



Eastwood Uniting Church  
Easter 3B - 18 April, 2021

## The Peace and Faith that comes with doubt

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### Creating Community with God

#### *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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#### *Call to Worship*

Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?

**Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!**

I do not see him. I don't believe you.

**Christ is Risen! Christ is here among us!**

Let me see his body, his hands and his feet.

**We are Christ's body; We are Christ's feet.**

You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?

**We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.**

Let us go together, let us partner with others.

**For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!**

~ Rev. Mindi on her blog, Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

#### *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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## ***Confession and Assurance of Grace***

Faithful One, we confess our questions, our struggles, and our doubts.  
We know that You do not condemn us for this, but sometimes we feel bad.  
We wish our faith was stronger. We wish we had more certainty, or needed less of it.  
However, You love us unconditionally,  
and You have encouraged us to ask questions and to seek deeper meanings.  
Remind us that You continue to be with us in our journey of faith,  
through our doubts and uncertainty.  
You are the one who leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray all things. Amen.

(from Lamentations 3:22-23)

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”  
God’s steadfast love never ends. God loves you, right now, and will always love you.  
There is no place you can hide, no place you can get lost,  
where God will not be with you.  
Live into God’s ways, knowing that you can’t shake God from you,  
so learn to live with God.  
You are loved, forgiven, and restored.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### ***Song – Halle Halle Halle***      Together in Song 720

Halle, Halle, Halle – lujah!  
Halle, Halle, Halle – lujah!  
Halle Halle Halle – lujah!  
Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

Carribean Traditional Music by permission Wild Goose Publications © 1994

## ***Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ***

### ***A Time for Everyone – Known in Doubt***

#### ***Song – Grant us peace***      Sandra Seas (All Together for Good)

Grant us the peace that passes understanding,  
Peace in the face of suffering and tears;  
Peace to rejoice and heal the broken hearted:  
Christ’s consolation, dispelling every fear.

Let peace be our prayer,  
Peace be our yearning;  
Peace of the Father,  
the Son and Holy Spirit.

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### ***A Sacred Story from Scripture***

**John 20:19-31 約翰福音 20:19-31**

Skit ‘Testify to love – Episode 1’ [Before the amen p.91]

## **Luke 24:36b-48 路加福音 24:36-48**

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> 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." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

For the stories of Jesus....

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Message**

### **Meditation**

[https://youtu.be/ryRIk\\_tLhM8](https://youtu.be/ryRIk_tLhM8)

## **Empowering the Community's Spirit**

### **Offering and Announcements**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Congregational Prayer for Doubters**

You call us to be people of faith, yet we are often people with doubts.  
We doubt love can grow again in relationships where anger and bitterness reign.  
You know the strength of love and the power of prayer: help us to be faithful lovers.  
We doubt that peace can come in the Middle East, in Syria, in Palestine;  
where hatred and racism reign.  
You know that peace is growing there: help us to be faithful peacemakers.  
We doubt the hungry can be fed in places where despair and hopelessness reign.  
You know there is enough food in the world; help us to be generous and faithful.  
You specialize in impossibilities; you walked on water,  
you heal the nations, you forgive sins, you set the captive free,  
you set us free from our captivities.

This morning we pray for people here who are filled with doubts,  
who wonder whether you exist and whether you are listening to our prayers,  
who wonder what this whole community is about.  
We pray for people who doubt the purpose of life, who wonder whether to end it all,  
who face feelings of meaningless and despair.  
Even when we have that sinking feeling, give us the wisdom to turn to you.  
Lord we want to believe, help our unbelief!

Give us faith, small as a mustard seed, so that we can be your faithful people,  
believing in your power to save, believing in your power to reign supreme,  
believing that we can share this good news with everyone we meet.  
We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

~ written by Carol Penner, and posted on her Leading in Worship blog.  
<http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>

## *Hymn*      *Joyful, Joyful*      Together in Song 152

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Joyful, joyful, we adore you,<br>God of glory, God of love;<br>hearts unfold like flowers before you<br>opening to the sun above.<br>Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,<br>drive the dark of doubt away;<br>giver of immortal gladness,<br>fill us with the light of day! | 2 | All your works with joy surround you,<br>earth and heav'n reflect your rays,<br>stars and angels sing around you,<br>centre of unbroken praise.<br>Field and forest, vale and mountain,<br>flowery meadow, flashing sea,<br>singing bird and flowing fountain,<br>call to praise you joyfully. |
|   |  | 3 | You are giving and forgiving,<br>ever blessing, ever blest,<br>well-spring of the joy of living,<br>ocean-depth of happy rest.<br>You are Father, Christ our brother,<br>all are yours who live in love;<br>teach us how to love each other,<br>lift us to your joy above.                     |

Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933 *alt* Public Domain

## *Word of Mission*

"Peace be with you," Jesus says to us, here in this room.

"As the Father sent me, so I send you."

No doubt or fear can lock God out of our lives.

Remember that as you leave this place, you are sent out to live by faith.

Let the echoes of scripture inspire us in our wonderings:

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

**We have been blessed by God – let belief follow!**

## *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.

Minister: Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler