

Easter Day Communion Service

Sunday 17 April 2022, 9:30AM

Boronia Park Uniting Church

Announcement

Acknowledgement of the First Peoples

We acknowledge the Walloomattagal people,
the first inhabitants of this place.

**We honour them for their custodianship of the land,
on which we gather today.**

Lighting of the Christ candle

The Peace

Christ Jesus says:

When you enter a house, let your first words be,
'Peace be to this house.'

[Luke 10:5](#)

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Easter Greeting

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Blessed is the Holy Trinity of love,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God,
mothering all creation,

and blessed is the reign of God,
now and ever to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Easter Song The Day of Resurrection (TIS 361)

The day of resurrection! earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God:
from death to life eternal, from earth up to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his greeting may hear, so calm and strong,
his own 'All hail' and, hearing, may raise the victors' song.

Now let the heavens be joyful and earth her song repeat,
the whole world shout in triumph her living Lord to greet;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Thanksgiving to God

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your Name.

Amen.

From the Anglican Prayer Book: A Prayer Book for Australia

Scripture Reading The Gospel of Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

Rosemary Brook

“We pray because our life comes from God and we yield it back in prayer. Prayer is a great antidote to the illusion that we are self-made.”

Walter Brueggemann

Heavenly Father,

On this beautiful Easter Sunday, we thank you that you are a God of wonder, a God of unending love, a God of new life.

We can never know exactly what happened
around that first Easter morning
But we do know the disciples
and their friends were utterly transformed
Into people of immense courage and assurance
That your Son Jesus was still intimately with them
And they felt utterly compelled to share and preach
what they knew and had learned from Him.*

We thank you for your living presence with us and pray that
We too and the world can be made...
and will be made... “Easter new’**. **

We thank you for your Church worldwide and closer to home. We thank you for our dear Minister Seungjae and his family—each so gifted, and for all SJ’s beautiful services this Easter; for the very faithful ministers in our congregation: Barnabas and Justin; for our very thoughtful lay preachers: Robyn, Alan and Kevin; our other caring leaders; our bright and precious young people; and all our loving church family.

Today we thank you for all the various ministries of our Uniting Church and its leaders, Congregations, faith communities and chaplains in the City of Ryde zone. Keep inspiring our church to

grow as a *Contemporary, Courageous and Growing Church* - and as a church and as individuals, *to make a Jesus-shaped difference to the world.*

Overseas, we pray for the safety and continuing courage of your churches, faith communities and Moslem background Christians in Mongolia (#unknown) and in the six Stans: Afghanistan (#1), Kazakhstan (#47), Kyrgyzstan (#unknown)), Tajikistan (#45), Turkmenistan (#25) and Uzbekistan (#21). Source: Open Doors 2022 World Watch List which indicates the 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian @ <https://opendoors.org.au>

We now take a few moments for silent prayers from our hearts – there are so many in our thoughts including friends and family who are unwell; so many affected by floods and climate change; wars and unrest: in Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Syria, Afghanistan, Mali and so many other places; poverty, hunger, pandemics, and governments failing their people in so many places.

And we take a few moments now to listen quietly to your voice or just rest in your presence.

In closing,

Heavenly Father, God of profound goodness and mystery,

We thank you for your deep assurance that through the first Easter you are always with us; that you love us more than we can possibly imagine; and that through your Son Jesus, you keep turning our assumptions and worldly values upside down..... showing us a new life and unimagined possibilities.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

Easter Message

Seung Jae Yeon

Let us pray:

The risen Lord Jesus Christ,
by your Holy Spirit
be present with us now.
Amen.

Sometimes I wonder what it would look like when my three children leave or move out from Grace and me one day. How would I feel when they leave home? It is called “Empty nest syndrome” It is a feeling of grief and loneliness parents may feel when their children leave home for the first time, such as to live on their own. It is not a clinical condition so there would be no doctor’s consultation if it will happen to us. I need to find my own way when Grace and I only live together.

To be honest, this would be no such a strange thing for us. Because we used to live with each other until we had our first child Joshua. I guessed Grace and I as parents will have lived for twenty some years then go back to the time where we lived as a young couple. Not a young couple, but an old couple. I remember those years before we had kids, though, when it was just the two of us? It’s time to make more memories as a couple. Travel without worrying about who’s going to stay with the kids or hearing “Are we there yet?” Plan date nights without thinking about them and cook whatever meals we want without considering if the picky eater is going to complain about it. I will be able to figure out what activities we can enjoy together. Maybe the extra planning will pay off. It will look absolutely strange but from the empty nest I will begin reconnecting with my lifelong partner Grace.

From the empty tomb, those female leaders of Christ's fellowship and Peter, seemed to begin reconnecting with their master Jesus Christ whose body was not there anymore. The first day after sabbath, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices in order to clean the body of Jesus. But what they found was so strange! The stone was rolled away from the tomb, and they didn't find the body. Nothing in there. Then they were reminded by the mysterious men of what Jesus their master told them which was his death and resurrection. They would have remembered his words and works at the empty tomb. From the empty tomb, they could have reconnected with their master Jesus who is now alive as he told. Then they told what they saw, heard, and remembered at the empty tomb to the apostles. The apostles listened but they didn't believe because they seemed to them an idle tale. I think they wanted but it was very difficult to believe unless they see. One of them, Peter, he ran to the tomb. What he found is the linen cloths which were probably used to wrap the body of Jesus. He saw nothing in the empty tomb but was amazed at what had happened. Did the women and Peter fail to believe the resurrection of their master Jesus Christ? Did they have Empty nest syndrome that their master Jesus moved out from their fellowship? So did they feel grief and loneliness because Jesus left them?

I truly believe that the women, the apostle, Peter and others might have begun their own faith journey from the empty tomb. Though it didn't look perfect, they, as an individual or community, began reconnecting with their master Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, identifying their roles in the new season. They used to be a lot of things in their life—daughter or son, mother or father, friend, tax collector, fisher men, general practitioner—but none may feel as important as the role of believer of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. They could still carry that label proudly. But it just might not be at the forefront anymore. Because Jesus died but rose again. Because He lives. From the empty tomb, they could have identified new roles they wanted to

fill during this empty-tomb phase of their faith journey. Did they want to be evangelists? Gospel teachers? Founders of ancient churches? They were wondering and clarifying their roles to fill as believers of the risen Lord Jesus Christ instead of keepers of the empty tomb. At the empty tomb, they began their faith journey to find out the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As the women who visited the tomb, the apostles who didn't believe that Jesus rose from the tomb, and Peter who was just amazed at the tomb would have begun their faith journey from the empty tomb, we should begin today taking our faith journey off anew to find Jesus the risen Lord in our everyday life. And remind each other that we are called to seek to find fullness of God's mercy and grace from the emptiness or hopelessness. Our journey is to grow our faith increasing the purpose of the risen Lord Jesus Christ in and among us. Jesus said, "It is finished" on that old cross. What we do is not to achieve what we plan for tomorrow but to find out what he has done in everyday life and life's journey. What words and works would Jesus do in you? Jesus was risen and he wasn't there. It's an empty tomb. But from the emptiness and hopelessness, we find the hope and fullness of the risen Lord who be always there for us. We are here not to fill the empty tomb by our plans and activities. We are called to follow Jesus day by day who walk the way of life everlasting out of the empty tomb. This is our journey. This is our mission today.

Peter, who went to the empty tomb in the passage, later recalled what he experienced there at the tomb and reflected on his own foundational faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts 10, he said, "We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." (vv 39-41) He identifies himself

a witness of the risen Lord. And he invites us to join the risen Lord's witnesses today. He seemed to find new challenges after taking his own faith journey from the empty tomb. He took on something bigger than his fishing business or denial of his master three times. He didn't avoid making any life-altering decisions in the rest of his life. I hope we will learn more about the story of Peter's missional activities written in the book of Acts. All he found in his ministry had its beginning from the empty tomb on the third day when Jesus rose from the tomb.

Grace and I will try to make our empty nest available for my three children whenever they want to come and stay. The home of Grace and me will be their home sweet home whenever they seek to find a safe place or dwelling place to rest enough, recharge fully, reconnect with themselves, identify their purpose in life and regain confidence to commit their life's journey again. If they ask me to cook their favourite dishes, I will go directly in the kitchen and wear apron. I think I know what to cook for each one. I want to see that we Boronia Park Uniting Church-People be a spiritual home for those who seek to find their spiritual refuge or dwelling place this year and the years to come. Like the women and Peter began their own faith journey from the empty tomb with the risen Lord Jesus, when believers, seekers and even doubters come join us, I want them to feel welcomed, heard, and included and then they reconnect with the risen Lord Jesus Christ. That would be God's call and our mission and the reason why we live life as a people of God in Boronia Park.

Amen.

Easter Communion Song Feed Us Now (TIS 538)

Feed us now, Bread of life,
in this holy meal;
let us know your love anew:
we hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of life,
come and live within;
let your peace be ours today,
Lord Jesus, we pray.

Piece of bread, cup of wine:
Lord, this food is good:
love and mercy come to us
your promise we trust.
Piece of bread, cup of wine:
who can understand
how his mercy works in these?
Yet, Lord, we believe.

God is here, O so near,
nearer than our thoughts.
Stay with us where'er we go;
Lord, help us to grow.
God is here, O so near,
in this heaven's meal.
May we always feed on you –
on the bread that is true.

Memorial of Christ

God of glory,
in thanks we remember how Jesus broke bread and gave the cup

to make us partakers of his body and blood,
so that he might live in us and we in him.

God of mercy,
in thanks we remember how Jesus invites us to his table,
imprinting on our hearts his sacrifice on the cross.

In gratitude we bow before the Righteous One,
declaring his resurrection and glory,
and knowing that his prayers alone
make us worthy to partake of his spiritual meal.

Almighty God,
pour out the Holy Spirit upon us
that, as we receive bread and wine,
we may be assured
that Christ's promise in these signs will be fulfilled.

Eternal Father,
lift our hearts and minds on high
where, with Christ your only Son,
and with the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, now and for evermore.

Amen. [Alternative Great Prayer of Thanksgiving G, *Uniting in Worship*, 1988, p. 121](#)

Calling the Holy Spirit

Lord God of powers and creator of all beings,
who out of nothing brought all things
into visible existence,
who also graciously honoured our earthly nature
by appointing us at the service of such a deep mystery.

You, O Lord, to whom we offer this sacrifice,
receive at our hands this gift,
and complete it to the sacrament of the body and
blood of your only-begotten Son, and
grant that those who partake of this bread and this cup
may obtain forgiveness of their sins.

Amen.

From The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
我們在天上的父，
願人都尊祢的名為聖，
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨，
願祢的旨意行在地上，
如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食
今日賜給我們，
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債
如同我們免了人的債
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을
용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고，

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，
救我們脫離兇惡，
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，
全是祢的，直到永遠。
나라와 권능과 영광이
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

Breaking of Bread

Let us receive what we are;
let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Communion

All are welcomed to share the sacramental gifts.

*Please receive bread and cup from the minister and elders
and eat with faithful prayer.*

After communion, a time of silence is held for personal meditation.

Meal of the Kingdom

Blessed be God,
who has nourished me from my youth,
and given nourishment to every being.

Fill our hearts with joy and gladness,
so that we may always have everything we need and
may abound in every good work in Christ Jesus our Lord;
with him and the Holy Spirit be glory,
honour and might to you forever.

Amen.

**All: Glory to you, Lord,
glory to you Holy One,
glory to you, King,
for giving us food to enjoy.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit,
so that we may be found pleasing in your sight,
unashamed when you render to everyone
according to their deeds.**

The prayer (a grace at meals) in use by the desert monks of the fourth century according to John Chrysostom (Homily 55 on Matthew's Gospel)

Easter Song

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

This, the power of the cross ...

Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.

Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.
This, the power of the cross ...

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.

Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

*This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Stuart Townend

Easter Blessing

Let us pray:

Go forth in joy to love and serve God
in all that you do.

We are sent in the name of the risen Christ.

Let us bless our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia!

[The Prayers of the People – Rosemary Brook] This prayer draws on Roger Courtney's Easter Sunday Prayer (2013) * and Walter Brueggemann's An Easter Prayer (2015) **

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