



14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Easter 6 Yr A

**Greeter:** *Wendy*

**Meditation Song: Seek ye first (TIS 745)**  
*(please remain seated)*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And his righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleleluia, alleluia.  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

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

**Moment of Stillness:**

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of the God's presence within and all around us.

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to remind us that Christ is here with us.

**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: (based on Psalm 66)**

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth!

**Come into God's house with sacrifices of praise.**

Sing to the glory of God's name.

**For God has refined us like silver,**

led us through fire and flood,

**and brought us out into freedom!**

Our lives are in your hands, O God.

**You alone keep our feet from stumbling.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Abba God,

We celebrate your presence with us

and we offer you our praise and our prayers,

our love and our commitment to following you.

Through the gift of your Spirit,

you abide with us and in us.

We rejoice in your love for us,

and in the life we have been given

through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Open our eyes to recognise your presence among us;

open our hearts to the love that you have for us;

open our minds to the truth you would reveal to us.

All glory and praise to You, Triune God,

now and forevermore.

**Amen**

**Hymn: Come down O Love divine (TIS 398)**

1 Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2 There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

**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:

Lord of mercy, there are so many times in our lives when we feel alone.

We wonder where you are.  
We cry out to you in our confusion, pain, and hurt.  
And when you do not immediately grant the prayers of our cries,  
we begin to doubt that you even care or exist.

Keep us from going down this path of self-destruction.  
Help us look around and see the many gifts you have given us in our lives.

Forgive us when we are so quick to doubt you and your love for us.  
May your Spirit be with us, as you have promised,  
and give us patience and a willingness to hear your voice.  
Strengthen us for the work of love and hope in your world so that your  
kingdom may come.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance:**

God listens.  
God hears us when we cry out,  
God's love for us never ends!

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.**

*Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.*

### **Hymn: Holy Spirit come confirm us (TIS 413)**

1. Holy Spirit, come confirm us  
in the truth that Christ makes known;  
we have faith and understanding  
through your helping gifts alone.

2.Holy Spirit, come, console us,  
come as advocate to plead;  
loving Spirit from the Father,  
grant in Christ the help we need.

3.Holy Spirit, come, renew us,  
come yourself to make us live;  
holy through your loving presence,  
holy through the gifts you give.

4.Holy Spirit, come, possess us,  
you the love of Three in One;  
Holy Spirit of the Father,  
Holy Spirit of the Son.

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

**Bible Reading: Chris W**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 66:8-20 is part of a hymn that extols God's mighty deeds on behalf of God's people. The psalm shows an awareness that God is the giver of life, the one who saves the people from slipping into death. It also reveals a crucially important point about Easter: resurrection is not just for the end of life; it is a pattern for God's work always to bring us from death to life.

**Psalm 66:8-20**

Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup> who has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*  
<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened;  
he has heard the words of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me

### **John 14:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep<sup>[a]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[b]</sup> to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in<sup>[c]</sup> you. <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Alison**

## **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: Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

1. Immortal invisible, God only wise.  
In light, inaccessible,  
Hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days.  
Almighty victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light.  
Nor wanting nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might.  
Thy justice like mountains,  
high soaring above.  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love .

3. To all life thou givest,  
to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest  
the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish,  
but naught changeth thee.

4. Great Father of glory,  
pure Father of light.  
Thine angels adore thee,  
all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render,  
O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour  
of light hideth thee.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Listen to the promise Jesus makes:

I will never abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.  
Even though the world will not be able to see me,  
I will never vanish from your sight.  
And since I live, you will also live.

Go, in the knowledge  
that you do not go alone:  
the power and presence of God goes with you.

And the blessing of God Almighty;



Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

### 3-fold-Amen

### Pastoral Prayers: **Hector**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: On the Way: The Spirit of Truth and Love <https://kekovacs.blogspot.com/>*

*Call to worship: Call to worship/Words of assurance/Benediction – adapted from  
Christine Longhurst <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>*

*Opening prayer — adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/easter-6-opening-prayers.html>*

*Prayer of confession - <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>*