

> Holy Week 2019

During Holy Week we carried our Lenten listening on a pilgrimage through our worship.

We sang a pilgrim's greeting - '**Peace, Salaam, Shalom**'.

We marked our listening with a story staff, beautifully sculpted and carved by Colin Hunter.

We remembered and placed the stories of our time alongside Jesus' story.

We responded to the Bible readings:

*Jesus says, 'Take up your cross and follow me' - **By your strength in me, O God.***

We prayed, we sang, we grieved, we shared bread and wine.

We listened, remembered and celebrated together as God's pilgrim people.

Saide Cameron



Nourish



On the two Wednesdays before Easter, **10th & 17th April**, we gathered for toastyies, games and then a story and breaking bread with mostly primary aged children. Five children and around seven adults gathered for our first session. On the Wednesday of Holy Week nineteen children and around fifteen adults shared a story and breaking bread.

For the first session, Julie Perrin shared the beautiful story called 'Faces of Easter'. Janet Watson Kruse told 'The Holy Family' for the second session.

Together we wondered: What is your favourite part? What is the most important part, do you think? Which bit might be about you? What could we leave out and still have all the story we need? Hearing the children's many answers was as always illuminating, surprising and wonderful.

Then we broke bread, led by Ian and the children themselves.

The sense of connection with the story, the sense of presence with each other, and something beyond words in the breaking of bread was deeply felt.

Thank you to all the marvellous people who made this special time happen



Janet Watson Kruse

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday, **14th April**, offered us three story moments, three places on our Holy Week pilgrimage.

Our worship began at BUC as we listened to and remembered Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Ian invited the children to lay cloaks on Jesus' donkey, to lay them out as a path for Jesus to walk on and wave joyfully as we shouted out Hosanna.

We processed to St. Ambrose Catholic Church, following the donkey, to share an ecumenical remembering of the events of Palm Sunday.

Returning to BUC with the Brunswick Baptist congregation we encountered another story moment - Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. We were invited to dip our hand in the baptismal font, to trace a sign of the cross on our hand or forehead, to recall the things that we weep for in the world.

As we reflected on Jesus cleansing the temple, our third story moment, we wrote prayers for our world, our church and our community on cards with an image of our cross. We named those things that cast a shadow on the lives of the vulnerable people, those who have been damaged by those in power, whose voices are not heard.



As always it was a pleasure to share this part of the service with the Brunswick Baptist congregation and to receive a greeting from Pastor Mark Payne. Mark and Ian offered the blessing to conclude worship.



Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday, **18th April**, also offered us three story moments, three more places further along our Holy Week pilgrimage.

First we remembered Jesus washing his disciples feet. We then washed each other's feet in four locations around the Gathering Space. We were also invited to write a prayer on the cards offered to add to our Palm Sunday prayers.



Then we moved into the worship space, placing our prayers in the bowl and lighting the candles set out in front of the communion table. We remembered Jesus last meal with his disciples, celebrating Holy Communion standing in a circle around the table, serving each other the bread and receiving the cup of blessing. Our liturgy included the responses used in the Nourish communion liturgy: Thank you God! Remember me. Come Holy Spirit. Amen!



We followed Jesus into the night listening to the story from Matthew's gospel extinguishing candles after each reading, ending in darkness, preparing to return again on Good Friday.

[Maundy Thursday Prayers](#) available here.



Good Friday

And then our pilgrimage brought us to Good Friday, **19th April**. Entering the Gathering Space we encountered an artwork copied from a Renaissance painting by Graeme Galloway, one of our Olive Arts volunteer artists. The prayer cards written on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday accompanied the Cross.



We met Jesus story with stories and voices from our time recalling and remembering

- Jesus betrayal and the betrayal of clergy child sexual abuse experienced by too many people,
- Peter's denial of Jesus and stories of people denied justice and their proper place in the world and in particular the First Peoples of this land
- Jesus' trial and the terrible experiences of asylum seekers and refugees who come seeking a new life but who are instead imprisoned, detained without hope, stigmatised
- Jesus' crucifixion and people murdered and traumatised through hate filled violence together with the suffering of creation

We laid these and other stories on the black cloth flowing out from the Cross.



We responded to the story moment of Jesus death in prayer, gathering all our Lenten listening, praying that we would surround those who had been betrayed with love, resolve to act differently when confronted with injustice, listen for and speak the truth and live in peace, salaam, shalom.



Ian invited us to come forward and touch the Cross with veneration, to pray and touch the cross, bringing our story to meet Christ's story. We took the stories from the cloth and moving to the Gathering Space laid them on the painting adding the faces and voices that are missing from its ancient European whiteness. We sang 'Peace, Salaam, Shalom' and left in silence.

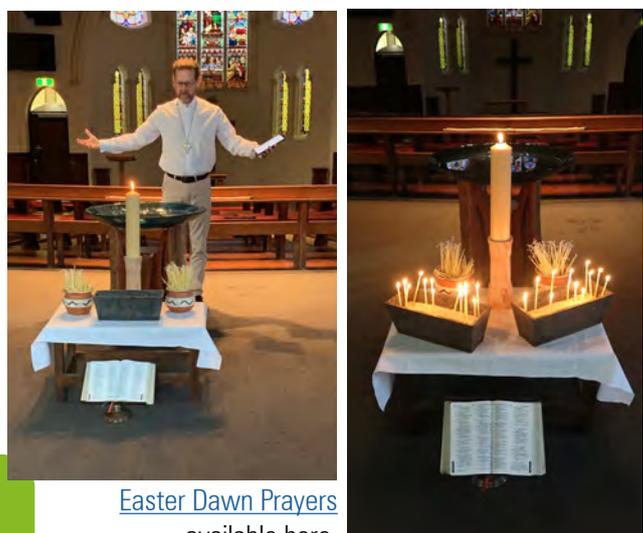


Easter Dawn

On Easter morning, **21st April**, we gathered at Dawn to celebrate Christ's resurrection alongside the Indigenous Recognition Sculpture with a rather exuberant fire fanned by a sudden breeze. We listened to the story from John's gospel and joyfully responded to the Easter proclamation *Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!*

The new Christ candle was lit in the doorway and we gathered around the font as Ian invited us into a Remembrance of Baptism. We lit tapers, offering our prayers for the world, the church and for those we love.

After worship we enjoyed breakfast in the hall.



Easter Day

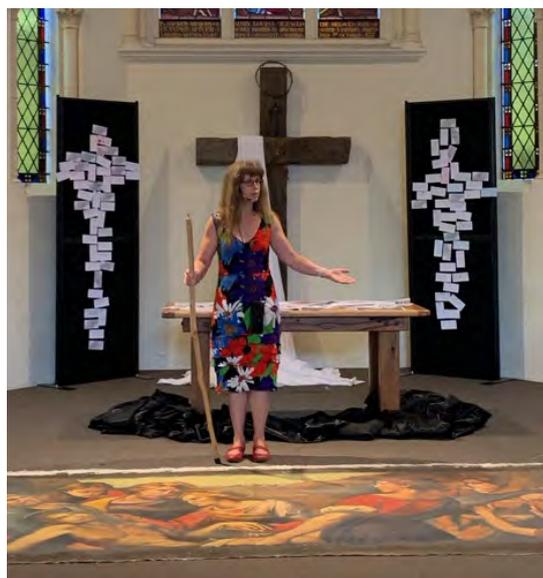


Our Holy Week pilgrimage reached its joyful conclusion with our Easter Holy Communion service, **21st April**. We began in the Gathering space where we joyfully sang of the Empty Tomb and responded again to the Easter Proclamation *Christ is risen: He is risen indeed!*

The children watched on as Ian lit the Christ Candle again and we sang our 2018 Brunswick Alleluia as we moved into the Gathering Space.



The story staff made its final appearance with Luke's gospel and we prayed '*... Raise us up anew this day and every day to walk with you, to follow you speaking words of hope, peace and love, a forgiven people, transformed by grace. Amen*'





With the children we transformed the space, placing the painting and our Good Friday stories under the communion table, rolling up the black cloth and covering the whole table with the white cloth. Bread and wine and flowers completed the transformation. Ian reminded us that *When we share the bread and wine we say that the risen Jesus is present with us in our sharing and that we are the risen body of Christ. So when we put it on the table here it is a sign of his resurrection for all to share.*



Ian's sermon was an invitation to practice ['Defiant Hope'](#). The Prayers of the People acknowledged that while there is darkness in the world Easter Day brings light and hope.



The children created butterflies to add to the Easter Garden. We celebrated Holy Communion gathered as one body in a full circle around the whole space. We lifted the roof, joyfully singing 'Thine be the Glory'.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in our Holy Week pilgrimage. Together we have told and shared the central story of our faith in word and action. We have listened and remembered. We have prayed, wept, sang and laughed together. We are the body of Christ, called to follow him.

Saide Cameron

[Easter Day Prayers](#) available here.