

# LEIGH MEMORIAL UNITING CHURCH

Sunday 16 May 2021

Ascension Sunday



Salvador Dali, The Ascension of Christ, 1958.

## **The Gathering of the People**

Time: Sundays 9.30am

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Or Dial by your location +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

**Prelude:**

**Call to Worship:** (from Psalm 47:5-7)

In this season of the year,  
The days are not as long,  
The moon looms large on the horizon  
The leaves turn to gold, to red – they fall.

**There's a chill in the morning air  
We make ready for winter  
And beyond to the new life in spring**

The rhythm and cycle of itself  
Reminds us of this extended Easter season,  
Of dying to the old self  
And rising to new life in Christ.

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

**Hymn** 'Let us build a house where love can dwell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKJgcv8SdnQ>

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
*All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**Prayer of Adoration:**

‘You turn our world upside down ....’.

**Prayer of Confession:**

Reading; (from Ephesians 1:15-18a)

Too often, Lord God,  
**we are hesitant to say that  
we believe in you and Christ Jesus.**

Too often, Lord God,  
**we are half-hearted in our service;  
we are reluctant to stand out  
from the crowd or to attract criticism  
for Christ’s sake.**

Too often, Lord God,  
**we live as if we depend upon ourselves,  
and rely on our perceived skills  
and modest insights.**

Too often, Lord God,  
**we live as if Christ is  
bound to some past time  
and another place**

And we leave him buried in tomb  
And act as if there is no resurrection,  
That he has now ascended  
And bids us in every time and place  
To love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**Forgive us.**

*A time of silent confession*

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Remain seated for the song*

**Hymn: 'Now in this middle time'.**

(Tune: Leoni, TiS 102; Lyrics: Michael Earl).

1. Now in this middle time,  
expectant and unsure,  
Lord Jesus, shall your love remain  
forevermore?  
Will mercy still be shared,  
the kingdom still arrive,  
the broken hearted made anew,  
the dead, alive?
2. For with us you have been,  
your presence, God's own will,  
we pray now in your absence, you'll  
be present still.  
Available to all,  
no bounds of time and space,  
the living hope for all who look  
upon your face.
3. We wait, we wait, to go,  
your witnesses to be,  
the pilgrim people of the new  
community.  
But only in your power,  
your love and joy to share,  
will we the church with power, your love  
and joy declare.
4. We raise our eyes to see  
you disappear from sight,  
restored to God's right hand, you reign  
in power and might.  
But relocate our hearts,  
that though we live in you,  
the suffering world would be the sphere

we witness to.

**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:**      **TiS 720: 'Halle, Halle, hallelujah'.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn9IKRrn0IY>

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Be with you all:  
**And also with you.**

**Service of the Word**

**Learning Together:**

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/8/8c/Christ\\_of\\_Saint\\_John\\_of\\_the\\_Cross.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/8/8c/Christ_of_Saint_John_of_the_Cross.jpg)

<https://www.dalipaintings.com/the-ascension-of-christ.jsp>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/salvador-dali/ascension>

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/95842298291753211/> (Ki-Chang Kim)

[https://iconreader.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/15c\\_novgorod.jpg](https://iconreader.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/15c_novgorod.jpg)

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c0/Ascension\\_from\\_Vasilyevskiy\\_chin\\_%2815th\\_c.%2C\\_GTG%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c0/Ascension_from_Vasilyevskiy_chin_%2815th_c.%2C_GTG%29.jpg)

**Readings:**

Your word O God is a lamp to our feet  
**and a light to our path.**

Let us listen for the word of God in the book of Acts:

**Acts 1:4-11**

Let us listen for the word of God in the Gospel:

**Luke 24:44-53.**

May your word live in us

**and bear much fruit in our lives.**

**Sermon:** 'In this middle time'

**Hymn**      **TiS 393**      **Christ is alive, with joy we sing**

1. Christ is alive, with joy we sing:  
We celebrate our risen Lord,  
Praising the glory of his name,  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
  
2. He is the grain of wheat that died,  
Sown in distress and reaped in joy,  
Yielding a harvest of new life.  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
  
3. He is the sun which brings the dawn:  
He is the light of all the world,  
Setting us free from death and sin,  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
  
4. He is the vine, set in the earth,  
Sharing our life, from birth to death,  
That we might share in God's own life,  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
  
5. He is the bread that comes from God,  
Broken to feed us, in our need,  
Given to bring eternal life,  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
  
6. Christ is alive, with joy we sing:  
We celebrate our risen Lord,  
Praising the glory of his name,  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**The Offering and Prayer**



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:  
Watch over all your days

May the peace of Christ  
The beloved Son:  
Abide in you.

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

**Amen.**

**HYMN “Lo! God’s Son is now ascended’.**  
(Tune: Helmsley, TiS 273)