

Parramatta
Community
Uniting Church

Leigh Fijian
Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church



EASTER SUNDAY

turning from death to life

COMBINED SERVICE

March 31, 2024

LALI

INTROIT FHB 53:

LEIGH FIJIAN CHOIR

Sa tucake! Sa tucake!
Jisu sa tucake mai!
Tukutuku rekitaki:
Kacivaki me kilai.

Sa tucake! Aleluya!
Sa tucake! Aleluya
Sa tucake! Aleluya!
Jisu sa tucake mai!

Sa tucake! Sa tucake!
Vesu bogi tolu ga;
Vatu levu sa dregati
Sa ka walega vua

Sa tucake! Aleluya!
Sa tucake! Aleluya!
Sa tucake! Aleluya!
Jisu sa tucake mai!

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Easter Day!

LIGHTING OF THE EASTER CANDLE

Today we light the Easter candle,
proclaiming the transforming power of God.
Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities.
Christ is alive and living among us!

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal 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

The crucified Christ is risen!

The crucified Christ is risen indeed!

The stone has been removed from the tomb
and we may meet the Christ alive in our day.

Death cannot capture the life of God.

It springs forth in every generation,
within the wonder of peace and love.

Its power will always defeat the mighty,
and the song of freedom from the bonds of betrayal
will know no end.

The crucified Christ is risen!

The crucified Christ is risen indeed!

HYMN Morning has broken (TiS 156)

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

2. Sweet the rain's new fall,
sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dew fall,
on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness
where His feet pass



3. Mine is the sunlight,
mine is the morning
Born of the One Light
Eden saw play
Praise with elation,
praise every morning
God's re-creation
of the new day

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EASTER LITANY

When we are all despairing;
when the world is full of grief;
when we see no way ahead,
and hope has gone away:
Roll back the stone of our graves.

Although we fear change;
although we are not ready;
although we'd rather weep
and run away:
Roll back the stone of our graves.

Because we're coming with the women;
because we hope where hope is vain;
because you call us from the grave
and show the way:
Roll back the stone of our graves.
Adapted: Janet Morley

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The grace of Christ is alive here and now!
We need not fear that love has died.
It breaks forth again in kindness
every time that we approach in humble faith.
We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING **Mark 16: 1-8** (Inclusive Text/NRSV)

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint Jesus.

And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'

But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back.

On entering the tomb they saw a youth in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement.

But the youth said to them: 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: Jesus has risen, and is not here. 'See, here is the place where they laid him. 'But you must go and tell the disciples and Peter: Jesus is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you.'

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for both terror and amazement had seized them.

And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16: 1-8

1Ia ni sa oti na siga ni vakacecegu, ko iratou ko Meri na yalewa ni Makitala, kei Meri na tina i Jemesa, kei Salomi, eratou sa volia na waiwai vakaisaluaki, me ratou laki lumuti koya. 2Ia e na mataka caca e nai matai ni siga ni wiki, eratou sa lako mai ki nai bulubulu ni sa qai cabe na siga.

3A ratou sa kaya vakai iratou, Ko cei ena vaqiqica tani na vatu e na vukuda mai na katuba ni bulubulu? 4Ia ni ratou sa raica, eratou sa kunea ni sa vaqiqici tani na vatu: ni sa vatu levu sara.

5Ia ni ratou sa curu ki nai bulubulu, eratou sa kunea e dua na cauravou sa tiko e na tikina i matau, sa vakaisulu e nai sulu balavu ka vulavula; a ratou sa rere. 6A sa kaya vei iratou ko koya, Dou kakua ni rere: dou sa vakasaqarai Jisu na kai Nasareci, ko koya ka lauvako ki na kauveilatai: sa tu cake tale ko koya: sa sega eke: raica na tikina era a vakatora kina! 7ia dou lako, tukuna vei ira na nona tisaipeli, vei Pita talega, ni sa liutaki kemudou ko koya ki Kalili; dou na raici koya kina, me vaka na nona vosa vei kemudou. 8A ratou sa lako kusarawa yani, ka dro mai nai bulubulu; ia

eratou sa sautaninini ka kidroa; eratou sa sega talega ni kaya e dua na ka
vua e dua; ni ratou sa rere.

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION

HYMN **Ni sa kaukauwa / Thine be the glory (MHB: 51)**

1. *Ni sa kaukauwa, Kemuni Jisu
Bula mai na mate, gu matua tu
Dola tu na qara, lala sara ga
Kenai vakatawa, era taqaya*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

2. *Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

3. *Keimami sa qai nuinui tu
Kivei kemuni Karisito Jisu
Me da bula vata, me da sa qaqa
Veitokani dina, tawa mudu ga*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

4. *No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;*

*make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won*

OFFERING An offering of our lives and the gifts of creation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Rise among us here, O Christ.

Enliven everything we are and do, we pray.

Renew our love for others
so that we can truly love with the world
witnessing in this that you cannot be destroyed
by the powers of this time or any other.

***Take our hands and lead us towards
a life which follows in your footsteps, Jesus Christ.***

Give to us wisdom in walking this way
and preparedness to create, even small echoes,
of your brave and glorious journey.

***As our spirits lift in joy this day,
we hold these people and situations before you:***

The people pray

Bring to life the actions for good
which will make the changes that are needed, we pray.

***Speak through us, O Christ,
that our voices will be raised against injustice.***

Give to us all that we need
to understand how best to work with these longing people.

***Gather us towards all who feel
that no-one cares about them.***

Embrace the ones who believe that life is not worth living
and show us how to transform the deathly forces
which destroy their hope, we pray.

*Shine your risen life before us, Jesus Christ,
so that we may see and know
that you live in all creation in everlasting love. Amen.*

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 Parent
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.

BLESSING

Let us go forth with lifted hearts
to share the Good News of this day.

May we hear the voice of Christ when life runs low.
May we roll away the stones
which imprison the power of love.
And may the risen life of Christ our friend and liberator,
be found in all we do. Amen.

HYMN **Now the green blade rises** (*TiS*, 382)

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake to life again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

3. Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Christ is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

4. When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By your touch you call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

John Mcleod Campbell Crumb

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