

**BORONIA PARK UNITING CHURCH  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 26 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!**

## **Acknowledgement for the First Peoples**

Before we begin, we would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we live the Life that the risen Lord Jesus Christ has given for us.

## **Greeting to Members**

We greet each other, especially those who is listed on the second page of the Congregation Directory. I would like to call them by name:

Sunday, 26 April 2020

Melody Chow and Vincent Wong, Vivian, Olivia,  
Valerie Cooper, Elaine Davis AND  
Jim and Allison Dummett, James, Lily, Kennesha and Elizabeth

And in our imagination, let us have big waving hands to each other.

## Call to Worship

Here in this place of worship,  
with the congregation of the faithful,  
**we lay down our fears,  
to sing God's praise in confidence and hope.**

Here in the community of Christ,  
with our sisters and brothers in Christ,  
**the old tell stories of faith  
to the young ones gathering in spirit  
with the same reason.**

Here where God waits to inspire and encourage us:  
**we shall be so filled with love  
that we will run to inspire and encourage each other.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
let us worship God.

**Assembly Song 1 – Sing praise and thanksgiving (107)**

[Click here](#) and add your voice to the hymn that gives us affirmation of our faith in the risen Lord and the glory of salvation.

Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living  
now worship their maker with gladness and song;  
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:

*O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!*

Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;  
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,  
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:

*O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!*

Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,  
that unto your glory be all that we do;  
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:

*O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!*

Adaptation © C. A. Gibson | CCLI #260394

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Nowadays, home means a lot. Home is traditionally a place where we sleep, rest and eat before or after the day. Today, home means workplace, school, and church. And we may learn a lot from home in different and unique ways. Young ones would teach their parents in a new way of communication and skills. Now we are all learners at home. What are you learning or teaching today at home? How you provide each one's spiritual needs at home?

*Let us pray:*

Teach us to love one another  
with that passion  
which comes from your overflowing heart,  
Next Generation Grower,  
so those around us will recognize us  
as sisters and brothers,  
bound together by your love  
not divided by our fears.

Teach us to serve one another  
with that compassion  
which comes from our broken heart,  
True Vine of our lives,  
for the hungry are our brothers,  
the refugee are our sisters,  
the homeless are our families.

Teach us include others  
with that embracing welcome  
which comes from your inviting heart,  
Fruit-bearing Spirit,  
offering forgiveness to those who hurt us,  
peace to all filled with hate,  
hope to those burdened by despair.

We pray in Jesus' name. 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 make a phone call OR send a message to those we greeted at **GREETING TO MEMBERS**. Especially, for Valerie, we can send a message via the website, [www.estiahealth.com.au/messagearesident](http://www.estiahealth.com.au/messagearesident). Her location is EPPING NSW and room number is 151. In Relationship You may type 'Church Friend'. Let us share Easter hope across our friendship this day.

**Scripture Reading:** [Luke 24:13-36 \(Click to read\)](#) **Christy Kim**

**Click here** to hear the Word of the Lord written and witnessed in the Gospel of St. Luke. Christy Kim reads the passage for us.

### The Walk to Emmaus

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. 16 But God kept them from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?” They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.<sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”

19 “What things?” Jesus asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.<sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.<sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

22 “Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report.<sup>23</sup> They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!<sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.<sup>26</sup> Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, 29 but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. 30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

32 They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, 34 who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

### **Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. 36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Kid’s Talk                  Alan Keast**

**[Click here](#)** to find Easter 3 Kid’s talk led by Alan Keast.

## Assembly Song 2 – O Love that wilt not let me go (602)

[Click here](#) and sing this hymn and discover a love that would not let us go in changing times of our lives.

### Verse 1

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

### Verse 3

O Joy that sleekest me through  
    pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rain bow through the  
    rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

### Verse 2

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

### Verse 4

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there  
    blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

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## Reflection on Scripture

Alan Keast

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

When we were on Bike for Bibles rides, we had detailed maps for the travels for each day. As the vehicle at the back of a group of riders I had good signs and flashing lights on my car and trailer and room to put bikes on the roof if a rider became injured or just too tired. HOWEVER, the

good news was that I didn't need to use my maps much, I just followed the riders.

One day this didn't work, they took a wrong turn and found a big downhill and off they went. They were very disappointed when I caught up at the bottom of the hill and they found out they had to go back, up the hill.

**Today's reading about the men on the road to Emmaus is a little bit like that, but they weren't on their bikes. They were, however, going the wrong way.**

This Bible story about Jesus meeting the men on the road following his resurrection has had such an impact on people that there is a famous program called **The Emmaus Walk**. Participants are invited to take a "walk to Emmaus" during the program and seek and gain spiritual renewal, to be encouraged as Christ's disciples and to model themselves on Jesus' servanthood.

**Let us, in a symbolical manner as we are spread out today, all in our own homes, share with these two men on their walk to Emmaus.**

You won't need your walking shoes or water bottle but following on from the message last week about Thomas coming face to face with the risen Jesus, you might need a little time to reflect on things and look to how you will respond as you walk this imaginary road with me today.

Initially I can identify a little with them. They had been there, they were not the inner circle of Jesus' disciples but they were very close and had followed Jesus during this last week. Their faces were downcast. They were trying to work out what had happened; their expectations were shattered.

Sometimes we find ourselves in such a predicament; we learn about something and then it goes all "pear shaped" and our expectations are shattered. We are left feeling stranded, perhaps out of our depth and really disappointed. We thought we knew what was happening and how it was going to work out, and we were wrong.

For these men, it was the worst case scenario. They had enough knowledge about Jesus and great hopes. These things they knew:

- They knew he was Jesus of Nazareth
- They considered him a prophet, "*powerful in word and deed before God and all the people*". So they had perhaps heard him speaking and knew of his deeds.

They had hopes for him, based on the writings of the prophets that he was THE ONE who was going to redeem Israel.

- They knew about the crucifixion.
- They even knew about the women who had visited the tomb and found it empty.

- They even were able to tell the stranger about the vision the women had that some angels had told them that Jesus was alive.

**Yet here they were heading sadly off to Emmaus. The dream was over BUT like the bike riders in my beginning story, they were going in the wrong direction.**

*The glorious party, the majesty of the resurrection, the visits to the disciples and so many more people were only just about to start.*

You see, like many a jigsaw puzzle, they had put lots and lots of pieces together and the picture was becoming clearer, but they were just missing the last few pieces. Could you blame them?

This reminds me of the bible story about Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). This man was riding along in his chariot reading and Phillip was sent by an angel to meet with this man. Phillip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?” as the man read from Isaiah. His reply was, “How can I unless someone guides me?” Phillip proceeded to teach him and told him the good news about Jesus.

Like the two men on the road to Emmaus, we have a man seeking to learn but not having all the last pieces of the jigsaw together. Phillip did that for the Ethiopian. And Jesus did that for the men on the road to Emmaus. I want to digress for a moment as this story seems mostly about the two men, but let us consider for a moment this story from the perspective of Jesus.

Jesus, the crucified and resurrected Jesus, made a decision to be with these two men on the lonely road. We cannot read the mind of Jesus but this decision so aligned with his life style and choices; even in his darkest times, he cared about HIS people. Jesus loved them and his heart must have gone out to them, as it did with the eleven disciples. He made the decision to appear with them on the road and took the opportunity to teach them. What a blessing they had!

Then THEY returned the blessing by inviting Jesus to stay with them and share a meal. It was at the meal as Jesus broke the bread they realised he was the risen Jesus. After he left they returned to Jerusalem to share the news with Jesus' disciples.

A lovely summary comment on this passage (James L. Resseguie) states, *“the impediments to spiritual formation – disappointment, foolishness, mirthless trudging and slowness of heart – are abandoned on this journey, and the disciples’ eyes are opened to God’s working ways in this world.”*

So, as we come to the end of this sermon, we should ask ourselves the question, **“What messages do I take from this reflection?”**

You can write (PO Box 3111, Rouse Hill 2155) or email me ([ackeast@hotmail.com](mailto:ackeast@hotmail.com)) your homework responses however for those who want the easy way out, I want to suggest what was five but now has become six key points. (Last night I added one more.)

1. Don't be going the wrong way.
2. It's OK to be sad for a little while.
3. The men on the road to Emmaus were not looking for Jesus. He came to them knowing they were sad and bewildered. He met them at their need.
4. Listen to good teaching about the Bible and life in Christ.
5. Share hospitality.
6. Proclaim the GOOD NEWS.

Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Barnabas Joo

Join in the deep reflective prayer that Barnabas prays on behalf of the congregation.

*Let us pray:*

Merciful Father,  
please accept our hearts,  
as we pray in unison, though physically apart.

Please accept our earnest hearts as we pray for your guidance,  
for the people, the children of your world.

As we experience a global pandemic,  
we see how much good you created in the world.

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How much we have taken for granted.  
We realise our gratitude for fresh air.  
For green plains and sceneries.  
For family and friends.  
We realise how lucky we were to attend church, every Sunday.  
Where we could join in fellowship,  
proudly and safely.

But Father, we understand  
that the Church is not a building, it is made of people.  
And we join our hearts today in thanks and earnest desperation  
so we can lead the world to a safe future.

In times like these,  
we see that just as Jesus saw no race, no gender, no discrimination,  
that the virus too does not discriminate.  
Rich or poor, East or West,  
we are all venerable people,  
not invincible to the strength of the wonders of nature.

But we do understand that there are those  
more vulnerable than others.  
We know that the elderly or those of poor health face greater risks.  
We know that those without wealth  
will have greater difficulties surviving a period of lost work.  
We know that those of certain nationalities face discrimination  
as a result of this virus.

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We pray father that at times like these, the world is not divided.  
We pray for your powerful hand to awaken every person  
so we recognise the importance of working in unity and harmony  
to get through this together.

We take this moment to thank you for those on the front lines.  
At times like these,  
we recognise the incredibly important work  
that people like nurses, doctors aged care workers,  
supermarket workers, delivery people,  
child care workers and educators, and cleaners do daily,  
but work that goes usually unnoticed.  
We ask for your blessing on these workers,  
that you strengthen them so they can continue their important work.

We pray for all the countries of the land.  
We pray for countries that are having difficulty  
in containing the virus where there has been many lost.  
We pray for especially Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,  
Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.  
We pray for the people in these lands  
who suffer from poverty and repressive rule.  
We pray for the land, air and water that damaged by human abuse.  
We pray for the people in these countries  
who have affected by COVID-19 and fighting with it.  
We pray for protecting their families and friends  
and bring peace to all who love them.

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In the inter church cycle,  
we pray for Villa Maria Holy Name of Mary and St. Peter Chanel,  
all our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ.

We pray for each and every one of these church family members.  
We pray you will keep them healthy and safe.

We pray for our congregation.

We think of our young people,  
that they can continue their education well, even in difficult times.

We pray for Barbara Summers and Eline Davis.

We pray for their strength and their recovery and health.

We also think about the members

who are in difficulty financially in this uncertain period.

We ask that you will fill these people with your love  
and you will supply all their needs, out of your rich abundance.

We thank you for the Ministry team,

led by our Minister, Seungjae

that we are able to worship like this in heart,

even when it is not possible to be together in body.

We pray for another week in your safekeeping

and we pray for a quick cure and treatment

so that we will be able to praise you in person,  
together again.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

## 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 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 3 – The Power of the Cross

[Click here](#) to hear the song The Power of the Cross, as meditating on the grace of Jesus Christ who rose from the grave.

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

### *Chorus*

*This the pow'r of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross*

Oh to see my name written in the wounds  
For through Your suff'ring I am free  
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live  
Won through Your selfless love

*Chorus 2*

*This the pow'r of the cross*

*Son of God slain for us*

*What a love what a cost*

*We stand forgiven at the cross*

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend | CCLI #260394

## 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.

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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](mailto:robyn.49@bigpond.net.au) for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

Also, you may continue to support the charity work of **Sydney Community Services** by giving donation of food. You can drop off any unperishable food (cans and spaghetti etc) at the church office every Thursday between 10am and 12pm. Or contact Seung Jae to collect from your home.

If you are a knitter, please make **Trauma Teddy** or **Beanies for Homeless** to give. Contact Seung Jae for the patterns.

## **Sending Forth and Benediction**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
as you go into your ordinary day,  
remember who we are, no matter where we are,  
and continue your day's journey in the risen Lord Jesus  
who keeps inviting us to be on the way to Emmaus,  
the place of connection and reconnection with God.

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

Amen.

## Postlude

Alan wants to share the hymn, The Old Rugged Cross performed by Fountainview Academy. [Click here](#) to hear and conclude the worship service.