



12th April Easter 2 Yr A 2026

Leader: *Ron Brown*

Meditation Hymn: As the deer pants for the water

**As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You**

[Refrain]

**You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You**

Welcome:

Greeting:

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

Moment of Stillness:

While they do, let us have a moment of stillness, to become aware of the Spirit's presence within us and all around us.

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:

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on,
illuminating the places where you are present.

As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to see you.**

You showed them the appalling marks of evil
pierced on your hands and feet.

You opened their minds to understand
why you had to die to defeat darkness and death.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to receive you.**

Speak your word of peace to us
and let your love shine on the dark areas in our lives.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,
and open our minds and hearts to hear you.**

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 his 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: TIS 209 - And can it be

***1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain--
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!***

***2 'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.***

***3 He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!)
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free:
for, O my God, it found out me.***

***4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray--
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,***

I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

**5 No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ,
my own.**

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.

Risen Christ,
When our faith stands at the grave,
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,
Forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding
though the truth is there to see,
Forgive us.

When our faith beset by doubt,
sees no further than an empty tomb today,
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 though we are part of Christ's
resurrected body.**

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.

Please take a moment to greet the people around you,

Moment for the young at heart: Jen Richardson

Bible Reading: Rick Legge

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

From beginning to end Psalm 16 testifies to a life that finds its ultimate rest in God's protective presence. The psalm is fitting for the Easter season both because it provides support for the notion of resurrection and it identifies God as one who creates, supports, and protects life for all who trust in him.

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."^[a]

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.

- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;^[b]
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 20:19-31

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."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] 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: Tristan Green

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: John Read

Communion Hymn: Come to the banquet

*1. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Though you maybe have no money,
though you maybe feel unworthy
in your strength or in your weakness
you are welcome, come.*

*2. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
See, you are an honoured guest,
from constant serving you may rest
so sit you down, be fed & blessed for
you are welcome, come.*

*3. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Here is one who runs to meet you,
loving arms stretched out to greet you,
do not let your fear defeat you,
you are welcome, come*

*4. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Willing hands have made this bread ,
with salt and yeast and labour shared,
let all the hungry ones be fed;
it's time for feasting, come.*

***5. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Abundant wine, enough for all,
our generous loving host has called,
the cup of blessing now is poured,
for sweet communion, come***

Communion: Rev Carolyn Thornley

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 the 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 Lord, God of grace and beauty.

**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.

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**

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.

Communion

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 and our neighbours
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

Community News:

15th April: Prayer Vigil for Aboriginal Deaths in Custody- via Zoom

25th April: ANZAC Day

29th April: Ella 50th Anniversary Morning Tea

30th April: National Trust Tour

6th May: Church Council Meeting

10th May: Mother's Day

18th May: Women's Spirituality Group

27th May: National Reconciliation Week (until June 3)

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: 10000 Reasons

***Ch: Bless the Lord O my soul,
O my soul,
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before,
O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.***

***1: The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.***

***2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing.
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.***

***3: And on that day when my strength is failing
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore.***

**Ch: Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before,
O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name. (Repeat chorus)
Worship Your holy name,
I'll worship Your holy name.**

Benediction & Blessing:

Christ is alive

May the risen Christ be with you

Love is alive

May you walk in the love of the risen Christ.

Hope is alive

May you walk in the hope of the risen Christ.

Peace is alive

May you walk in the peace of the risen Christ.

We are alive

May we know the new life of the risen Christ within us.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: David

Acknowledgements:

Image: Holy Textures

Call to worship - based on Moira Laidlaw, and posted on the [Liturgies Online](#) blog

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

*Prayer of confession - 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