

BENEDICTION

Go...
with the love of God enfolding you,
the peace of Jesus Christ within you,
and the breath of the Holy Spirit inspiring you.



Easter 2A

19th April, 2020

Westmead Uniting Church

A congregation of Parramatta
Mission



WELCOME

In the time following the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus the disciples were hidden away- shut behind doors- just as most of us are. They were afraid- unsure of what lay ahead for them - just like us. And although they knew the good news of Jesus' resurrection there was still questions about what that might mean for them and whether it would bring about a good change. We may also wonder what this Easter, in 2020, will look like or lead to in the future. We are all welcome to come and worship God- wherever we are.

CALL TO WORSHIP

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week ...Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Let our rejoicing be heard far and wide as we witness to our belief in the risen Lord.

Let us come and worship God!

SONG TiS 224 All hail the power of Jesus' name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixlsNtXa56Q> Words and music

All hail the power of Jesus' name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, you martyrs of our God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain you trod,
and crown him Lord of all.
O seeds of Israel's chosen race
and ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

SONG TiS 595 O Jesus I have promised

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A> Music and words

O Jesus I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

Still let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
and tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

Words John Ernest Bode/Music William Harold Ferguson C.C.L.I. No. 237097

...And now, let us join with the Christians of all nations in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples as we say

***Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Most loving God, we bring our gifts for you.
For you to use,
For you to multiply,
For you to enable others lives to be transformed.
What we bring seems so little- but you take it from us knowing our hearts and you make it great. Bless us, and these gifts, In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you

Let every tribe and every tongue
responsive to his call,
now shout in universal song
and crown him Lord of all.

O that we all with sacred throng
We at His feet may fall,
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lod of all,
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lod of all,

Words Edward Perronet/ Music later form of meolody by William Shrubsole C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYER

We worship you, O God, aware that we are a group of people at differing stages in our journeys of faith. Our knowledge of you has been shaped by diverse experiences, teachings and relationships throughout our lives.

At times, we move between faith and doubt, certainty and unbelief.

So today, we rejoice in the word of the gospel where John declares that he has written his gospel to confirm and strengthen our belief that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that in believing, we might have life in his name.

We worship you, O God, with praise and thanksgiving.

We praise you for that gift of life made possible through Jesus' costly death and victorious resurrection. We praise you for your power which is stronger even than death.

We praise you Creator, maker of all that is.

We praise you Redeemer, Jesus the reconciler.

We praise you Spirit of Life, fire in our bellies and in our hearts.

All glory praise and honour to you this day and every day!
Strengthen and confirm our belief in Jesus in this time of worship here today. May we know the blessings of his peace within us and the breath of his Spirit upon us.

Yet loving God even when we confess you with our mouths sometimes our innermost thoughts betray us – and you.

Lord Jesus Christ, unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch you or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.

Come to us, risen Christ. Come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts.

Come to us, risen Christ. Breathe on us and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence.

Bless us all as people who have not seen you but who believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We read in the letter of Peter: “Although you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1: 8, 9)

The good news therefore is this: in Jesus Christ we are loved and we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

SONG **TiS 738 My Jesus, My saviour**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoinDE4> Music and words

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like you;
All of my days
I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath,
All that I am,
Never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King,
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the word of your hands;
For ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you!

Words and Music Darlene Zschech C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love.

SONG **TiS 685 Lord I come to you**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9_0jiO5ZRM music and words

Lord I come to you:
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.
And, Lord, I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

*Refrain: Hold me close, let your love surround me;
bring me near, draw me to your side:
and as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
and I will soar with you:
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love
as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind
as your will unfolds in my life,
in living every day
in the power of your love.

Refrain

Words and Music Geoff Bullock C.C.L.I. No. 237097

READINGS

1 Peter 1: 3-9

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20: 19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. This is the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

SERMON *The Creator at work in the seen and unseen*

