

Leigh Memorial Congregation

18 April 2021

Easter 3

“We Are An Easter People” - Take 3



Supper at Emmaus _(Caravaggio)

Time: Sunday 9.30am

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Or Dial by your location +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Prelude:

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed

Call to worship:

To the church of the risen Christ

Grace and peace to you.

And also with you.

Song:

'Celebrate Patricia Morgan

(led by Stuart and Alan)

Come on and celebrate his gift of love, we will celebrate
the Son of God who loved us and gave us life.

We'll shout your praise, O King, you give us joy
nothing else can bring,

we'll give to you our offering in celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King!

Come on and celebrate, celebrate,
celebrate and sing, celebrate and sing to the King!

An Easter Litany:

We have surveyed the 'wondrous 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 can sing he arose in silence.

For some 'an idle tale'
On the road to Emmaus: (Luke)

For others a moment of doubt
In an upstairs locked room: (John)

For some an empty tom
And the suspicion of a stolen body: (Matthew)

And for others again,
A moment of fear,
A time to flee. (Mark).

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

Song: Have You Seen Jesus My Lord

Chorus Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view;
Take a look, open your eyes,
he'll show it to you.

Have you ever looked at the sunset,
with the sky all mellow and red?
Seen the clouds suspended like feathers?
Then I'd say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Chorus

Have you ever looked at the ocean,
with the white foam at your feet?
Watched the endless thundering motion?
Then I'd say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Chorus

Have you ever looked at the cross,
with the man hanging in pain?
Seen the look of love in his eyes?
Then I'd say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Chorus

Have you ever looked at the family,
with Christ there in the midst?
Seen the face of Christ on your brother?
Then I'd say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Chorus

Have you ever looked for an answer?
Then I say you'll find Jesus my Lord!

An Act of Confession and Trust in God

In this season of the Christian year,
In this time of pandemic,
Of vaccine delays
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:

When the words and actions

Of others confine us.

inSpire us God of a new creation

**When we feel hemmed in
By rumour, gossip, and complaint:
When doubts, waves of tiredness
And echoes of past habits
Overwhelm us.**

inSpire us lifegiving God
Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead:

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

Silence

Song: In Christ alone my hope is found

(Stuart Townend)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouGuG97I2RY>

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

Words of Assurance:

So, 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!

Song: 'Easter Hallelujah' (a variation on Leonard Cohen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j3NZEedHQaI>

The Peace:

The peace of the Christ be with you
And also with you

Learning Together: Resurrection (2021)

<https://www.romereports.com/en/2021/03/27/a-new-movie-resurrection-offers-a-message-of-hope-during-the-pandemic/>

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Bible Reading (1)

Acts 3:12-19

¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites,^[a] why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant^[b] Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus^[c] has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ “And now, friends,^[d] I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah^[e] would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Bible Reading (2)

Luke 24:36-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”^[a]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.^[b] 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^[c] 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^[d] of these things.

Sermon: ‘We are an Easter People’ – Take 3.

Which scene would you choose?

Hymn: Christ has risen while earth slumbers

(Lyrics: John Bell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgTDemu84MU>

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Offering Prayer

Notices

Prayers of the People & the 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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Hymn **TiS 387: 'Christ is alive! Let Christians sing'.**
(Tune; Truro, TiS 84).

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pain
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour, with the Father reigns.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise

Benediction:

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

May the peace of
The cross-bound and risen Christ
The beloved Son:
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**