

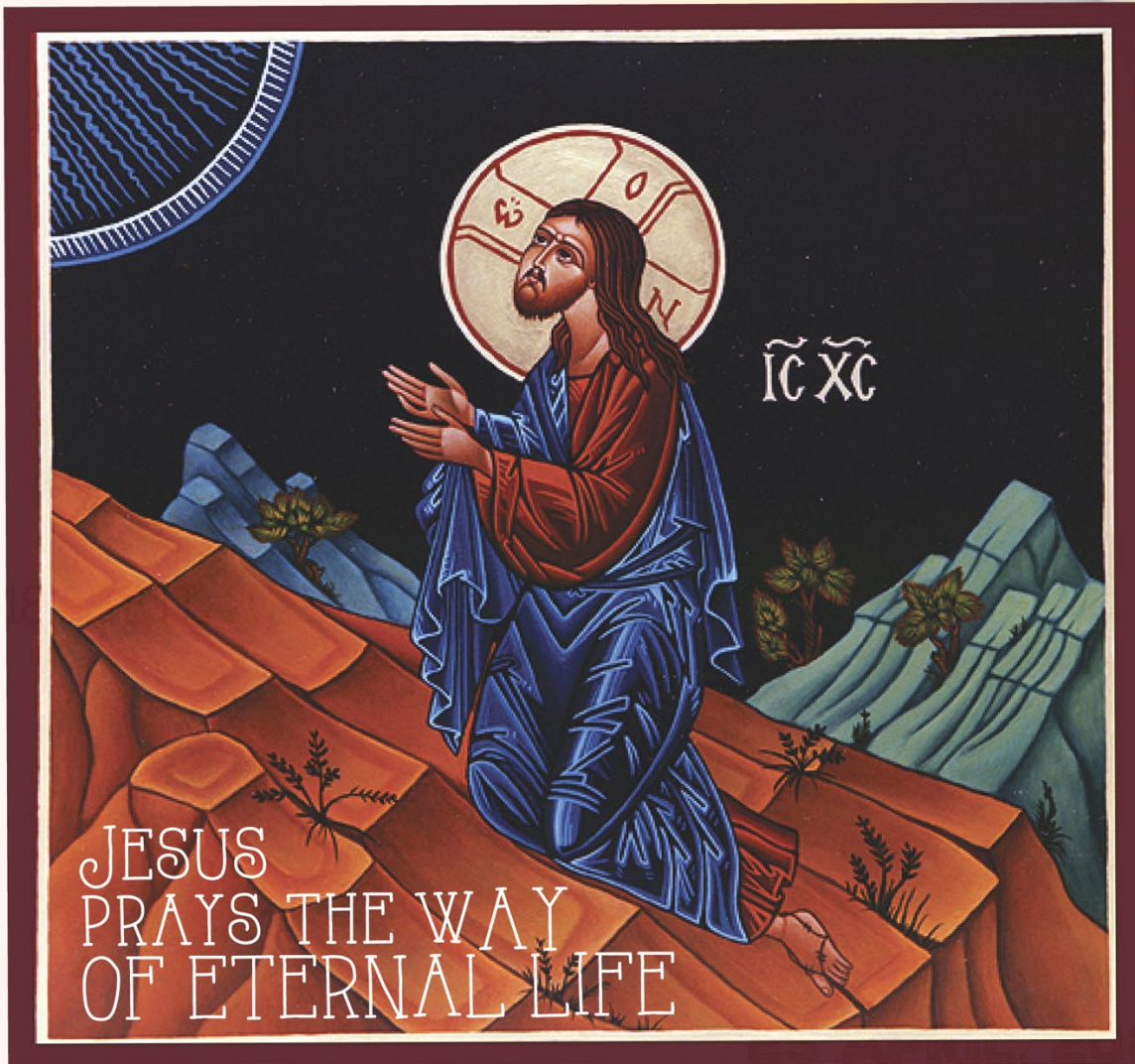


**uniting  
church**

in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial  
Uniting Church

# EASTER 7



21 May, 2023

## WELCOME

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

## LIGHTING OF THE EASTER CANDLE

Today we light the Easter candle,  
proclaiming the transforming power of God.  
Christ is alive and living among us!

*The candle is lit*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One with God and one with us,  
Jesus Christ,  
holding us in prayer,  
holding us in grace,  
in the way of eternal life  
abundant life lived in our way of life.

Jesus Christ,  
having lived among us  
and returned to be with God,  
now looking on humanity with eyes of love  
as we tread the journey of life:

***We wait in faith before you this day.***

Image of all divine power and life,  
yet with feet touching our earth  
and hands held out towards us,  
our inspiration and our friend, Jesus Christ:



*We wait in faith before you this day.  
We gather here, trusting that you are with us.*

**HYMN** *“Resurrection All Around Us” (Tune: ‘Ode to Joy’, 87.87D)*

Resurrection all around us,  
hearts arise and leap for joy  
Hope eternal grows within us,  
voices silenced now employ  
Live in joy of new beginnings,  
live in harmony and love  
Finding strength to meet each trial,  
conquering sorrow, being love.

Being human, honouring Jesus,  
in a covenant of grace  
Living the divine commandment,  
one with all the human race  
Leading strong for peace and justice,  
doing away with hate and fear  
Finding ways to work together,  
keeping voice and vision clear.

Celebrate the light within us,  
love divine and human spark  
Reaching out to be inclusive,  
everyone a work of art  
Light the flame of love around us,  
echoing through the stars above  
Holding hands, in peace surround us,  
being human, being love.

*(GKlinger/C3Exchange)*

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**PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

How many ways You have cared for us, O God;  
How many companions You have given  
to share our difficult and joyous journey.  
And yet we forget Your care,

and reject Your messengers.

Forgive us for failing to recognise You  
in those who are different from ourselves.  
Forgive us for rejecting other people –  
children of Yours who are equally loved.  
forgive us for believing the lie  
that says we can do it our way, and we can do it alone.  
Teach us to love as You have loved us,  
to embrace and welcome others  
as You have welcomed us,  
to enjoy and commit to the family  
which You have given for our comfort and nurture.

***In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.***

*Sacredise*

### **WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE**

God our mystery,  
you bring us to life,  
call us to freedom,  
and move between us with love.  
You call us friends, equals together.  
May we also participate  
in the dance of your trinity,  
that our lives may resonate with you,  
now and forever,

***Amen!***

*Janet Morley, All Desires Known. (Adapted)*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS John 17.1-11 (Inclusive Text)**

1. After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “My Parent God, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, O God, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 6 “I have revealed you O God to those whom you gave me out

of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Parent God, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

## RESPONSE

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

## SONG

*Where the Wild God is*  
<https://vimeo.com/579675219>

1 Speak; your church is listening  
Forge in us again your faith and unity.  
Speak; as one we are leaning in  
Draw us back again  
To who we're called to be.

*Oh let your justice and love  
Be our way,  
Sent by your Spirit in love,  
Light the way, light the way.  
Where the Wild God is,  
That's where we'll be.*

2 Grace; form us in your grace,  
a people on the way in freedom and peace.  
Lead beyond familiar ways,  
Your fresh words for today  
Beyond comfort, beyond fear.

*Oh let your justice and love  
Be our way,*

*Sent by your Spirit in love,  
Light the way, light the way.  
Where the Wild God is,  
That's where we'll be*

3 Speak; you church is listening  
Forge in us again your faith and unity.

*Glen Spencer. Uniting Mission and Education  
Recorded on site at Sydney Cheil Uniting Church.  
Copyright Info. Song Title: Where The Wild God Is  
Author: Glen Spencer Copyright: Glen Spencer*

## REFLECTION

**HYMN** "At the dawning of salvation" (TiS 392)

1. At the dawning of salvation;  
in the morning of the world,  
Christ is raised, a living banner  
by the love of God unfurled,  
Through the daylight, through the darkness,  
Christ leads on his great array:  
all the saints and all the sinners  
he has gathered on his way.

2. He is risen in the morning,  
he is risen from the dead;  
he is laughter after sadness,  
he is light when night has fled.  
He has suffered, he has triumphed,  
life is his alone to give:  
as he gave it once he gives it  
evermore, that we may live.

3. For the glory of salvation  
in the dawn of Easter day  
we will praise you, loving Father;  
we rejoice to sing and pray  
with the Son and with the Spirit  
Lead us on, your great array,

saints and sinners celebrating  
your triumphant love today.

*Jock Curle*

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**OFFERING** God of compassion and relationship,  
you work with us to bring forth life in the midst of death,  
healing in the midst hate and anger,  
and hope in the darkest places of poverty and despair.  
You desire our wholeness, and invite our company  
to bring healing and life with others.  
May the gifts we offer to you this morning  
bring life and healing to us all.

*Amen.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SONG OF PRAYER FOR *EVERYDAY LIFE***

Cold play, *Everyday Life* (live in Jordan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qi33gLphV4>

#### ***Everyday life***

What in the world are we going to do?  
Look at what everybody's going through  
What kind of world do you want it to be?



Am I the future or the history?  
'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries  
Everyone tells each other all kinds of lies

Everyone falls, everybody dreams and doubts  
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out  
How in the world I am going to see?  
You as my brother, not my enemy?  
'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries  
Everyone sees the color in each other's eyes  
Everyone loves,  
everybody gets their hearts ripped out  
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out  
Gonna keep dancing when the lights go out  
Hold tight for everyday life....  
At first light, throw my arms out open wide  
Hallelujah.....

### **PRAYER FOR OTHERS**

Loving Christ, as you explain  
our relationship with you,  
we pray that we will find ourselves  
embodying your hopes for us,  
as those who make bridges  
between the human and Divine,  
as those living your eternal life here and now,  
within ourselves, in our structures, in our society.

May we discover  
the surprising connections  
which we can make in our lives  
between the ordinary and the mystery of your Godliness.

***Enter our prayers this day,  
so that we offer our loving thoughts and energies  
into causes and journeys  
which are true to you, we pray.***

We hold these people and situations  
in love before you now:

*The people pray*

May your church be so human,  
creating equality for all,



that people approach us without fear  
and so close to you  
that they feel the healing  
and compassion  
flowing through our lives  
and within our doors.

***May we develop the capacity of humility  
in all that we do,  
may we point to a love which surpasses knowledge  
in you, our Christ, and in you our God.  
Amen.***

**HYMN**

*"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

(Tune: 'Abbot's Leigh', 87.87D)

1. Called as partners in Christ's service  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing  
Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfil God's chosen end

2. Christ's example Christ's inspiring  
Christ's clear call to work and worth  
Let us follow never faltering  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women richer poorer  
All God's people young and old  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold

3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mision  
In a small or global sense  
Help us bear each other's burdens  
Breaking down each wall or fence  
Words of comfort words of vision  
Words of challenge said with care  
Bring new power and strength for action  
Make us colleagues free and fair

4. So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife  
Make us partners in our living  
Our compassion to increase  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace

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### **BLESSING**

Let us go, people of God.  
Let us walk  
through the locked doors of grief and pain.  
Let us reach towards  
the doubting hearts of the suffering of the earth.

And may the Christ  
enter every place before us,  
bringing peace and grace to all who wait.  
May God the loving Parent  
touch our lives with love  
and the Spirit  
rise in joyful life  
in the harsh deserts of doubt.

***Amen.***