

7th April 2024 – Easter 2

Communion

Greeter: Wendy Leader: Alison

Meditation Song: Holy holy holy (TIS 723)

(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.

My heart, my heart adores you.

My heart knows how to say to you:

Holy are you Lord.

(x3)

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 story, custom and ceremony. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and any aboriginal people here with us today.

We pray that we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.

Call to Worship:

This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

Walk in the light of his love.

Live in the light of his love and mercy.

Come, let us worship the One who overcame death.

Let us celebrate the risen power of our Lord.

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 your 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: Your hand O God has guided (TIS 456)

1. Your hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
your people owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

2. Your heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching

in every deed and word;
to all alike proclaiming:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

3. Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

4. Your mercy will not fail us,
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Prayer of Confession

In our prayer of confession, we trust that no matter what we do or don't do,
this story ends with love. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

Risen Christ,
When our faith stands at the grave,
grieving and unable to see your risen life
Forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding
and we look away from the life you give us,
Forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt,
sees no further than an empty tomb,
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 the Easter people you call us to be.
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.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Reading: Chris L

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 133 overflows with hopefulness, even in the face of perceived impossibilities. We are an Easter people coming together on this second Sunday of Easter hearing a reminder to all (even to ourselves) that living in unity has extravagant and abundant benefits far beyond measure. Even if we are not yet fully there, full harmony is a place toward which we are moving.

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore

Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20:19-23

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."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Judith Townsend

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**

Communion Hymn: Eat this bread (TIS 714)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in him and you will not thirst.
(repeat)

Communion: Rev Carolyn

May the Lord of Easter be with you!
And also with you!
Open your hearts to God, beloved of the Lord.
**We lift them to the One who fills our lives
with joy and wonder.**
Children of Easter, sing praises to God.
**Our voices unite in thanksgiving to the One
who walks with us in this life.**

You opened your hands,
pouring creation's glory
into the emptiness of chaos,
God of beginnings.

The sun, moon, and stars became
the mirrors of the light of your face,
shining down upon all that was crafted.
Shaping us in your divine image,
you stood beside us,
pointing out all the good you offer to us.
But we found comfort in sin's shadows,
fear and doubt claiming us as friends,
and we turned our backs on you.
Through our ancestors in the faith,
Sarah and Samuel, Hannah and Hosea,
you demonstrated your faithfulness,
your longing to welcome us
into your embracing arms of love.
But we did not recognize them,
and clung to the vain words
spoken to us by temptation.
So, you sent your child to us,
to show us what love truly is,
that we might have this hope
offered to us in Jesus.

So, with little children who delight in your joy,
and with older folks who trust in your promises,
with our sisters and brothers throughout all time,
we join our voices in praising your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and beauty.
All creation joins in singing your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes so we may be like him.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Holy and Righteous God,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Author of Life.
In the Word become flesh,
you call us to repent and turn to you.
In the Light of the world,
our eyes are opened
so we can see you standing with us.
In scarred hands and feet,

we see the power of sin and death
destroyed by your grace and hope,
so we can reach out and embrace
that life which is ours forever with you.

As we gather around the Table to remember,
as we give thanks for the life which was given for us,
we speak of what we do not always understand – the mystery of faith.

Christ walked to Calvary to die for us.
Christ strode from the tomb to raise us to life.
Christ will come and stand among us, to lead us home.

In this moment, and in this place,
pour out your Spirit upon us,
and on the gifts of the bread and cup
which have been prepared for us.
As we take the bread
from your scarred hands,
may we reach out
to mend the broken of our world.
As we drink from the cup,
open our hearts and eyes,
so we may see those
the world overlooks,
so we may stand with them
in every moment and place.

And when our journey has ended,
when at last all is revealed to us,
we will take our places around
the wedding banquet in heaven,
joining our sisters and brothers
in singing our thanks and joy to you,
God in Community, Holy in One,
now and forevermore. Amen.

Christ is the bread for resurrection,
new life for all.
Christ is the cup of salvation,
wounded for our healing.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus, Wisdom of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, Word made flesh,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, Liberator of creation,
grant us your peace.

Distribution

Prayer following Communion

God of grace,
You renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen us in love
And help us to serve you in each other.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
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: Now the green blade rises

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.
Love lives again that with the dead has been.

Chorus:
Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.

2. In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men had slain.

thinking that He never would wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen.

3. Up he sprang at Easter like the risen grain.
He who for three days in the grave had lain.
Raised from the dead my risen Lord is seen.
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again.
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been.

Benediction & Blessing:

Christ is alive!

May the risen Christ be with you.

Love is alive!

May you walk in Christ's love.

Hope is alive!

May you know the new life of the risen Christ within 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: Holy Textures

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Call to worship – adapted ministrymatters.com

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

*Prayer of confession - adapted John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**.*

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

Communion: Rev. Thom Shuman, 'Great Prayer of Thanksgiving'

Benediction: Celtic Blessing