, and terrorised into conformity with the ways and means of others. They speak to those on the run, in fear for their lives.

Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

² Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³ the LORD appeared to him^[a] from far away.^[b]

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant

and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

“Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.”

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection: Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Clabon

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:
This morning we give you thanks and praise.
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: *Shine Jesus Shine.*

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Benediction & Blessing:

May the God whose power breaks through
the stone, break into your life and free you
from all that binds you;

May the Risen Christ whose love is
stronger than death, speak your name and
bring you new life and joy;

May the Spirit who walks the road with
you, give you wisdom to understand and

courage to share God's new life for the whole world.

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

Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Heather

Acknowledgements:

Image: Begin Again by stushie art

Call to worship: W.L Wallace – Let Justice Roll Down

*Opening prayer: Brentwood Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace –
Let Justice Roll Down*

Prayer of confession: Nancy Townley – Ministry Matters

Prayers of the people: adapted from Geoffrey Duncan – Let Justice Roll Down

Blessing: Heather Pencavel – Let Justice Roll Down