

**Worship Service to Celebrate the Risen Lord  
YEAR 'A'**

Easter Sunday

12 April 2020

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR THE FIRST PEOPLE**

Before we begin,  
we would like to acknowledge and pay respect  
to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet.

As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and  
Christian practice within this house  
may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever  
within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**GREETING**

Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed!**

Glory and honour, authority and power,  
be to God for ever and ever.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**ASSEMBLY SONG 1**

Jesus Christ is risen today ([Click/Tap to listen](#))

Verse 1

Jesus Christ is risen today,  
*alleluia!*

our triumphant holy day,  
*alleluia!*

who so lately on the cross,  
*alleluia!*

suffered to redeem our loss,  
*alleluia!*

## Verse 2

Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
*alleluia!*  
 unto Christ, our heavenly king,  
*alleluia!*

who endured the cross and grave,  
*alleluia!*  
 sinners to redeem and save.  
*Alleluia!*

## Verse 3

But the pain that he endured  
*alleluia!*  
 our salvation has procured;  
*alleluia!*

now exalted he is king,  
*alleluia!*  
 and the angels ever sing:  
*alleluia!*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray:*

God our Father,  
 by raising Christ your Son,  
 you put the seal upon the power of death  
 and opened to us the way of eternal life.

Let our celebration today  
 raise us up and renew our lives  
 by the Spirit that is within us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 your Son, who lives and reigns  
 with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

**BLESSING YOUR CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN**

If you are now with your children or grandchildren, please call them by name and offer blessing upon their life and faith journey. Also ask them to pray for you in response to your blessing.

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### BIBLE READING

Justin Han ([Click/Tab to listen](#))

John 20:11-18 (NIV) ([Click/Tab to read](#))

### REFLECTION ON THE READING

Afro-American writer, Octavia Butler (1947-2006) says the quote. “In order to rise from its own ashes, a Phoenix first must burn.” You may have a head-nodding as you read the quote. Phoenix is a long-lived bird that ancient Greeks created and has new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. It symbolises that renewal would come after being formless or from nothing. As our Lenten journey this year, which has been challenged by COVID-19 epidemic, we have experienced truly the meaning of the Season from beginning on Ash Wednesday toward Easter. The period of 40 days is particularly this year very changing our form of worship, practicality in mission and ministry, and lifestyle daily. It is a tough journey. However, we may find Christ in the troubled time like a Phoenix who regenerates itself from its own ashes in order to rise.

What if we would say like this? “In order to give eternity to humanity, Jesus Christ first must rise from the grave” To Christians or those seeking to find the Life, the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of faithful life. Even to the Church, the fellowship of Christians and an individual Christian, no matter wherever you are this day, the Resurrection is the most important value of the organization and the community. No resurrection no Christian. No resurrection no church. No resurrection no fellowship in us. Because Jesus Christ lives for God’s purpose in you, me and many which is God’s Creation.

If we want to know who we are as Christian, we should understand what the Resurrection means for us. The Resurrection occurred when Jesus died upon a cross and then was buried. When it comes to the Resurrection of Jesus, we should understand about who Jesus was according to the Bible and who Jesus is for you. Jesus is the One who rose from death by the mysterious power of God. So, Jesus is

the beginning of what it means to be Christian who believes in the Resurrection of the Son of God.

Jesus was fully man and fully God who dreams of what no one dreams. His dream is that anyone who believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life in Him. In his ministry, he healed the sick, afflicted, lame and marginalised. He went to meet a lady who was not welcomed by the local villagers. He welcomed children and strangers. He had a same table with sinners and even washed his disciples' feet. Then the man who dreamt for His people's liberation was suffered by his followers and denied by his friends. He who dreamt of His people entering the kingdom of God was nailed and died on a cross. However, He, the dreamer, rose again from the grave in order for humanity to have eternal life. His suffering and his death are so precious to us. His Resurrection is the true gift from God for all who believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord.

To my mind, I love this story about the Risen Lord Jesus. I won't lie to you all, I find it very confronting. Some people can hear the story but can't believe it. Unlike me they don't like being scared, challenged and embarrassed by Jesus' teaching, action, suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection. It is too confronting. Jesus' death and resurrection and its story point up the problem confronting us. We sometimes just do a good story of being well in prosperity of God. We don't want to be horrified or challenged but just be in a comfort zone of thought, idea or belief. If we are not confronted with the truth of the Resurrection and who Jesus is for us, we just do a good fiction novel. Do we really want to complete inventions or fictionalization of Jesus Christ as we follow Him? Do you prefer a comforting faith rather than a confronting truth which tells us about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord? Do you worry what people will think of you if you believe in the Risen Lord? Do you think other bible stories like Christmas or Psalms are a safe place to be confronted by the controversial?

One of famous Christian church's teachings, Heidelberg Catechism says about there is only comfort in life. In No. 1 question, it asks,

*What is your only comfort in life and death?*

It follows the answer:

*That I am not my own,  
but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,  
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.  
He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,  
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.  
He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my heavenly Father.  
In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.  
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly  
willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

As Christians, we live for Jesus who is risen from death. If you are seeking Jesus as your guide, I humbly encourage to follow Jesus in reading and practice what the Bible inspires you. As Christians who bear the pain and the glory of the cross, it is our responsibility to follow Him, confronting the injustices in our world. We are also called to comfort those who are hurting whether they are friends or enemies. However, we do all these things not because of a good feeling or acknowledgement, but because that is what a relationship with God who gives us eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ.

From today, we Boronia Park Uniting Church will continue our journey from Jesus' resurrection to eternal life. From ashes to a new creature in Christ. Please remember that all words from your mouth and heart belong to Christ and all movement of your body and spirit make others shine by the Light of the world. You are a christ to each other. You are a new creature from today in the new life of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pray for family, friends, neighbours, church communities including Hunters Hill Anglican Parish – All Saint's and St. Mark's Church, the countries who are suffering from COVID-19 epidemic, including Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine.

Robyn Harvey leads the prayers. ([Click/Tab to watch](#))

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The following Liturgy is designed to deviate only minimally from the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as set out in Uniting Worship and other liturgical resources, to allow for the absence of bread and wine/juice – while retaining familiar foundations, in uncertain times.

### INVITATION

Jesus invited all to the feast of peace.  
 Jesus risked everything in compassion.  
 Jesus promised to make himself  
 known in the breaking of the bread.

### PEACE SHARING

By dying, Christ destroyed our death;  
 in rising, he restores our life;  
 in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.  
 The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### COMMUNION HYMN

Come as you are. ([Click/Tab to read](#))

#### Verse 1

'Come as you are:  
 that's how I want you.  
 Come as you are;  
 feel quite at home,  
 close to my heart,  
 loved and forgiven.  
 Come as you are:  
 why stand alone?

#### Verse 2

'No need to fear,  
 love sets no limits;  
 no need to fear,  
 love never ends;  
 don't run away  
 shamed and disheartened,  
 rest in my love,  
 trust me again.

## Verse 3

'I came to call sinners,  
not just the righteous;  
I came to bring peace,  
not to condemn.  
Each time you fail  
to live by my promise,  
why do you think  
I'd love you the less?

## Verse 4

'Come as you are;  
that's how I love you;  
come as you are,  
trust me again.  
Nothing can change  
the love that I bear you;  
all will be well,  
just come as you are.'

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## COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We come to you, Lord, as who we are.  
And we greet the one  
who comes in your name,  
your true light, your true love,  
the bread of compassion,  
the wine of renewal.

As he broke bread  
before the brokenness of his death,  
as he poured out wine  
before his blood was poured out  
on the cross,  
as he gave his life in acts of goodness,  
as he invited all to the feast of new hope,  
so come to us, God of Jesus, in your love.

Come to us,  
 Spirit of our Lord of love,  
 and let the bread and wine before us  
 bear your life to our life,  
 nourish us with his vision of hope,  
 and unite us in one body of peace.

Nourish us with your brokenness,  
 Renew us with your poured-out life,  
 Empower us with your powerlessness,  
 that we may take root in your risen life  
 and bear fruit in your world.

**You are our life;  
 You are our hope;  
 You are our peace;  
 And we praise you  
 for the Risen Lord.**

[Raise the empty plate]

On the night when he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you,  
 broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said:

**“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
 Do this and remember me.”**

[Pick up the empty cup]

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his  
 friends, and said:

**“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, and remember me.”**

## PLATE AND CUP

We hold up the empty plate...

**It is Christ who is the bread of life,  
Who satisfies the hungry heart.**

We hold up the empty cup...

**It is Christ who is the cup of hope,  
Who revives the thirsty.**

The plate and cup are placed on the table...

**The gifts of God for the people of God.**

In faith and hope, we hold out our empty hands...

**In these empty vessels and in our empty hands,  
we celebrate the mystery and wonder of the empty tomb.**

In our hands and in our hearts,  
we leave space for resurrection,  
for new life, for new meaning.

We hold the sorrows, prayers and hopes of the world before You, O God.

May Your Spirit flow among us and beyond us,  
drawing us into loving and caring for Your world.

Jesus Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen indeed!**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

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.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Let us pray:*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

You have given yourself to us, Lord.  
Now we give ourselves for others.

You have raised us with Christ,  
and made us a new people.  
As people of the resurrection,  
we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts.  
Help us to glorify you in all things.

Amen.

## **THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**ASSEMBLY SONG 2**

Who is this Man? (LONDONDERRY AIR) ([Click/Tab to read](#))

Verse 1

Who is this man,  
 who gathered people to him,  
 and touched their lives  
 along each dusty way;  
 who spoke to all  
 with passion and with peacefulness  
 and valued all their ordinary days?

Who is this man,  
 who, at the long day's ending,  
 would draw apart  
 to wait on God and pray,  
 and, in that mystery  
 that knows no ending,  
 would find God's wisdom  
 and would know God's words to say?

Verse 3

Who is this man,  
 who spoke to men of gentleness  
 and showed them all  
 the children at this side;  
 who taught of love  
 and justice for all people  
 and took a towel  
 and washed away their pride?

In him they saw  
 the strength of truth and mercy,  
 and how he trusted  
 God to be his guide,  
 knew how he led them  
 through misunderstanding,  
 and then forgave them  
 when they ran away to hide.

Verse 2

Who is this man,  
 who gave to women dignity  
 in partnership  
 of worth and equal grace,  
 who listened to the stories  
 that they told him  
 and honoured all, whatever was their place?

Who let them choose  
 to come and join his company,  
 and learned with them  
 God's love for every race,  
 who showed to each  
 the courage of their nature  
 to care and tend each lonely  
 and each suffering face.

Verse 4

Who is this man  
 who calls us now to follow,  
 a shadow presence  
 asking us to be  
 companions on the way  
 through this life's journey,  
 to live in truth,  
 to set our tired world free?

So let us find each other  
 now in partnership  
 with ears to hear  
 and eyes awake to see,  
 that we might grow  
 in grace and understanding  
 and walk beside that man  
 who comes from Galilee.

**BENEDICTION**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
 We are sent in the power of Christ's resurrection.  
**Alleluia!**

The blessing of God almighty,  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*Let us pray:*

Blessed are you,  
 O Lord our God,  
 Creator and Redeemer of the whole world;  
 from you we receive the gift of life,  
 and by your grace we have gifts to offer you.

Accept our offerings and our lives  
 in praise and thanksgiving,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who brings us again from death to life,  
 and holds forward the promise  
 of your everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

The offering will be used for the congregation's mission and ministry in the changing time. Please make offering through Bank Deposit or personal cheque if you are able.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783  
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 about how to make Direct Debit.