

Welcome to Worship

Sunday April 4, 2021

EASTER SUNDAY



Woman at the Empty Grave - Nico Londos van Rensburg

Prelude: 'O sacred head sore wounded'. (organ)

Reading: Mark 14:46-47

⁴⁶ Then Joseph^[1] bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body,^[m] wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body^[n] was laid.

'He came singing love'.

(Colin Gibson)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqCnIKOX6DM>

He came singing love,
And he lived singing love,
He died singing love,
He arose in silence,
For the love to go on,
We must make it our song,
You and I be the singers.

Hymn Sere: TiS 362 Jesus Christ is risen today

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia*,
our triumphant holy day; *alleluia*,
who so lately on the cross; *alleluia*,
suffer to redeem our loss; *alleluia!*

Hymns of praise then let us sing; *Alleluia*,
unto Christ our heavenly king; *alleluia*,
who endured the cross and grave; *alleluia*,
sinners to redeem and save: *alleluia!*

But the pains that he endured; *Alleluia*,
our salvation has procured; *alleluia*,
now exalted he is King; *alleluia*,
where the angels ever sing: *alleluia!*

The Christ candle is lit

Christ is risen
He is risen indeed.

Psalm 118:23-24

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it

The Lali calls us to worship the risen Christ

Hymn: **Sere FHB 53** **Sa Tucake! Sa tucake**

Sa tucake! Sa tucake!
Jisu sa tucake mai
Tukutuku rekitaki
Kacivaka me kilai.

*Sa tucake! Aleluya
Sa tucake! Aleluya
Sa tucake! Aleluya
Jisu sa tucake mai.*

Sa tucake! Sa tucake!
Vesu bogi tolu ga.
Vatu levu sa dregati.
Sa ka wale ga ki vua.

Sa tucake! Sa tucake!
Me da marau kecega.
Lomalagi sa dolavi
Soli me sa noda ga.

Me da loma vata mada
E na siga oqo
Me sa cabo kivei koya.
Noda vakamuduo.

A Litany for Easter Sunday

We have surveyed the cross:
It is marked by betrayal, false witness,
Abuse, a crown of thorns, a title,
A struggle to breathe,
Wounds that lead to death:

**The word of the cross
Is a folly, a scandal, a stumbling block**

We have seen where they laid
The cross-bound Christ, in a guarded
Sealed borrowed tomb,
Christ lies lifeless.

**The word of the cross
Is a folly, a scandal, a stumbling block.**

We have seen that
The stone is rolled away,
The body is gone,
We sing he arose in silence.

For some 'an idle tale', (Luke)
For others a moment of doubt, (John)
And for others again, fear (Mark).

**Christ is risen,
He is risen indeed.**

An Act of Confession and Trust in God Masu ni Vakaturusa

On this day, on this day of the Christian year,
In this season of pandemic
And so much upheaval all around,
We seek to rise to new life:

inSpire us God of new beginnings

**When we feel trapped
By the past and the present:**

inSpire us God of a new creation

**When we feel hemmed in
Rumour, gossip, complaint
And waves of tiredness.**

inSpire us lifegiving God
Who raised Christ from the dead:

**When we feel cold and alone
In tombs of buried hopes.**

(Silence) stand to sing

Hymn

Sere: 'Because you live, O Christ'.

[Lyrics: Shirley Murray; Tune: Vruechten, TiS381]

1 Because you live, O Christ,
the garden of the world has come to flower,
the darkness of the tomb
is flooded with your resurrection power.

Refrain:

*The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

2 Because you live, O Christ,
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,
our cages of despair
no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

Refrain:

*The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

3 Because you live, O Christ,
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,
the colours of your love
will draw all humankind to adoration.

Refrain:

*The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

Words of Assurance Na vakatusai ni sa bokoci na I valavala ca

The apostle Paul wrote:

¹⁴ if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

Reading: Lisoni Acts 10:34-43.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

So, then, if anyone is in Christ.

There is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

Behold, the new has come.

Hear then Christ’s word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

A Song of Acclamation: Christ is Risen! Graham Kendrick
(led by Alan and Stuart)

In the tomb so cold they laid him, death its victim claimed.
Powers of hell, they could not hold him; back to life he came!

Chorus

Christ is risen! [Christ is risen!]
Death has been conquered. [Death has been conquered.]
Christ is risen! [Christ is risen!]
(all) He shall reign forever!

Hell had spent its fury on him, left him crucified.
Yet, by blood, he boldly conquered, sin and death defied.
Chorus

Now the fear of death is broken, love has won the crown.
Prisoners of the darkness, listen, walls are tumbling down.
Chorus

Raised from death to heaven ascending, love's exalted King.
Let his song of joy, unending, through the nations ring!
Chorus
Chorus

Sharing the Peace

Na Vakacegu

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
And also with you.

Learning Together

Nodra Gauna na Gone

Reading: Lisoni Mark 16:1-8

16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.^[a]

Sermon **Vunau** ‘We are an Easter people’.

Hymn: **Sere** **FHB 55: Oi kemudou sa mai qara**
(The humble souls that seek the Lord)

1. Oi kemudou sa mai qara
Na nomudou Turaga
A kena I bulubulu ga.
Sa dola tu ka lala.
2. E dina,sa vosota ga.
Na vesu kei na mate.
Ka bulu koto no e ke
Ia,sa tucake tale.
3. Tacake mai,ka rai vua.
Sa bula vaka I dina
Na we ni vako mo tara.
Mo vakabauta kina.
4. Tou cuva mai,qoroya tu
Na noda I Vakabula
Tou veilomani kei Jisu.
Ka bula e Vukuna.

The Offering and Prayer: **Soli kei na masulaki ni Soli.**

Reaffirmation of baptismal vows:

Romans 6:3-4

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Friends, on this day of resurrection
We remember we are an Easter people:
In our baptism we died to our old selves
And have been raised to new life in Christ.
Let us mark the sign of the cross
Upon our forehead and declare:
'We belong to Christ'.

I invite you now to pledge yourselves
to Christ's ministry in the world.

Will you continue in the community of faith,
the apostles' teaching,
the breaking of bread and the prayers?
With God's help, we will.

Acts 2:42

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
With God's help, we will.

Will you seek Christ in all people,
and love your neighbour as yourself?
With God's help, we will.

Will you strive for justice and peace,
and respect the dignity of every human being?
With God's help, we will.

Amen.

The Prayer for Others and The Lord's Prayer
Veimasulaki kei na Masu ni Turaga

Communion

(adapted from Communion Service, Bula Feeding Ministry)

Come, let us now heed the words of Jesus
On the night of his betrayal and arrest:

Let us take bread and wine,
The ordinary things of this world,
The fruit of the land.

Let us remember the last meal
The cross-bound Jesus
Shared with disciples on his way
To the garden of Gethsemane,
And beyond to the place of Golgotha;

Let us take the bread and the wine
As the two who made their way home
On the road to Emmaus so long ago
And came to recognize Jesus,
The risen Christ in their midst.

Hymn TiS 533 **'I come with joy to meet my Lord'**
(Tune: Kilmarnock: Verses 1-3 only)

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

So often in the course of your ministry,
you shared meals with your friends,
With strangers, with your critics who wished you ill.

Time and time again you welcomed
To the table those who do not expect
To be invited, let alone be welcomed
In ways that broke through cultural
Custom and practice.

Now, on this day of resurrection
We gather here,
Assembled in another time,
In a faraway land,
In languages that were not yours
To proclaim with all those in every place
And in every time.

**Holy, holy, hold, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Donu, Donu, Donu, oi kemuni na Kalou,
Kalou kaukauwa duabau,
Sa sinai e lomalagi kei vuravura ena nomuni serau,
Osana ki cake sara!**

**Blessed is the one who comes
In the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Sa kalougata ko koya sa lako mai ena yaca ni
Turaga!
Osana ki cake sara!**

We now come to share bread and wine:
Christ Jesus, bound and risen.
Wounded and ascended,
You are our host:
And you are our guest.

**We are yours:
We belong to Christ
Keimami sa nomuni,
Keimami sa nei Karisito**

We cannot share friendship of your table

**And forget those who are in lockdown,
Those who most vulnerable to the virus,
Those who mourn,
And those who cannot be with loved ones.**

We cannot take the bread

**And forget those who are hungry
Those whose income has been reduced,
And those who are homeless**

We cannot take the wine

**And forget those who thirst
For what is right and just;
Those whose cries have been ignored;
Those who have suffered
Betrayal and abuse.**

Prayer of Consecration:

God of compassion, wounded God,
God of the cross-bound Christ,
Send down your Spirit:

May this bread and wine
Become for us the body of Christ,
Healing, forgiving, making us whole
So that we become, for you,
Loving, caring, bearing witness in hope
To a world in need of recovery.

Among friends, gathered around a table,
Jesus took the bread and said:
'This is my body broken for you'.

And later he took the cup and said,
'This is my blood shed for you'.
'Do this in remembrance of me'.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

**Sa mate na Karisito
Sa tucake na Karisito
Ena lesu tale main a Karisito**

The bread we break is a sharing
in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
For we all share the one bread.**

**Eda lewe levu ia da sa dua bau ga
Eda sa vakaivotavota ena madrai oqo**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
Is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Bread and wine: the gifts of God
For the people of God.**

**Na madrai kei na waini :
nai solisoli ni Kalou
vei keda na tamata ni Kalou**

The Lamb of God:

Jesus, lamb of God.
Have mercy on us.

**Jisu, Lami ni Kalou
Ni lomani keimami**

Jesus, bearer of our sins.
Have mercy on us.

**Jisu, ko ni colata na neimami valavala ca
Ni lomani keimami**

Jesus, redeemer of the world.
Grant us your peace.

**Jisu nai Vakabula
Me sobuti keimami na nomuni vakacegu**

The Distribution:

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
You put your life in our hands,
Now we put our lives in yours.

**Take us, mould us, remake us
For we have broken bread together:
We have drunk the cup of wine.**

We have shared in the mystery
Of your death and rising to life again.

**Our hope is in you,
To the close of the age, Amen.**

Hymn Sere Yours be the glory

*Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death you've won*

Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Your body lay

*Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death you've won*

**No more we doubt you
Glorious Prince of life
Life is naught without you
Aid us in our strife:
Make us more than conquerors
Through your deathless love
Bring us safe through Jordan
To your home above**

*Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death you've won*

Benediction:

Masu kei na Masu ni Veivakalougatataki

May the love of God
The creator in whose image
We are made:
Surround and support you
All your days.

May the peace of Christ
The beloved Son, crucified and risen,
Be with you
Through all the ups and downs of life.

May the Spirit of God,
The life giver,
Raise you to new hope:
Now and always, Amen.