

PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH

LEIGH MEMORIAL

Second Sunday of Easter – 16 April 2023



WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter. We continue to rejoice as light overcomes darkness and love conquers all.

The picture on the screen today comes from Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens in the Blue Mountains. It reminds us that autumn is in full swing. For us here in Sydney, autumn represents some relief from the summer heat and humidity. Meanwhile, autumn comes with glorious colours that point to the beauty of God's creation and speak loudly of God's presence in the world.

Welcome to Leigh Memorial Church. May this be a time of reflection, joy and inspiration as we join together in the worship of a generous, loving, merciful God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather today, we acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation, traditional custodians and first nations people of this land. We give thanks for their nurture and care of the land, and we commit ourselves again to working for justice and reconciliation.

(2)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to acknowledge the risen Christ is with us, showing us the way and gifting us for service as a People of God in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us praise God,
let us worship our risen Saviour,
for death has given away to life,
despair has been overwhelmed by hope,
grief has been replaced by joy,
and darkness has been dispelled by light!

(Easter 2A – Life in Liturgy)

SONG: “Fairest Lord Jesus” (TIS 203)

YouTube: <https://www.youtbe.com/watch?v=1V7AVyJyJU4>

Fairest Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation
Son of God, and Mary’s son:
You will I cherish, you will I honour
You are my soul's delight and crown

Fair are the meadows, er still woodlands
Robed in the greenness and bloom of spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
He makes the saddest heart to sing

Fair are the flowers, fairer still the children
In all the freshness of youth arrayed
Yet is their beauty, fading and fleeting
Lord Jesus yours will never fade

Fair is the moonlight, fairer still the sunshine
Fair is the shimmering starry sky
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer
Than all the heavenly host on high

(3)

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly
Jesus, in you is found
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer
Than you, my Saviour, are to me.

(Anon Munster 1677 2 - All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we do not always live as people of the resurrection.
We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we don't have enough,
that we are not good enough.
Forgive us for not seeing your image in us.
Forgive us for not seeking your life in us.
Help us to see we are made in your love, your image, your peace.
In the name of the risen Christ, who offers us peace, we pray.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God loves you.
You hear this again and again,
but you need to hear it again and again.
God loves you.
There is no border you can cross,
no boundary that can be made,
that will limit God's love for you.
Live with the fullness of God's love,
grace and peace.
Amen.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

**Living Christ,
we give praise and thanks that you live
so that we all may live.**

(4)

**We give thanks and praise for our faith journey,
through times of doubts and struggles and questions.
Give us hope in times of unbelief.
Give us peace in times of struggle.
Give us vision in times of despair.
Continue to guide us when we find ourselves bogged down,
and lead us out of darkness into light.
On this second Sunday of Easter,
we rejoice in you,
and give you thanks.
Amen.**

(prayers adapted from Rev Mindi Welton-Mitchell Rev-o-lution Worship Resources 2022)

THE PEACE

The Prince of Peace fill you with God's peace,
and be with you always.

And also with you.

The peace is shared among the people.

ALL AGE INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE

READING: "What Church is that?"

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:14a; 22-41

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

²⁵For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

(5)

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of Life:

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: “Repent and be baptised!”

SONG: “Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us” (TIS 526)

Three verses only - verses 1, 3 and 4

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKsbd5UqKkc>

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us
Mary’s Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for you we sing
Living Lord

(6)

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one with us
Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
live my life for you
Son of God
All your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life your power breaks through
Living Lord

(Patrick Robert Norman Appleford 1925 - All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Gracious God, as we continue to celebrate this Easter season, receive these offerings as an affirmation of our commitment to be your faithful disciples. Strengthen our ability to be gifted stewards of your world. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter, we offer our prayers for the world in which we live:

We pray for hope for those who feel overwhelmed.

We pray for relief for those who are suffering.

(7)

We pray for jobs for those who have little or no income.

We pray for community for those who feel lonely.

We pray for peace for those whose lives are filled with conflict.

We pray for understanding for those who are so often misunderstood.

We pray for comfort those who grieve.

We pray for food for those who hunger.

We pray for shelter for those who are homeless.

We pray for freedom for those who live under dictatorships.

We pray for justice for those who are accused and condemned out of no fault of their own.

We pray for healing for those who are hurt or abused by others.

We pray for wisdom and integrity for those in government.

We pray for the spiritual growth and health for our churches.

We pray for one another as we continue to respond to God's call to be a caring, nurturing community of grace.

We pray for your Kingdom of justice and peace to reign here on earth, as we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

(adapted from Rev Abi, and posted on RevGalBlogPals blog.

<http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Save us from the time of trial

**and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

SONG: “I, the Lord of sea and sky” (TIS 658)

YouTube: <https://www.youtune.com/watch?v=yhTpjdrLf0s>

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

(9)

Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

(Daniel L. Schutte 1947 - All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457)

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

God's love surround you, God's Spirit guide you,
God's whisper cheer you, God's peace calm you,
God's shield protect you, God's wisdom arm you,
wherever God may lead you.

(Christian Blessings for use in worship - faithandworship.com)

"Grace, mercy and peace be with you, from God the Father and Jesus Christ,
the Son, in truth and love." (2 John 1:3)

Amen.

