



21st May 2023 - Easter 7 Yr A

Greeter: *Betty*

Musicians: *Liz, Matthew and Hope (LUC)*

Meditation Song: *Will we ever rise?*

(please remain seated)

1 Will we ever rise?

Will we ever rise above the fear?

Can we learn to see the need?

Can we share humanity?

I can see another day come

Broken people, we can be made whole

We can be made whole, we can be made whole

As we lay down our weapons, open up our hearts

Love is breaking us, Love remaking us

2 Will we ever rise?

Will we ever rise above the pain?

Can we learn another way? Forgive as you forgave?

I can see another day come

Broken people, we can be made whole

We can be made whole, we can be made whole

*As we lay down our weapons, open up our hearts
Love is breaking us, Love remaking us*

Come heal now, take away the blindness,
So we can see as we were meant to see;
I feel light devastating darkness;
I can see another day come;
I can see another day come.

*Broken people, we can be made whole
Broken people, we can be made whole*

*Broken people, we can be made whole
We can be made whole, we can be made whole
As we lay down our weapons, open up our hearts
Love is breaking us, Love remaking us*

*Broken people, we can be made whole
We can be made whole, we can be made whole
As we lay down our weapons, open up our hearts
Love is breaking us, Love remaking us*

Will we ever rise?
Will we ever rise?

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 68)

You who love God, rejoice!
You who trust God, be glad in God's presence.
Be filled with joy!
Sing to the Beloved;
The Name above all names.
Sing loud praises to the One who rides the clouds.
We welcome God's presence

This is God.
Father to the fatherless.
Mother to the motherless.
Defender of the desolate.
This is God.
Providing the lonely a family.
Setting the prisoners free.
Blessed be the Mighty One!
Who carries us each day
Blessed be our Saviour!
Who leads us into wholeness and new life.

Opening Prayer:

God of incredible surprises,
as we gaze into the clouds,
remind us that we are standing on holy ground.
Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope.
Draw our attention from the vision of Jesus,
rising to the heavens to be with you
and help us to focus on your mission here in the world.
Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days.

Amen

Song: Our God alone

1 Who formed the mountains and filled the oceans?

Our God alone, our God alone
Who took the dust, breathed life in us?

Our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

2 Who came from heaven for our redemption?

Our God alone, our God alone
Who died for sin that we may live?

Our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

3 Who rose again? Death could not win:

Our God alone, our God alone
Who is returning, bringing our Kingdom?

Our God alone, our God alone.

We will worship, we will worship

Our God alone, our God alone

We will worship, we will worship

Our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

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:

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But so often we have failed to do this. For the things we have done and the things we have failed to do, we are sorry.

silence

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.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

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.

Song: Be not afraid

1 Will there come a time when greed and violence ceases
And the grieving earth is at peace? (x2)

Be not afraid, for I am with you always. (x2)

2 Our return is small; our work is slow and humble,
And the world does not give its praise. (x2)

Be not afraid, for I am with you always. (x2)

3 Lord, is there one who will ever be there
In my hour of need? (x2)

Be not afraid, for I am with you always. (x2)

Be not afraid, for I am with you always. (x2)

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Reading: David

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 68 was written by King David. He begins with prayer, both against God's enemies and for his people. He proceeds to praise, which takes up the rest of the psalm, calling upon all to praise God and suggesting many things as matter for praise.

Psalm 68:1-10

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.

³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴ Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds^[a]—
his name is the Lord— be exultant before him.

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ^[a] James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Corbin

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Hector

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: Come thou fount

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;

hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
God, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

4 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Benediction & Blessing:

As Christ has loved you and prayed for you,
go now in peace, bringing Christ's love to all you meet.
Know that Christ is with you in all that you do.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Brian & Christo

Acknowledgements:

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Call to worship: © 2015 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

Opening prayer and Benediction — adapted from ministrymatters.com