



Eastwood Uniting Church
Easter 2 - 11 April, 2021



Holy Communion

From across Sydney, young people invite us to Celebrate Our Values: *The Dignity of the Human Person, Life, Freedom, Equality, Safety and Security, Hospitality, Gratitude, Generosity and Service, Humility, Respect, Openness, Care for the Environment, Solidarity.*

Creating Community with God

Call to Worship

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen, indeed!

With all creation, we proclaim

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter is not an event that has occurred, it's an adventure that has begun
Not a place that we have visited, but a path on which we stand.
A story not complete, but unfolding characters still breathing, stations still teeming
with the promise of new life not just for you and me
but for all people, in all places a cosmic crux – a turning point of time.
Easter is a season of wild hope, of dangerous intent, of potent promise
where future flaps unfurled in the Spirit's breeze
where hopes bubble with uncorked effervescence
where toes tap to free-form rhythms, where rainbow hues splash empty canvas

Today we continue the journey - we re-enter the story to explore our questions
to uncover our doubts to face our nagging need
We walk the path of two who travelled a dusty road
wrapped in confusion and despair
two who shared the company of a stranger voicing their plans, airing their fears
and in the listening heard words of hope and promise
and in the eating received true bread of life

Today we re-enter the story with expectation that Christ will also reveal himself to us in
sights and sounds, in words and symbols - in bread and wine
Risen Christ, walk with us today
be our companion and guide, be our teacher and friend, be our host and servant bringing
your gifts of faith, peace and hope and deep joy - as always. Amen

Hymn of Praise – TiS 392 At the dawning of salvation

1 At the dawning of salvation; in the morning of the world,
Christ is raised, a living banner by the love of God unfurled,
Through the daylight, through the darkness, Christ leads on his great array:
all the saints and all the sinners he has gathered on his way.

2 He is risen in the morning, he is risen from the dead;
he is laughter after sadness, he is light when night has fled.
He has suffered, he has triumphed, life is his alone to give:
as he gave it once he gives it evermore, that we may live.

3 For the glory of salvation in the dawn of Easter day
we will praise you, loving Father; we rejoice to sing and pray
with the Son and with the Spirit Lead us on, your great array,
saints and sinners celebrating your triumphant love today.

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Confession and Assurance of Grace

O Jesus Christ, sometimes we are so busy talking with each other that we fail to find you beside us. We walk on, so focussed on our questions that we do not create the silent spaces which would allow you to speak with us and enlighten our journeying.

Silent reflection

Stay with us, Jesus Christ. Reach out towards us
and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray.
As we look at our lives and that of the world around us,
we are sometimes too anxious to share our real questions or our doubts and fears. We
keep them within us in troubled silence.

Silent reflection

Stay with us, Jesus Christ.
Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray.
We call your name, O Christ, and hope to discover you here
in our community of vulnerable faith. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Whether we believe it, or not, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us.
Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness.

We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

— from *Words for Worship, MediaCom c.2012.*

Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ

A Time for Everyone - Acknowledgement - God's Land

Warami Mittigar! [*Darug: Warm Welcome*]

As we gather in this place,
we give thanks for the Wallumuttegall clans of the Darug-speaking People.
We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made,
across the generations, to nurturing this Land.
Together, may we walk into the future, recognising the sacred footsteps
that continue to lead us to the promise of Heaven.

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Song of Praise

Sing a happy alleluia, sing it out with heart and style --
we're the echo of God's laughter, we're the image of God's smile.

Refrain: Alleluia, all creation, alleluia, everyone!
Alleluia, all creation, alleluia everyone!

We're the proof of God's good humour, we're the twinkle in God's eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory, given light and space to fly.

Sarah laughed at God's good timing, Mary sang and David danced,
Jesus smiled and hugged the children -- so is life for us enhanced.

Every day sing alleluia! We are loved, though so absurd,
human, foolish, chosen people, God still takes us at our word!

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A Sacred Story from Scripture

Drama: Luke 24;36b-48

Luke 24:13-49

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

For the stories of pilgrims journeying with Jesus
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Witness and Message – Melissa and Amelia

Empowering the Community's Spirit

Offering and Announcements

Prayers of the People

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Communion Song

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,

in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

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Invitation

At Easter time the space between heaven and earth grows thin
time and eternity are one – age-old promises prove true
long-held hopes become real
and we can finally believe that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven
And so we gather to remember and celebrate in the company
of the One who names us and claims us - risen and present
not controlled by history – not confined by texts – not contained by death
One who has walked alongside us
who has heard our questions and cries - who has offered gentle wisdom
One who invites strangers to be neighbours and enemies
to be friends around this table - Christ invites us to this table
If you know hunger or thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world,
know that you are most welcome here

Thanksgiving

God be with you
and also with you
Lift up your hearts
we lift them up to God
Let us give thanks to the Risen Christ
It is right to give our thanks and praise

God authored a story, creating all places, all characters and an intricate plot.
God breathed the Word of Life and possibilities flourished.
Yet, possibility and potential were often unfulfilled, despite prayers and prophets.
So Emmanuel became God with us.
Today we recall that just as Jesus broke bread in that upper room
with his disciples on the night before he died, sitting at a meal table,
plates and cups, conversations and jokes, friendship and betrayal
Christ saying,
Take and eat – this is my body broken for you

Take and drink, this is a new covenant in my blood
So he broke bread a second time not in a city temple but in a country pub
not with knowing friends, but with those who thought him a stranger
just as he had done before as a host he offered welcome, as a master he served, making
strangers in to friends, making a meal into a holy moment
so now we do as Jesus did – we eat and drink,
yet in these, Jesus himself promises to be present
Christ himself offers to make us whole.
Come Spirit of Jesus – come upon us and upon these gifts.

We break open the story! **We share the promise!**

Sung Response after Sharing

Bread is blessed and broken, Wine is blessed and poured
Take this and remember - Christ the Lord

Share the food of heaven earth can not afford.
Here is grace in essence – Christ the Lord.
Know yourself forgiven, find yourself restored,
meet a friend for ever - Christ the Lord.

God has kept his promise sealed by sign and word:
Here for those who want him – Christ the Lord.

Lyrics © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community; distributed in North America by GIA Publications.
<https://youtu.be/zWvFZZXHBhw>

Commissioning

Go – have conversations about the society we are creating together.
Listen to the young and idealistic, those who pray and those who prophesy.
Be people who strive for the values of Heaven, even here on earth.
Go as people of God – Father, Son and Spirit – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer:
Be blessed to be a blessing!

Sung Blessing from Tasmania [Words and Music: © John Macrae, Hobart 2019]

May the west wind breathe softly on your shoulder
and the gentle rain refresh all life around.
May the light across the mountain paint your world with brighter days
as the tall trees lift their heads from fertile ground.
May the pain of the past meet truth and healing
and our hoping, loving, giving, bloom and grow.
May the wonder of our island nurture caring in us all
and the sacredness of land and living grow.
May the deep waters carry us to others
and the gleaming skies direct our thoughts above
may the beauty all around us fill us body, soul and mind
and regenerate our world with peace and love.