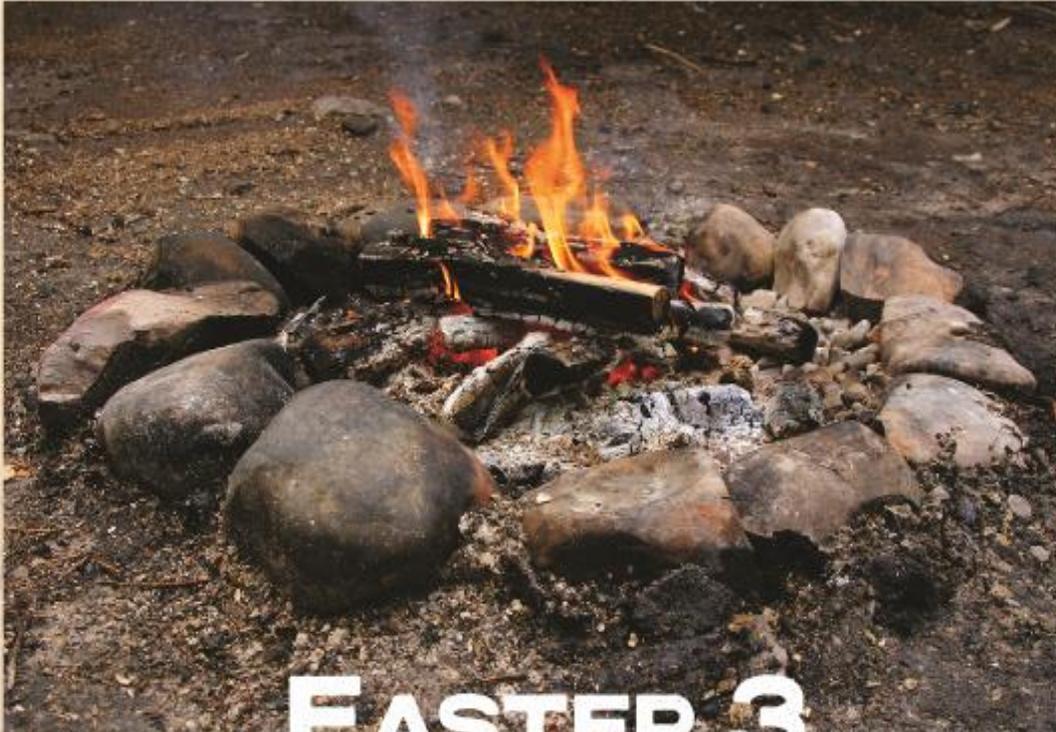


THE FIRE OF DENIAL THE RESTORATIVE FIRE



EASTER 3

MAY 1, 2022



**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

**Leigh Memorial
Westmead
Uniting Churches**



**Parramatta
Mission**

Leigh Memorial

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Uniting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93615534553>

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Third Sunday of Easter!

LIGHTING OF THE EASTER CANDLE

We light this candle
and into our denials and times of darkness
enters the restorative light of the Crucified-Risen Christ!

The candle is lit

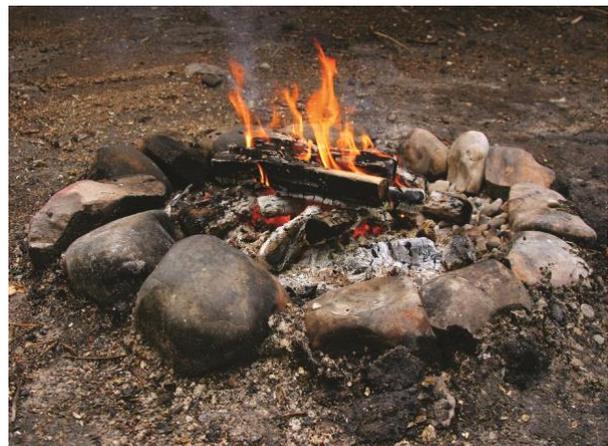
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

ENTERING EASTER 3

Let us set aside from life's distractions, for
"In headaches and in worry
Vaguely life leaks away!"

With Peter long ago
when Jesus meets him on a beach,
Let us awake to the crisp dawn'
rising in our life,
Of smoke lifting from a fire
crackling on a beach,
The sound and smell
of a sizzling breakfast
Mixed with salt sea mist ...



The risen Christ invites us!
Come have breakfast,
Mingled with restorative friendship,
Unravelling love entwined by guilt and the lures of life.
Deeply present in our life, Jesus Christ is present,
And steadfastly there in ordinary places
When we least expect you:

We give thanks for your being with us.

Comforting with your human touch,
Challenging in you eternal Godliness,
Inviting in your faithful kindness to us:

We give thanks for your being with us.

We open our lives for your presence among us

Within the ordinary places of life.

Amen

Let us confess with Peter and his friends
who left the community of the crucified Jesus
to go back to their fishing profession:

Oh crucified and Risen Christ,
We go fishing without you, angling for hope
In the deep lake of dismay,
But we who know so much about fishing catch nothing.
Then you come, indistinct at first light,
And hail our hearts across the morning lake.
You name our ineffectual striving.
At your command, we let down useless nets again.
This time they come up tensing with riches from the sea,
While on the shore you wait, tending mercy's fire,
Preparing to speak of love.

We give you thanks

for the unceasing friendship of Jesus Christ,

fired with restorative kindness to us,

Amen!

MUSIC "A Ukrainian Prayer" by John Rutter,
performed by GVSU's University Arts Chorale
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0kKozhHNlc>

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SCRIPTURE READING **John 21:1-17** (Inclusive Text)

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples.

It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this:
Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
the sons of Zebedee and two more of the disciples were together.
Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.'
They replied, 'We'll come with you.'
They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.
It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore,
though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.
Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?'
And when they answered, 'No',
Jesus said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.'
So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish
they could not haul it in.
The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is Jesus.'
At these words, Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on,
wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water.
The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish;
they were only about a hundred yards from land.
As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread
there,
and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it.
Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'
Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore,
full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them;
and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken.
Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'
None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'
Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them,
and the same with the fish.
This was the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples
after rising from the dead.
After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter,
'Do you love me more than these others do?'
Peter answered, 'Yes, you know I love you.'
Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'
A second time Jesus said, 'Simon, do you love me?'
Peter replied, 'Yes, you know I love you.'
Jesus said, 'Look after my sheep.'
Then said a third time, 'Simon, do you love me?'
Peter was upset that Jesus asked the third time, 'Do you love me: and
said,



'You know everything; you know that I love you.'
Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep... Follow me!'

RESPONSE

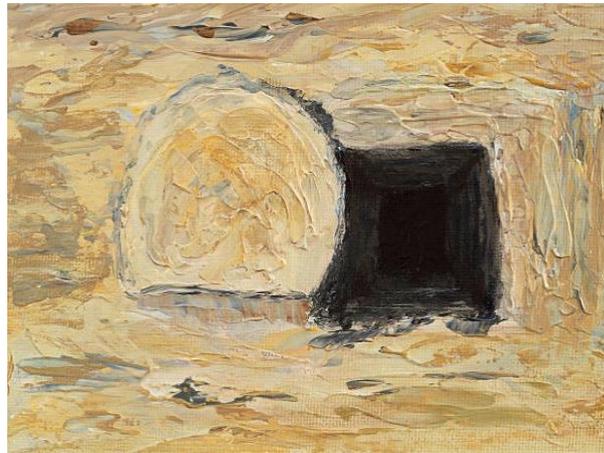
*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living. Amen!*

SONG

Walls and Doors, Jackson Browne

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

Ever since the worlds existed
There's one thing that is certain
There are those who build walls
And those who open doors
Ah but this my love
I'm thinking you already knew



For some it's always winter
While others have the spring
Some people find good fortune
While others never find a thing
Ah but this my love is something you already knew

That's how it's always been
And I know you know it
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it
I'm going to say that again
Because I know you know it
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it

Of what use is the moon if you don't have the night?
Of what use is a windmill with no Quixote left who'll fight?
Ah but this my love is something you already knew
At some point on the horizon
Sky can be confused with earth
Some people dream of God
While others dream of wealth
But of course my love this is what you see out on the street

It's how it's always been
And I know you know it
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it
Let me say that again
Because I know that we both know it
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it
When nobody owns it
When nobody owns it

Ever since the world's existed
There's one thing that is certain
Some people build walls
Others open doors

REFLECTION

HYMN *Peter Said, I'm Going Fishing*

BEECHER 8.7.8.7 D ("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

1. Peter said, "I'm going fishing," so his friends went out with him.
Through the night, they labored, watching, Hauling empty nets back
in.
In the grey of early morning, Jesus, you came walking by.
From the beach you called a greeting, "Cast out on the other side!"
2. Soon their nets were filled to brimming; Someone cried, "Jesus it
is!"
Jumping in, he started swimming; Christ, you met him on the shore.
Guiding them to better waters, Eating fish, and sharing bread-
You showed Peter and the others: You were risen from the dead!
3. Risen Christ, you send us fishing! God's great sea is everywhere.
You have guided us in mission, You have given love to share.
Through the years, our church has heard you,
We have answered your great call:
"Cast your nets where I have told you. Bring my word of love to all!"
4. Jesus, be with our congregation; By your spirit, send us forth!
May we care for your creation; May we work for peace on earth.
In our worship, in our giving, In our serving those in need,
May we know, Christ; you are living, Guiding us in ministry.

Alternative Tunes: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee") ABBOT'S LEIGH ("God Is Here!")
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OFFERING

Fish without number
Nets too heavy for lifting
You gave more
than they could ever hold



And they saw with eyes of love that
The man on the shore was Jesus.
We want to see with the eyes of love too,
And be weighed down
With the miraculous catch of care.
Jesus Christ, you know that we love you
Help us feed your lambs. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Resorative God,
You are always coming to us
To open our hearts, to heal our lives, to refresh our spirits,
And to make a glad way through valleys of sorrow.
You are always coming to us!

Allow us now to come to you,
To savour your presence, to know your safety, to enjoy your
love,
To receive your blessing and to say our prayer,
That your Kingdom come and your will be done,
On earth as in Heaven.

Receive us today at your refiner's fire,
In its light, all hearts are open and nothing is hidden from you.
Purify in its flames our desire and our deeds.

Teach us not to be afraid of your judgement,

For your judgement is mercy, and your mercy never ends.
We give you thanks for all the signs of the coming of your new
age,

Even in our own day.

Every chain that is broken, every belly that is filled,
Every gun that is laid down, every gulf that is bridged,
Every beauty that is created,
Every promise that is made and kept,
And every candle lit in hope against the night.

You are always coming to us, and so we come to you,

And ask you to bless and heal
All in our world who are sick and troubled,
All who struggle with the ordinary things of life,
And all who are searching for the joy you promise.
Give to us all a good word to say
About who you are and what you desire,
A testimony that rings true in a world exhausted with empty
words.

Make us bold to share with the neighbours we serve
The joy you are for us and the mercy you have offered us

Through Jesus Christ our brother and friend

In whose name we pray.

Amen

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All are welcome to share in this table,
all who come in humble faith.

***In eating and drinking
this life-giving sacrament
we are all fed by God's love.***

The peace of the Crucified-Risen Christ
be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, for Jesus Christ!
At Easter we are close to the agony of Good Friday.
To the terrible humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus.
Mocked and driven out,
as your children throughout the world
are still hurt today.
Yet that same agony flowered in joy.
The flower grew in the dark of the tomb
and burst open the rock.

In taking bread and wine,
touching, breaking, pouring, drinking,
we know that we enter the holiest mystery
and that by doing so
our hearts will continue to be changed.

*We give you thanks for our life together,
the Body of Christ in this place
which claims in faith,
against many a doubt,
that risen life lies in our midst
and will stay with us forever.*

And so we give thanks
with the faithful and with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and vulnerability,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,*

God the giver of life.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/POURING OF WINE

Long ago, Jesus came of humble birth,
expressing amazing and divine love,
a child of our humanity.

Long ago, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

‘This bread is broken,
as my body will be’.

And he handed it to his friends,
and invited them to eat, saying:

‘Remember all that I have been to you’.

Long ago, Jesus poured a cup of wine,
offered thanks for it,
gave it to his friends and said,

‘This wine is poured out
as my life will be poured out.

Loving God,

it is through your unceasing love
we have this bread and wine to offer.

May this gathering of your community of faith, be fed,
comforted and empowered, O God.

*May we as express
the courage and generosity
that Jesus lived in his life!*

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread we break

is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take

is a sharing in the life blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The body of Christ given for us.
The life of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

God of mercy and amazing grace,
in the warmth of your approach to us in love,
we are grateful for your presence,
enlivening us.

*We pray your presence
will feed and sustain us
to follow in the way of Jesus,
Amen.*

HYMN *Shalom* (TiS 778)

Shalom to you now
Shalom my friends
May God's full mercies
Bless you my friends
In all your living
And through your loving
Christ be your Shalom,
Christ be your Shalom

Elise S Eslinger

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BLESSING

Let us go into the world
carrying the food of life in our hands.

And may God in Christ
stand in tenderness beside our fears,
God the Creator give us a greater love for all that lives
and the Holy Spirit bless us and keep us now.