

**BORONIA PARK UNITING CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP 19 APRIL 2020**



Preparing for worship

You may wish to find a comfortable space and light a candle to remember the presence of Christ this day. If you are worshipping with others you are encouraged to share the various parts of worship and read them aloud.

As you light the candle,
affirm the presence of the resurrected Christ, saying:

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Greeting to Members

I, on behalf of the congregation at Boronia Park Uniting Church, greet you all, especially those who is listed on the first page of the Congregation Directory. I would like to call them by name:

Tom and Marilyn Bolton, Susan Bozinoski, Jean and Susan Boyd,
James and Rosemary Brook AND Keith and Lesley Carew

And let us have big waving hands to each other.

Call to Worship

A new day dawns and all creation sings:
Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Light shines in the darkness,
and even the deep darkness cannot overcome it.
Christ, the light of the world, is risen!
Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Come and see, our hope is not lost,
our connection is unbroken.
Christ lives among us.

Rejoice and sing, dance and be glad.
Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Assembly Song 1 – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks (390)

[Click here](#) and in singing, add your voice to the Alleluia's that echo the Easter message with each other.

Refrain

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
he is the king of creation.

Refrain

God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
new life for all! Alleluia!

Refrain

Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Refrain

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

God of Easter morning,
you bring sunrise after the dark of night,
and in the quietness of fertile soil, you nurture seeds to grow.

From the silence of the tomb, you spring forth with new life.

Give us hope this Easter day.

Connect us to your life-giving ways.

God of connection,
for your faithful love and cord of hope
that tethers us deeply to you,
we offer our thanks.

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For your Spirit that enables us to gather as your people,
deeply weaving us as the body of Christ,
we offer our thanks.

For your call upon our lives and for your steadfast love,
we offer our thanks.

Holy God,
on this day we come with joyful hearts,
with hopefulness and faith,
listening for your call and responding in ways of love.

With joy and gratitude, we pray, Amen.

The Peace

The peace of our God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us find ways to share peace and joy with one another. You might like to send a message to someone. You might want to make a phone call, play joyful music with your windows open or wave from your front porch to the neighbours walking past. Let us share Easter joy and love across the world this day.

Kid's Talk Robyn Harvey

[Click here](#) to find Easter 2 Kid's talk. And download Kid's activity sheets – [Doubting Thomas](#) and [Stop Doubting and Believe](#).

Assembly Song 2 – Hallelujah! sing to Jesus (517)

[Click here](#) and sing this hymn with people of all the world who would give praise to the risen Lord.

Verse 1

Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
hallelujah! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
'Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood.'

Verse 3

Hallelujah! bread of heaven,
and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Verse 2

Hallelujah! not as orphan,
are we left in sorrow now;
Hallelujah! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received
him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise
'I am with you evermore'?

Verse 4

Hallelujah! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your
throne:
you within the veil have entered,
robbed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31 (NLT) Jenny Keast

[Click here](#) to hear the Word of the Lord written and witnessed in the Gospel of St. John. Jenny Keast reads the passage for us.

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” 22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

28 “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

29 Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection on Scripture Robyn Harvey

[Click here](#) to view the video of Robyn's reflection sharing.

For a moment imagine a scene of peace – close your eyes and imagine it – describe it to yourself as fully as you can – enter into it deeply enough to feel its glow. Some of you may have pictured yourself dozing in the bottom of a rowboat on a calm and tranquil lake. Others may have seen themselves looking at a little baby sleeping in her crib, or a dog napping on a sun-soaked lawn. Still others may have seen themselves in a landscape empty of people – but full of grain gently waving in a breeze or beside a stream in the woods with the water making music as it runs over and around stones lying in its course.

Whatever the picture you painted and entered into – chances are it was not like the kind of scene drawn by today's gospel reading. That reading speaks of locked doors, of secret meetings by night and of fear. None of these things makes a person normally think about peace – nor does the presence of one whose body is marked by the signs of torture and death. It seems clear however, that John wants us to see the two visits of Jesus to his disciples in the upper room - as occasions of peace.

And perhaps they can speak to us about some dimensions of peace that we do normally think of – perhaps they speak to us of peace in the midst of turmoil – of peace in the midst of fear – of peace in the midst of doubt. A peace that many find elusive today in the way we are living with the COVID-19 virus. False ideas about peace and joy abound in our society. These false ideas can distort our entire picture of what life is supposed to be about, and of who Christ is and of who we are.

Some people believe you have to be rich to be happy, to be married and have children to be happy or need over 20,000 contacts on Facebook to be happy. Do you really need all these things to be happy and have a smile on your face? **NO!!** Our risen Lord never waits until we are already happy and smiling in order to come to us – and he never wears a false smile.

Think of this for a moment – Christ could have miraculously obliterated his wounds after he was raised from the tomb, but he chose not to. He bore the marks of his wounds into the presence of his disciples. In the same way Christ does not ask us to banish our wounds when we come into his presence – not even at Easter when we are supposed to be full of joy. Not even at the moment when so many people are in financial hardship and unable to hug our extended families.

The risen Christ came to his disciples in the midst of their turmoil and fear. He came in the midst of their doubt and their sense of having failed both him and their own selves and said to them **“Peace be with you”**. And when he said this, he showed them his wounds – the holes in his hands and in his side – as if to say: See these wounds – feel them and know that it is alright to hurt. Pain comes to us all – I was hurt as all people are hurt – but that pain and that hurt no longer has dominion over me – I live – as I said I would. But I told you too that after passing through

various trials and tests – that pain and even death itself would lose its power over me and those who believe in me.

The three times that Jesus offers his peace to his disciples in today's reading – it is done in close connection with the wounds of his crucifixion. The enemies of peace had already done their worst to him. They had made cowards and liars of his followers and had mocked his own words and actions. They had humiliated him in the city streets and violated his flesh and robbed him of his life. But they had failed. On the evening of the first week he came to his disciples and showed them that he lived despite the worst that could happen.

The peace that Jesus offers can be described as - the confidence his followers were able to take from his resurrected appearance. His return on that first day of the week signalled the fact that his life and promises will endure. His 'peace be with you' was more than a greeting to be followed by another good-bye. It was the declaration of a persistent fact. Because Jesus lives, nothing can separate his followers from him and life in him. The disciples realized this fact and in realizing it received the peace that Jesus could offer- for without it they were left to continue alone in darkness and fear in their locked room. And peace showed itself – confidence showed itself – inner strength showed itself – later when the disciples left that room and went into the world to proclaim that love and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ – the risen Lord.

We notice that none of the external circumstances of the disciples changed when they received and accepted the peace that Christ offered them. They believed in him – they had confidence in him – they knew that nothing could separate them from God's love after he appeared to them but they still had to face the same situation's they faced before he broke into the room. They still had to face authorities, they still had to

risk going out into the streets, they still had to deal with crowds who had mocked and crucified Jesus. They still had to face trials and tribulations – just as we do.

Peace be with you is the word of Jesus to us. Peace be with you and blessed are you when you have not seen, as the disciples saw, and yet you have come to believe.

Blessed are you not because life will be plain sailing for you.

Blessed are you not because you will always want to smile and will never have to suffer.

But blessed are you because you have linked yourself to a power greater than yours, to a power that wants to sustain you and will sustain you, to the power that raised Jesus from the dead, to the power that will bring you to the inheritance that Jesus has won for us.

Finally, I leave you with these words of Jesus. They are the words Jesus spoke to his disciples just before he went out to the Garden of Gethsemane and onward there to his cross and death.

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

Amen.

Assembly Song 3 – Make me a channel of your peace (607)

[Click here](#) to hear the call of God in the song Make Me A Channel of Your Peace, as meditating on Robyn’s reflection.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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Prayers of the People

[Click here](#) to listen and join Justin Han in the prayers.

Let us pray:

Sunday, 19 April 2020

Loving God, we give thanks that you are always attentive to the prayers of your people.

We pray for your people throughout the world, and for those here in Sydney.

Heavenly Father, please come powerfully to our nation, to our communities and to our hearts in these dark and difficult days.

Please slow the spread of this virus throughout our land, and please protect the vulnerable from its deadly touch.

Please lay your healing hands upon those who are now infected, please restore them to health and strength.

Please comfort the families of those who have died from this disease.

Please fill their hearts with your presence and gather around them friends, family and neighbours who will comfort and support in their time of loss.

We thank you, for the passion and dedication of medical staff everywhere.

Please give each one of them your wisdom in every decision they make, please protect and sustain them, and give them the strength, energy and courage they need to carry on.

Please guide the minds of our leaders in the decisions they make that will affect all our lives.

Please lead them to act wisely, carefully and in the best interests of all the people who are in pain.

Please shine your light on the path ahead.

Please draw close to the anxious hearts and troubled minds of those who now face great financial stress;

please protect them and their families from long term economic damage and guide them day by day and step by step through this crisis.

Please give each one of us the calmness and wisdom we need to carry us, together, through the days, weeks and months ahead.

Please give us an increasing trust in you and fill our hearts and minds with your peace.

We ask these things through the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.

Silence

Now we practice for seeking to listen for a voice of the risen Christ in silence. It is worth being in a secret place in the presence of God although it is not easy. [Click here](#) to listen You Are Mine, and contemplate on God's grace for you and for many.

Guide us in paths of love and restore hope in us.

We pray for ourselves this day.

Strengthen our tethering to you

that we might choose paths of love in our daily living —

in our homes, in our workplaces, in our community.

When we choose love, anger shifts to be productive.

When we choose love, there is comfort.

When we all choose love, the world changes for the better.

Shape our hearts, this day, O God.

Inspire our living that love might guide us.

And now with the global community of the children of God we pray:

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 in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.

Amen.

Assembly Song 4 – Choose to Hope

[Click here](#) to listen and sing along with Choose to Hope.

Hope is born when we choose to believe
that love is stronger than hatred;
Love is born when our hearts learn to see
that ev'ry person is sacred.

Refrain

*In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
choose to hope, choose to love, and know that God is near.*

Hope will grow when we choose to believe
that we are sisters and brothers;
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see
the life we share with each other.

Refrain

Hope will shine when we choose to believe
a little child will lead us;
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see
that God is dwelling within us.

Refrain

Sing out hope through *the virus* and fear,
for God is present beside us;
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here,
your love and wisdom will guide us.

Refrain

*In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
choose to hope, choose to love,
Emmanuel is near. Emmanuel is near.*

Words: Marty Haugen | CCLI #260394

Sending Forth and Benediction

Go out into the world with a song in your heart,
and the joy of the risen Christ in your step.
Greet this new day with hope
choosing to love in every way possible.
For this day is God's day,
and all heaven and earth sing Hallelujah! Hallelujah, 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 continuing mission and ministry in the changing time. Please make offering through Bank Deposit or personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.