



27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Easter 2 Yr C  
Closure of Ministry

**Greeter:** **Betty**

***Meditation Song: My peace***  
*(please remain seated)*

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:  
trouble not your hearts.  
My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:  
Be not afraid.  
(x3)

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

May the Risen Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

***Moment of Stillness:***

***Christ Candle: Joy***

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

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

**May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us every day.**

***Acknowledgement of Country: Joy***

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this land by those who have cared for it since time beyond measure. We are thankful for and honour those Aboriginal peoples who have gone before and those who are yet to come.

May we remember the call God places on humanity to care for Creation. **May we take the lead from the Gadigal and Wangal people, whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them towards justice and renewal.**

***Call to Worship:***

Beloved in Christ, we gather today in the presence of our loving God. We come together, not as separate threads, but as a vibrant tapestry woven by the hands of our Creator.

**We come to worship God, the Weaver of all life, who brings us together in love and unity.**

In this sacred moment, we are reminded of our call to weave Christ's love across cultures and boundaries, creating a fabric of hope and compassion.

**We come to worship God, the source of all love, who invites us to embrace and celebrate our diversity.**

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit, who binds us in perfect harmony. Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, for we are called to be one in Christ, weaving threads of love into the world.

**We come to worship God, the Giver of grace, who empowers us to be instruments of peace and reconciliation.**

Come let us worship God, and let the threads of our lives be woven together into the beautiful tapestry of God's love and grace.

***Opening Prayer:***

Loving God, you who dwell in our hearts,  
make for us a home there  
in which to hear your voice more distinctly,

feel your care more tenderly,  
understand your will more clearly,  
and come to know your presence at every moment of our lives  
with new clarity and new courage,  
with new faith and new life.

Give us hearts where all may enter in,  
ears to hear your call,  
hands to do your will,  
voices to sing your praise,  
and soul enough to recognise you in everything we do.

This we ask through the grace of the living God  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: Gather us in (TIS 474)**

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness, vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take of the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat, the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**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:

**Merciful God,  
our maker and the one who brings justice,  
we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and deeds:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we are sorry for all the ways we have failed to live in your light.  
God, our loving parent, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
In the name of the Risen Christ we pray  
Amen**

***Words of assurance:***

Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

We are a loved  
We are forgiven  
**Thanks be to God**

**Peace:**

The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Hymn: Be thou my vision (TIS 547)**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, thy child let me be  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

4 High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

**Moment for the young at heart: Marion – Under the Love Umbrella**

**Bible Readings: Rick**

**Psalm 150 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Alleluia!

We praise you, God, in your sanctuary;  
we praise you in your mighty skies!  
We praise you for your powerful deeds;  
we praise you for your overwhelming glory!

We praise you with the blast of the trumpet;  
we praise you with lyre and harp!  
We praise you with timbrel and dance;  
we praise you with strings and flute!  
We praise you with clashing cymbals;  
we praise you with resounding cymbals!  
Let everything that has breath praise God!  
Alleluia!

### **John 20:19-31 (NRSV)**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue<sup>[e]</sup> to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Dr Jason Kioa**

***Moment of Stillness:***

***Prayers of the People: Ron***

***The Lord's Prayer: Joy***

**Holy Being,  
whom we call by many different names,  
blessed are you.  
Blessed are we in you.  
May we create with you a realm of mercy, peace and justice.  
May love be done in the here and now as it is in the infinite.  
May we share life in bread and hope.  
For our failures to love, we need forgiveness.  
May we find the paths of reconciliation.  
From the powers that bind our spirits and our structures,  
may we find liberation.  
In the power that is love,  
we seek to live and move and have our being.  
May it be so, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**CLOSURE OF MINISTRY:** The letting go of the pastoral relationship  
**Carolyn**

*The presbytery representative says:*

Since the church lives by the power of the Word, it is assured that God has never failed to provide a witness to that Word. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019, the Presbytery of Sydney, inducted Rev Joy Steele-Perkins as a Minister of the Word among you.

We witnessed your promises to take part in the public worship of God, to contribute to the work of God, and to make a Christian witness in the community by word and action.

The Presbytery believes that Joy's ministry now lies in another place, and has confirmed her call to Sydney Presbytery, in the role of Presbytery Minister. The time has come to mark the end of her particular responsibilities in this congregation, and to send her with God's blessing to this new ministry.

*The minister says:*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, you called me to minister with you, and charged me to preach the Word, preside at the sacraments and to oversee the pastoral life of the congregation.

You will call another minister in my place and I must lay down the tasks you committed to me. I, therefore, hand this pastoral list to you with the names of the people for whom I have cared, and ask you to continue to care for these people, and in due time, to share it with my successor.

*(The secretary of the church council receives the list).*

*The presbytery representative says:*

And now, on behalf of the Presbytery of Sydney, we thank you for your ministry of God's grace in this congregation. We release you from this ministry, and will continue to give you pastoral care in this presbytery.

As you take up a new placement at Sydney Presbytery, we will pray for God's blessing on your continuing ministry.

***Sung blessing: For you deep stillness*** (Robin Mann & Julie Perrin)

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;  
For you, deep blue of the desert skies;  
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones;  
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges, seek the heartlands,  
And when you're burnt by the journey,  
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit  
Soothe and replenish you:

In the name of Christ,  
In the name of Christ,  
In the name of Christ.

*The chairperson of the congregation may briefly farewell the minister. The minister may reply.*

*The presbytery representative says:*

Let us pray.

O God, be with those who leave, and with those who stay;  
and grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you,  
may always be close to each other in the communion of saints;



through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.  
Amen.

**Community News: Helen**

**Offering Prayer: Helen**

Gracious and holy God,  
accept what we offer today:  
our money, our faltering steps,  
our brokenness, our leftovers,  
our hope, our risking, our lives.  
Bless and transform all that we offer  
and all that we hold back,  
that new life may be ours,  
to celebrate and share in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

**We hear from our children: Joy**

**Song: Into the Deep** (Roxanne McLeod)

1. From different streams of life we come,  
drawn to the Source of living hope;  
ready to trust in the depths of God's love;  
abandoning fear, God's calling us near.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

2. We will find peace in the mystery of faith.  
Living our lives in joyful praise,  
ready to dive in the depths of God's grace,  
surrendering all, we follow God's call.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;

the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

3. Here in the deep we are never alone,  
as we declare one faith, one hope,  
learning from those who have gone here before;  
welcomed to be in God's family.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep,  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

***Benediction & Blessing: Joy***

A blessing for St David's – by Joy

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

**3-fold-Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Christ Dancing on the Sea of Galilee - Heimo Christian Haikala, 1999*

*Acknowledgement of Country: National Assembly Working Group on Worship*

*Christ candle: John 1:4-5*

*Call to worship: adapted Threads of Love – Installation of the 17<sup>th</sup> President*

*Opening prayer: adapted Joan Chittister –*

*Prayer for those who dwell in a Monastery of the Heart*

*Confession: adapted Uniting in Worship 2*

*Offering prayer: adapted Jeff Shrowder 1999, The Billabong*

*Benediction: Rev Joy*