

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

May 2020 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Meditation

### What Does Peace Mean to You?

Since the introduction of broad social distance restrictions imposed by COVID-19, there has been a word in my mind that would not leave me: peace. I reflected on the meaning of peace in my journey of faith even more, as I celebrated Easter at home.

Comforting my daughter, who was concerned about the unprecedented pandemic, I recalled my childhood. Having been born and raised in the world's only divided country, Korea, peace is what I desperately prayed for during a state of truce. I received an anti-communist education up to the end of primary school. One day when my grandfather shared what he had experienced during the Korean War, I had a nightmare about running to the evacuation centre during the bombing. However, as a Korean song says, "Our wish is unity, and our wish is unity in our dreams," peace is nothing more than a wish and is unlikely to come true. In my childhood, peace, as the absence of war, was far from being realised, and the fear and anxiety of death as a result of war could not be dispelled. Peace, therefore, had to be seen as an internal experience.

I was able to obtain inner peace from the experience of individual salvation. I had heard and knew about the triune God through the life of the church since I was 8 years old. However, the phrase, "you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32), came to be understood in secondary college. In the light of the Holy Spirit, I met the triune God personally through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. When the triune God became the Lord of my life, my fear and anxiety about war and death completely disappeared, and I began to enjoy abundant life, love, freedom and peace in Christ. These experiences of salvation led my life with love, forgiveness, and reconciliation with others. By sharing the good news of God with overflowing joy, the small practices of peace began. Such practices lead to a peaceful life of justice for all things.

Every time Lent and Easter pass, I face Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and meditate on the peace of this earth where justice is offered to all. In the Gospel of Luke 2:14, it is written that the birth of Jesus is "glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom



he favours!" It was peace that the presence of Jesus brought to this earth, but when Jesus died, the disciples replaced that peace with fear, anxiety, distrust, and panic. However, the risen Lord brings peace again to the disciples who have been hiding in the darkness. Going through this time of challenge, we witness scenes where peace has been broken in many places over the world. When there is no peace on earth, where can we find peace here and now? In Christ. What does peace in Christ look like? One example can be found in 평화 [pyeonghwa], which is peace in Korean. "평화" [平和: Pyeonghwa] is a word made up of Chinese characters: "평" [Pyeong(平): equal] and "화" [Hwa(和): harmony]. It is interesting to note that the word "화" [Hwa: 和] also consists of two Chinese characters: 禾 [Hwa: rice] and 口 [Gu: mouth]. In other words, "평화" [平和: Pyeonghwa: peace] means a state in which grain is distributed to everyone fairly.

I thank God for my daily bread and pray that all people have the same gift of grace. I hope to share God's peace through my life that serves as a channel for divine work.

**Yoo Mi Park**  
Supply Minister - Pastoral Care

## > Worship Calendar

### May

In the coming four weeks we will celebrate and share the amazing work being done to ensure that people are well connected and cared for, details are below.

On **3rd May, Easter 4**, we will observe the practice of a communion of the empty hands. We will not be sharing bread and juice, instead we will reflect on Jesus' words 'Do this in remembrance of me'.

Gwen Arnold and Yoo Mi Park - Celebrating **Pastoral Care**

On **10th May, Easter 5**, we will welcome Presbytery Minister, Linley Liersch as our preacher. Yoo Mi will offer Prayers of the People.

Ann Soo - Celebrating **Olive Arts Collective**



On **17th May, Easter 6**, we will celebrate Valentina and Yoo Mi's supply ministry and thank them for all that they have offered during what has been an unexpectedly challenging time for our community, our nation



and the world. As for the beginning of the supply ministry our Ministry Team and Council Co-chair(s) will participate in the service.

Peter Blair - Celebrating **Olive Way**

### June

The worship committee does not have any specific plans for worship during June - yet!!

## > Index

- |                                     |                                             |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Meditation                       | 8. Holy Week Worship                        | 15. Regular Events                                         |
| 2. Worship Calendar, Happy Birthday | 9. CYA News                                 | 16. Reports: Church Council. Property                      |
| 3. Communication News               | 10. JAM News                                | 17. Reports: Worship                                       |
| 4. Holy Week Worship                | 11. JAM News                                | 18. Reports: Worship                                       |
| 5. Holy Week Worship                | 12. JAM News                                | 19. Reports: Finance Matters<br>Preaching Plan, Lectionary |
| 6. Holy Week Worship                | 13. Pastoral Care News                      | 20. Diary                                                  |
| 7. Holy Week Worship                | 14. Pastoral Care News<br>Culture of Safety |                                                            |

## > Happy Birthday

Chris Allan, Kim Allan, Peter Allan, Andrea Alvis, Sheree Anderson, Richard Arnold, Fran Barber, Michael Cameron, James Clough, Brian Conway, Malachi Conway, Gus Coverdale, Clara Hall, Anita Major, Aidan McNamara, Catherine Mullen, William Nankervis, Lauren Reader, Dieter Tieman

On **24th May, Easter 7**, we will welcome Ian back with us as he returns from a week's leave after his three months of supply ministry.

Linda Wannan - Celebrating **Olive Pesto**

This weekend would have been our church camp. The camp theme is very simply - **Connecting - to God, to others, to place.**

See [Courtney's announcement](#) on YouTube. We are

looking forward to the virtual experience on Saturday. We are exploring ways to invite response to the theme and to our regular Sunday worship as part of the **virtual camp experience**



We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on **Pentecost Sunday, 31st May**. Wear something red wherever you are!!

Our service will be offered at 10am as part of the Assembly's Sunday online worship via the [Assembly Facebook page](#).

More details to come.



# > Communication News

## BUC responds to COVID-19



- **Worship will be recorded and shared on YouTube** on Sunday morning at 9:30 am (the service will be premiere at 9:15 with a prelude at 9:25).
- **Pastoral Care** will be offered in a variety of ways during this time.
- Our **Olive Way** and related programs are being reshaped to offer care and connection in new ways.
- The financial impact is serious, and we're asking everyone to set up **direct giving** where possible
- We continue to explore new ways of being God's people and engaging in God's mission in this difficult time.

For more information, click on the above links and keep up to date through the weekly **Olive Press** (available below).



Saide Cameron and Shawn Whelan (website administrators) have continued to work together to ensure that news and information is current, clear and accessible on our website both for the congregation and to people from beyond our immediate community who worship with us online from other congregations in Australia and internationally.

As reported in the [April Olive Branch](#) links are provided on the very top of the [home page](#) on our website. The [Sermons & Stories Blog](#) found at the bottom of the home page offers links to

## Sermons & Stories

### Sermons



**Resurrection happens in many**

### Sunday Prayers



**Sunday Prayers 26/4**

### Ministry Stories



**Worship 26/4, Easter 3**

### Our Stories



**Connecting**

Sunday Prayers, Sermons, Ministry Stories and Our Stories. At this time the Ministry Stories Blog is used for weekly service updates providing links to the prayers, sermons, orders of service and the recorded services on YouTube. The prayers and sermon posts are also shared to our Facebook group.

Emails continue to be sent out via MailChimp. Regular emails are: The Olive Press (newsletter on Thursday), pre-worship (on Saturday) and post worship (usually on Sunday). Additional emails are sent out on request eg for Earth Day.

A new page on our website offers the [recordings of songs](#) prepared by our musicians for worship. A database of these songs is also being maintained. Songs from [Tune In](#) and the [BUC Song project](#) each have their own page. You are welcome to access these pages and enjoy the music again.

## Upcoming events – Calendar



**Meditation – week days, various times**  
April 14 @ 8:00 am - June 30 @ 5:00 pm



**BUC Book Club adapts**  
April 29 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm



**Sacred Harp**  
May 3 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The [Upcoming Events page](#) is gradually being revived as groups re-invent the way they meet with an online presence. At this stage postings have included Meditation, Table Church, Sacred Harp and Book Club.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback about our communication ministry please contact Saide Cameron (Communications Convenor, 0407 096 743) or Shawn Whelan (Council Communications Liaison, 0418 613 898).

## A community of faces

Are you missing catching up with people on Sundays, seeing well loved or little known faces? It's lovely to see people offering parts of the service from their homes but what about everyone else?

Liturgists have been inviting us to call people after worship to say hello and have a chat. Another delightful idea has been proposed.

Send a photo of yourself or of each other in your household and email the photo(s) to [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)

The photos will be shared with or without names (your choice) in the extended prelude prior to the service. Thank you to Joel for this delightful photo.



## Sharing our candles

On **Easter Sunday** we were invited to light a new candle and to keep lighting the candle in our worship spaces at home until we can return to the worship space together.

Does your candle have a special story attached or maybe the candle handle holder. This is an invitation to share a photo of your candle and to share that special story. The photos will be used during our recorded services and will be compiled with their stories as an exhibition for the **Household of God project**.

My candle holder was made for me by my father on his wood lathe. It's been sitting up on the shelf for a long time waiting for a special occasion - and this is it!

Share your candle and story.

Email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)



## > Holy Week Worship

**'Our doors are closed, but our hearts are open.  
We remain committed to worshipping our steadfast loving God in community.'**

We worshipped through Holy Week together in our homes. The worship committee (Saide Cameron, Kirsty Bennett, Amelia Ware, Natalie Sims, Helen Burnham, Jenne Perlestein, Jim Kilpatrick, Dave Hall, Valentina Satvedi) has delighted in working together in smaller teams to plan worship for Holy Week in these challenging times. Preparation for Holy Week has been the work of many voices, much thought, preparation and planning. So many thank yous to offer ...

- Valentina, our supply minister, who has offered a rich ministry in Holy Week in circumstances that none of us could have anticipated when she first accepted the call
- Dave and Clara and all the young people who helped to create the Lenten silhouette series and artworks offered for worship.
- music coordinators (Alistair Hunter, Shawn Whelan, Elaine Potter and Natalie Sims) and musicians who prepared and recorded music.
- Hannah Friebel, member of the Student House program, for her improvisation reflection on Easter Day
- David and Ray Cameron for knowledge and expertise in filming, sound and compilation as we have moved through the various phases of providing worship in this time of physical isolation

Thank you, thank you to everyone who participated, offering readings and prayers, offering support and encouragement and so much more.

### Palm Sunday

Welcoming us to worship Kirsty said and asked: *Today we will reflect on being a gathered community of faith, called to rejoice although we are in uncertain times. We are heading to new places with few instructions. Who is this that invites us into unknown territories, and what does this mean for us as we enter into Holy Week?*

Our liturgy took a different shape as Valentina responded to and reflected on each of the Bible passages in turn. First Psalm 118 - Valentina encouraged us to celebrate the



day as a gift, commenting that the Psalm speaks of God's steadfast love. She wondered *'In this time of COVID 19, how can we affirm the goodness of God? Can we trust in God's power, God's authority and God's love? GOD is our strength; God is also our song – God in Jesus is about to walk towards Jerusalem... Hear the shouts, hear the songs of victory.... God in Jesus is about to turn the tide. God in Jesus about to turn the tide....'*

Dave, Clara and Patrick brought the story of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem to life in their own lounge room. Our second Bible reading Matthew 21:1-8 invited us to join the preparations for Jesus entry into Jerusalem. Valentina reminded us of the familiar parades in Melbourne's calendar and commented on the challenge for the disciples in following Jesus' instructions. She said *'It takes courage to go into places that we have never been before. It is possible that we are called to go into a place strange to us and where we are not sure what we might find or discover. Where are we being called to go this Sunday? What are we being invited to do?'*



Our third Bible reading took us into the heart of the parade. Valentina commented on the marches (not parades) that she had participated in during which she and others had called on the *'powers that be to release detainees and allow those seeking safety and sanctuary to be set free'*. She commented on the times that we live in now asking *'What might we find, as we walk into these unknown times? What might we discover as we walk through Holy Week? What truth might we find?'* Valentina invited us to walk with her metaphorically into Holy Week and concluded *'Hosanna! Know that we do not walk alone... God walks with us! God with us!!!'*



Geoff Thompson brought us Prayers of the People standing in the rain out in his garden. Later we celebrated a beautiful liturgy of empty hands. At the end of the service Kirsty invited us to place a branch or leaves somewhere

outside, to open our front gate, front door, door to our room.



Visit the [Palm Sunday post](#) for links to prayers, reflections, order of service and the full service on YouTube.

## Holy Week Prayers

Saide Cameron, Dave Hall, Peter Blair and Peter McKinnon offered prayers during Holy Week.

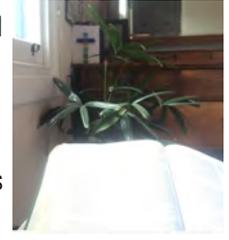


**Monday** Saide began the week in her backyard reflecting on Isaiah 42:1-9 and John 12:1-11 noting that the questions from Lent continue and the way in which Jesus' responses turn our world inside out. She prayed ... Sustain us as we walk with Jesus to the Cross, and on to the empty tomb'.

**Tuesday** Dave offered a time of meditation from his lounge room, reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-23 and sharing the song 'Inspired by love and anger' from the Iona community.

**Wednesday** Peter Blair offered thanks and reflection on isolation and faith in Christ from the Grace Tree community where he lives. Reading from Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; John 13:21-32 Peter invited us to pray '... Inspire us now with hopes and dreams of a new tomorrow ... inspire us with love ...'

**Saturday** Peter offered a reflection and prayer on John 19:38-42. He asks for us now 'What do we hope for, how will we rise out of this death of sorts?'



## Maundy Thursday

Worship on Maundy Thursday offered three invitations

- to wash our hands or feet, remembering Jesus washing his disciples feet
- to remember Jesus last meal, sharing bread and juice
- to walk with Jesus into the darkness, participating in a Tenebrae liturgy.

We began listening to the story of Jesus washing his disciples feet. Dave invited us to wash our own or each other's hands or feet in our homes saying 'As you do so, you may wish to pray, focussing on the humble, servant leadership of Jesus. Where he travelled with his feet... the dusty and rocky paths of Galilee and Judea. The way he used his hands, his healing hands, the people he touched and cured, and gave life to. While this sacred washing is taking place, we will listen to The Basin and the Towel.'

Valentina invited us to celebrate Holy Communion saying 'Today is another day on our journey towards resurrection. In the strangeness of an empty worship service pre-recorded and offered online we shared bread and juice each in our own homes saying together *'This bread is the Bread of Life' and 'This cup is the Cup of Hope'*.



Our service concluded with Tenebrae. Saide invited us into this liturgy saying *'We continue our Holy Week journey following Jesus into the deepening darkness of his last night. We will hear the story in five parts from Luke's gospel, and we will join in with a sung response after each. If you have candles at home please light them now as we sing together to begin.'*



As we listened to the readings we extinguished our candles one by one singing 'Stay with me' as the light gradually faded to darkness. We concluded in stillness, each in our own homes singing Julia Potter's song ['In Darkness'](#).

Visit the [Maundy Thursday post](#) for links to the order of service and full service on YouTube.



## Good Friday

Worship on Good Friday took us into the story of Christ's passion listening to and reflecting on John 18:1-19:42. Natalie welcomed us to worship saying 'Come, look, listen, and let's contemplate together the mystery of love.'



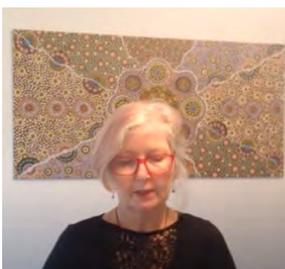
Saide invited us into an extended remembering of the story of Christ's passion. The readings were offered from people's homes. Responding to the readings we listened again to the questions and remembered the stories from our Lenten journey in company with the character silhouettes that had travelled with us.



After each reading and remembering Valentina responded with a reflection engaging with the characters from Lent and those who spoke to us from the story of Christ's passion. The questions continued in this story. Along the way she reminded us that people came to the garden seeking Jesus and he asked them 'Whom are you looking for?'. By the fire Peter is asked 'Are you not also one of this man's disciples?'. Valentina reminded us that we are called to identify as a disciple of Jesus. Before Pilate asks Jesus 'What is truth?'. Valentina affirmed that 'Jesus embodied the truth - I am the way the truth and the life... Jesus the truth, spoke to the powers that be. This is the Jesus that was handed over.... Confronting blindness Jesus is flogged and crucified. Valentina asked 'Can you see?' She encouraged us saying 'In our restricted ways of being may we see hope, may we see the one who leads us through our suffering and in times of death.' Hung on the cross Jesus binds his mother and the beloved disciple in a new relationship. Valentina concluded the series of reflections 'We are invited to enter into relationship with God who is present to us in Jesus. As we step into the gardens around us, I invite us to look to the cross. Look around you what are the signs of hope? Where are the signs of life? Look for God's presence and activity. Look for the resurrection.



Jim and Natalie offered Prayers of the People after which Natalie invited us into a reflective space from which to venerate the cross in our homes, holding and passing the crosses we had brought with us for worship saying 'Bring your questions and listen for the voice of Jesus in your hearts.' Our final reading left us with Jesus laid in a new tomb in the garden. Saide sent us out into a time of prayerful, watchful waiting.



Visit the [Good Friday post](#) for links to the order of service and full service on YouTube.

## Easter Day



Kirsty welcomed us to this day of celebration inviting us to 'Listen for words of life and peace, listen to the sound of joy and hope renewed.'

Bible readings were offered by Christine and Gwen with the Acknowledgement of Country offered by Joanne and Nina.

Offering the Easter greeting Saide invited us to 'light a new candle each in our own homes and to set the candles aside for worship in the weeks and months ahead until we can all gather to worship in our home congregations'.

We prayed together and journeyed one last time with the silhouettes.

Dave and Clara visited each of the characters in turn wondering where they might have been on day of Jesus' crucifixion.

They shared Jesus' Easter message in response to the questions asked by each of these characters. (See next page.) The gospel reading John 20:1-18 was spoken into the empty worship space and into our hearts by Saide.



In her sermon Valentina invited us to share a section of an Easter prayer written Indigenous elder Elizabeth (Betty) Pike who has been involved with Aboriginal Catholic Ministries here in Victoria. She asked us how we were feeling on this very different Easter morning and affirmed that even though much has changed the good news remains - *Christ is risen!* She shared her experience, growing up as a child in India, of the family ritual of going to the cemetery as early as 3am on Easter morning, of her fear of stumbling, falling, scraping her knee as she walked in darkness. Valentina invited us to walk with her and with Mary into the story, into the early morning darkness, into the confusion and the chaos. Speaking into the strangeness of our celebrations on this Easter Day she wondered if we are weeping as Mary did, standing outside the tomb - *'weeping at the slow destruction of mother earth'* and so much more. She wondered if we can hear Jesus speaking our names as he did to Mary in the garden. Valentina concluded speaking of Jesus' commission to Mary - *to go and tell others that the story is not over yet.* She invited us to keep looking for rebirth and reminded us that *God created the world out of chaos- God will continue to create and recreate. And when you see new life, "go and tell everyone that God is not done yet!"*

As on Maundy Thursday we celebrated Holy Communion into the empty space and through the recorded service invited everyone to celebrate in their homes sharing bread and juice, saying *'This bread is the Bread of Life, This cup is the Cup of Hope'*.

Later sending us out Valentina blessed us saying Be at peace and celebrate the joy of resurrection in your living and your being.



Visit the [Easter Day post](#) for links to prayers, sermon recording, order of service and full service on YouTube.

## The Lenten silhouettes Easter messages ...



## Imaginative Garden

Thank you to Leanne Salau, Natalie Papworth and Glenice Cook for the loan of their art installation **'Imaginative Garden'** which has added colour and beauty to our worship space and now graces our Tower Room Window display. The art work was created for the 2019 ['Let the earth speak'](#) art exhibition at Brunswick UC. Their statement for the exhibition was *'The earth speaks with its beauty. With all the different flowers. All different colours, textures, shapes. Variety of sizes and seasons.'*



Saide Cameron

## Nourish

Easter Stories - strange times, but lovely connections through online 'Nourish'

It was the first week of real lockdown. We had adjusted our plans for the kids in Lent two or three times over. I had been learning off-by-heart the beautiful sweep of the Easter story as shaped by Jerome Berryman. Dave had contacted families and planned and prepared. We were ready for Godly Play. But the world was changing rapidly, and it became clear we couldn't and shouldn't gather in person. What to do? Luckily some Universities I work with had already introduced me to Zoom - remember when few had heard of it? Dave Hall and I met in an empty Church and practised how he would move the laptop so the kids could see. We fiddled with lights and laptop angles. Finally we were ready.. how would this work? We went live, and one household after another of our sensational young people popped up on screen - I believe the first week there were a dozen families with about 17 children. They were so overjoyed to see one another! So much energy, such a strange medium. But still, there we were, and here was the story. How would we all go? The story is long, and strange and wonderful and even a bit funny. Would it travel? When we wondered together after the telling it was a bit hard to hear and see everyone, but the children brought such deep thoughtfulness to their art and their spoken responses that we were blown away.

The story cycle we were exploring is called "Faces of Easter" and has seven parts. We heard parts 1-5 in the first week, and added a part for each of our second and third sessions. In week three we also ran a separate session which for the kids of the whole Synod. Unfortunately some technical problems meant a few households could not join that session, so a couple of them joined our third evening session at BUC.

Godly Play is as nourishing for adults as kids This was a wonderful thing for BUC to offer to the wider church at this time. Thanks to Children and Youth for inviting me to take these sessions.

Janet Watson Kruse



## > Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

Hi there BUC folks,

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

I'm not quite sure how to report on the past month... Back around Christmas time I remember looking forward to my first Lent and Easter season as a pastor in a congregation, after a quite inspiring Advent and Christmas season at BUC.

And then large swathes of Australia suffered bushfires, Ian was seconded to Gippsland for three months, Valentina and YooMi stepped in to the supply ministry, the coronavirus shut everything down, our three kids started doing school from home, and I ended up in hospital for four days with infected bursitis in my left arm.

In amidst all that, the CYA and Student House Committees have endeavoured to keep things going, and the Worship Committee has gone above and beyond, especially with Holy Week services.

There have been a few Zoom drinks / story times with the **Olive Pips families**. Working with Janet Watson Kruse to offer four "Nourish" sessions for our Primary-aged children was a real highlight. These were Godly Play storytelling times focussing on the life of Jesus and the drama of Easter. (See previous page.)



**Youth Group** has increased to once-a-week, on Saturday nights, with Werewolves and Kahoot! on the menu at this stage.



On Sunday 3 May at 5pm I'm offering a Zoom catch-up for the **OG – older group**, aged 16 to 23. A bit of fun, trivia, bible study and hanging out is on the agenda. Get in touch if you are interested.

**Student House catch-ups** have also increased to once-a-Sunday, with a hearty study of the Gospel reading from that morning, and enjoyment of the culinary offerings of Green House (albeit without being able to taste any of it...)

From a worship perspective, I've really appreciated the creative efforts of the children being displayed for the world to see. This was especially possible during the school holidays, and is a bit more challenging for parents now that schooling-from-home has kicked in.

### Palm Sunday



### Easter Day



### Household of God

As you may have seen, we are also inviting you (young, old and in-between) to create something during iso – around the theme of "the household of God." We'd like to exhibit your works on-line to start with, then on-site when we can.

Grace and peace

**Dave Hall, Pastor:**  
children, youth, young  
adults and families

0417 310 128,  
[davebhall1373@  
gmail.com](mailto:davebhall1373@gmail.com)



[www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au)

### From the committee

We met on Monday 27th April via Zoom. Some of us shared photos of our own meals instead of our usual practice of sharing a meal together.

#### Olive Way

We want to affirm the ongoing ministry of the Olive Way during this time of isolation. This is happening in a variety of ways including:

- volunteers making contact with clients
- the mobile phone project - providing identified clients with a donated mobile phone with SIM cards provided through funding from Inner North
- supporting the provision of meals to up to 50 people at the Brunswick Salvation Army

Planning ahead

- the kitchen project is currently on hold
- the possibility of having the Olive Way painted while the program is not operating is being explored
- the Olive Way is likely to be open again when restrictions are lifted for restaurants; we anticipate that the Olive Way will be need to operate from the Main Hall to ensure that social distancing can be managed

#### SROC

It has been delightful to see the conversations happening on the SROC Facebook group page. Have a look at the very interesting and sometimes entertaining reflections on the life we are living now.

#### BUC Arts

This ministry continues to provide lots of wonderful and creative ways of connecting.

The **Household of God project** was launched by Dave Hall on Easter Day. This project is an opportunity for people to offer a creative work in whatever medium you choose – painting, drawing, knitting, craft, music, poetry, story, storytelling, dance, videos, and whatever else comes to mind. More information about how to offer contributions is provided on the next page.

The **Olive Arts Collective** continues to thrive in isolation. Ann and Leanne are keeping in contact with artists. Phil is providing tutorials by email. Artists are creating works that will be contributed to the Household of God project both online and for the celebratory exhibition when we are all back onsite.

The **Olive Pesto** has launched their Facebook Group with over 40 members joining in just 2 weeks. This group is a wonderful way of celebrating the creativity that is happening in isolation. Joanne has hosted two very enjoyable Olive Yarns via Zoom. Members have also enjoyed Watch Parties.

#### FUNdraising

We are looking forward to planning a BIG EVENT to be offered when all restrictions are lifted.

Saide will be providing access to her preserves when restrictions are eased. All proceeds will be donated as is usual for the stalls after worship.

#### Food Co-op

Our Food Co-op is in recess until further notices. We are very grateful to Helen Rowe for her amazing work in ensuring that members were able to have their orders filled in March. Stock has been reduced as much as possible until Food Co-op reopens.

#### Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

Until recently the ASWC was providing cooked meals to clients but has now moved to providing food parcels made up of donated cooked meals and other food items.

#### Love Makes a Way

The group continues to explore ways to support people in detention.

#### Climate Action Group

Work is continuing with the **Climate Action Plan**. The group is reporting to the May Council meeting with a draft plan prepared by Maxine and Shawn. Processes for consultation with the whole congregation are being developed. It is hoped that the plan will be launched in mid-March. Visit the [Earth Button](#) on the home page of our website: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au> to keep up to date.

The **School Strike for Climate**, originally scheduled for 15th May, will be replaced with

- [online action \(https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/may15\)](https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/may15) and
- an online Australia-wide [Multi Faith Service for the Climate](#)

Visit the [ARRCC website](#) for all the details: <https://www.arrcc.org.au/strike>

#### Connecting

We are keen to celebrate the significant work being done to support our community of communities during this time of isolation. This will happen in two ways - during worship and in the Olive Press. In the coming weeks you will hear about Pastoral Care, the Olive Arts Collective, Olive Pesto, the Olive Way and Children, Youth & Young Adult ministry. If you have something to share and/or celebrate email [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com) with your ideas.

Saide Cameron

## Olive Way ministry

It is not surprising that many so many people are struggling with the current restrictions in place at this time. I anticipated that it would be, that the isolation would have a detrimental effect on people's mental health, and that the closure of places like Olive Way would put enormous pressure on people's budget. But it's not just the lack of food provision that has put pressure on people, it's also the loneliness and the boredom. Each time I've called an Olive Way guest their first complaint is that they are incredibly bored. 'There's nothing to do', is the common response.

That hasn't been the case for myself. Since we have closed our doors it has never felt busier. Between the many meetings, phone calls, emails, negotiations, and so on, there has been a lot to do. I have never been one to enjoy spending vast amounts of time on my computer, but I have had to spend a lot of time on it of late. Even my guitar teaching work has moved online. I have found that the usually bounded times that Olive Way operates in has bled into times that I have not normally worked in, and much of my work has involved the reconfiguring of Olive Way to adjust to our new circumstances.

So what do you call a drop-in centre without a building? To be honest I don't really know, but we are figuring it out. Together with our steering committee and the wise guidance of Richard Arnold, we are trying to work out our response even as the conditions change. Working with Brunswick Salvos has been a delight. The hard working team up there have been providing lunches to around 40-50 people three days a week. Our financial contribution means that they will be opening up for another day, meaning that apart from Thursday and Saturday people will be able to get a meal. There are limits to supply however, and this will need to be figured out too. But it has also meant that Peter Murphy has been able to have something to do, as he has been seconded to them to help cook the meals and to work the hours he's paid for at BUC. This has been a bit of a win-win scenario. Salvos have been grateful to have him there, and he has been glad to have something to do.

My own involvement has mostly been around maintaining connection with the Olive Way people that come to the lunches at Salvos on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For me this has been important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it means I am able to continue maintaining pastoral support for our guests, even whilst they visiting Brunswick Salvos. Secondly, it helps the Salvos in their outreach, where I am able to help reinforce the guidelines regarding social distancing and so on. And finally, it gives me a sense of what is going on for people, a kind of 'taking the temperature' of what people are experiencing. As we are in



unchartered waters, navigating our way through this experience, we need to know how people are affected. This helps us to shape our response.

In sitting with one of our regular guests on Monday it became apparent to me the level of isolation she felt. Self-isolation is more than a medically guided government directive, it's the everyday experience for some already isolated people. Alongside our Olive Way steering committee we have also been forming another group to explore and to respond to these kinds of situations in more detail. This is an evolving conversation and we will provide more details when we are ready to roll them out. It is for this reason that we have been helping those of our usual guests without phones to be able to access them. As many places close their doors, the usual means of accessing phone communication is no longer available to many people. Helping them access a phone means they will have a line out as well as a line in. It doesn't replace the quality of a face to face conversation but it serves as a means of connection in a difficult time. Thanks to those of you who have provided phones. We can still do with more, so if you know of anyone trying to with a spare phone, or are trying to offload a phone, please get them in touch with me.

As always, we are looking forward to eventually re-opening. The most likely scenario of when this will happen will be when cafes and restaurants are allowed to open again. As our model emphasises hospitality over food provision, this will be the marker for when we are able resume our regular activities. There are as yet no clear indications as to when this will happen, but we can't wait until it does!

**Peter Blair**, Olive Way Coordinator

Web: <http://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/olive-way/>

## BUC Arts

### Household of God project

In this time of physical isolation everyone is invited to contribute to the BUC's Household of God Creative Arts project. View [Dave's video introduction here](#).

This project is an opportunity for people to offer a creative work in whatever medium you choose – photos, painting, drawing, knitting, craft, music, poetry, story, storytelling, dance, videos, and whatever else comes to mind.

Online - Initially we want everyone to share photos of their works online. There are two ways to do this:

- **Facebook** - you will need to be a member of the Brunswick Facebook Group. If you are not a member please send a request and one of the administrators will sign you in. Go to the Photos - Albums - [Household of God Album](#) and start uploading.
- **Flickr** - you will need to sign up for a Flickr account - <https://www.flickr.com>. Once you have an account you can access the [Household of God album here](#). Click on 'Join Group' and start uploading your artwork.

### Olive Pesto

Members of the [Olive Pesto Facebook Group](#) are knitting prolifically for KOGO, sharing ideas for creative projects, gathering for online Olive Yarns, enjoying Watch Parties. This vibrant creative group is alive and well during isolation. If you want to join simply send a friend request and join in the fun.



Check on your crafting friends. They're not OK.



### Olive Arts Collective

The OAC is thriving in isolation. Ann Soo and Leanne Salau are keeping in touch with artists by email and phone. Phil Kreveld is offering online tutorials. Amazing works are being produced and shared. Here just a few with many more to be uploaded to the Household of God project.



Infrareds and ultra violets  
Paul Henry



Osmosis  
Paul Henry



'30 faces in 30 days', Ann Soo



Glimmer of Hope - Lesbia



[www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Uploading** - When you have uploaded a photo of your work click on the image. A window will appear - fill in the name of the artist (if the work has been created someone else), the title and a description.

**Viewing** - If you are looking at the works of others you might like to take the time to click on the image and leave a comment.

**Onsite** - Later when we are back worshipping together we will host an exhibition of all the works either in physical form if that is possible or using photos. In preparation for this [please fill out this simple submission form](#).

**Contact** - For assistance

- Dave Hall - [davebhall1373@gmail.com](mailto:davebhall1373@gmail.com)
- Ann Soo - [annsoo11@tpg.com.au](mailto:annsoo11@tpg.com.au)
- Saide Cameron - [saide.cameron@bigpond.com](mailto:saide.cameron@bigpond.com)

## > Pastoral Care News

### Compassion Team

The PCC Team gives thanks for the wonderful support everyone at BUC has been offering to each other over this time of "social distancing"

Numerous members responded to our request for volunteers to ring, email, do some shopping, help with food delivery, or cook and freeze meals and place in the PCC freezer at BUC so they can be distributed when a need arises.

It has been wonderful to know all people that in the BUC directory have someone who is checking how they are going over this time. For some members of our community it has been extra hard with the loss of employment, strong sense of social isolation, and a number have experienced illness or close friends being affected by the COVID 19 virus. The PCC team have been so thankful for the support of many over this time who have assisted in responding to the various needs of the community as they have arisen.

The Prayer group also continued to pray daily for those who have requested it. We remind everyone that if you wish to be included and prayed for or wish to join in praying, please just telephone or email Glenice Cook (0414 319 649) who co-ordinates the prayer list and updates it regularly sending to the prayers. Also if you know of someone who may need prayer please feel free to ask them if this would be helpful and forward their name to us.

### Hospitality Team

As we settle further into being at home more and social distancing, those of us on the Hospitality team at Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) - Jane Allardice, Sheila Calwell, Ray Cameron, Clare Keogh, Graham Lawrence, and Michael Rigby – are very aware of those of you who were just starting out at BUC. Perhaps you hadn't had a chance to get to know too many people or had just started to get involved with some of our BUC activities or were just starting to come to services. With this in mind we are regularly contacting those of you for whom we have contact details, so that we can keep in touch with you, get to know you better and perhaps lessen the isolation until we can gather together again. We also hope that, if you have the internet and a computer you have been able to watch the live-streaming Sunday services. If not there is the option of receiving news and services in the mail. Please let me know if you haven't received a phone call or wish to receive mailouts instead of accessing the web, emails and live-streaming. Alternatively if you know of a relatively new person to BUC who has not been contacted please let Jane know, 0419 385 544.

Our Hospitality team has been "meeting" every two weeks via conference call or Zoom and this has been a great way to catch up with each other and to review how we are going with keeping in touch with you.

We continue to extend to you a warm welcome.

### Community Team

Our gathered community life has taken a different shape in recent times with all of our ways of connecting being done from a place of physical isolation. Phone calls, Zoom meetings, emails, messages, Facebook groups and the website are all providing opportunities for members of our congregation to remain in contact.

Thank you to all the people who joined in the fun of sharing photos of soups and hot cross buns for our Good Friday lunch.



The Compassion team has been blessed during Ian's time in Gippsland, to work with our supply Pastoral Care Minister Yoo Mi Park who has greatly assisted us in ministering to the needs of others during this time.

We would invite anyone who wishes to receive assistance of any kind, to please not hesitate in contacting Gwen Arnold as the Church Council Pastoral Care rep on 0413047938 email her at [gwenarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenarnold@hotmail.com). Gwen is currently co-ordinating the PCC Team requests along with the other members of the PCC Team Yoo Mi Park, Leanne Salau, and Glenice Cook

Once again thank you all for your support and encouragement of each other over this time.

**Gwen Arnold**

**Jane Allardice**

### Connecting - to God, to others, to place

Our church camp over the weekend of 23rd May will explore how we are connecting. The key Bible passage will be John 17:20-26. The camp co-ordinating committee (Courtney Rohde, Shawn Whelan and Amelia Ware) are planning a fun Saturday afternoon-evening program. See the next page for more information. Also check out [Courtney's online announcement](#), and further details on the [Connecting website post](#).

**Saide Cameron**

## BUC Church Camp 2020 - Connecting

### Connecting - to God, to others, to place

Church camp is a great opportunity to meet new friends, try something new, have fun - but most importantly - connect with each other! This year we are hosting a virtual camp to allow everyone to join from the comfort of their homes!

Tune in on 23rd of May, with official proceedings kicking off from 3pm, to be a part of a once-in-a-lifetime event!

### How can I participate?

Most activities can be joined via phone dial-in or computer. What is required for each activity will be detailed on the program.

Shawn will be hosting a "Tech 101" session closer to the date to assist anyone needing a pre-brief on how to participate.

### What can I do before camp?

Watch out for any notifications in the Sunday Service, via the Olive Press and Olive Branch, and on the BUC website.

Start preparing a recorded skit or creative project to be presented as part of the camp concert!

## Clearing out during our COVID-Iso

I do like to move things on - Michael is a collector. Oh! the sweetness of relationships. (We manage okay!)

I am pretty sure many of us, even the collectors in our congregation, are taking this opportunity of the shutdown to clean up around the house, shed, garden and attic and move things on.

I also love to find a way to make a positive out of a negative. So when I looked at our mostly unused barbeque I thought someone could surely make better use of it.

I remembered reading that Saide is currently spending much more on postage. For those who have the need - our sermons, Olive Press and other publications are being posted to them.

Another great example of BUC's pastoral care. She was appealing for funds to support the postage for this activity.



### Who do I go to if I have more questions?

You can get in touch with Courtney or another member of the committee - see the directory for contact details.

Your Church Camp Organising Committee  
**Courtney, 0448 233 321**  
**Amelia, 0428 143 800**  
**Shawn Whelan, 0418 613 898**

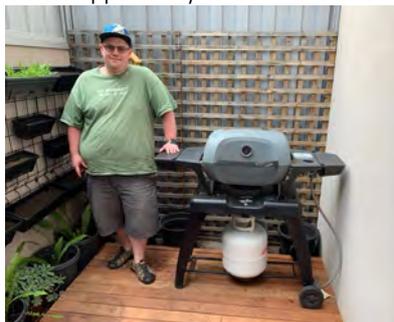


So, I sent out an email seeking a donation to the Postage Fund, in exchange for my second hand barbeque. And as things often seem to be – someone had just refurbished their deck, painting the wood, putting up new plants and looking at a blank space calling out for a barbeque.

A match made in heaven apparently. The negotiations took place, funds sent to Brunswick Postage Fund and barbeque delivered – all at never more than 1.5 metres.

You will see from the photos how pleased we all were!

Post Script. Is there an object at your home calling out for a better opportunity to be of use to someone? Perhaps you could try this option. It creates a positive energy, and don't we all need that at the moment?



**Claire Foley**  
26.04.20

## > Culture of Safety

### Contact Person

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact Person appointed by Church Council.

Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813.

## > Regular Events

### Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit [www.fasola.org](http://www.fasola.org)

Join us on the **first Sunday** of the month, from 4pm-6pm. We are currently meeting using Zoom. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email [sacred\\_harp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au)

### Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

We are meeting on the **second and fourth Sunday of the month** using Zoom. Everyone is welcome and you can come every month or just as you are available. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, see the [Table Church post](#) for 10th May on the website or contact Tim (0412 051 574).

### Mulling

The Mulling Group (for 25-35ish aged people) are meeting on ad hoc basis via Zoom. Details are available on the Mulling Facebook Group. Our next gathering is on **Tuesday 5th May**. Contact Maggie Haines, 0488 585 646, and Amanda Lees, 0403 240 445 more information.

### The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program currently closed however we are remaining in contact with regular visitors.

Contact Peter Blair for more information, ph. 0431 193 810.

### Olive Pesto

The Olive Pesto group is connecting through our new Facebook Group. We are enjoying lots of spontaneity through Olive Yarns, Watch Parties and sharing our creative projects.

Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568.

### Book Club at BUC

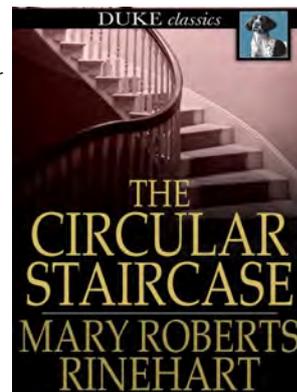
facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 27th May 2020**

Online via Zoom

We were unsuccessful in making Skype work for us this month so we returned to using Zoom. Zoom has a time limit of 40 minutes for free access, so we booked two Zoom meetings, one after the other, with a five-minute interval. This worked well for us!

For our May meeting we will discuss another classic, *The Circular Staircase* (1908) by Mary Roberts Rinehart. This novel is about Rachel Innes, a well-to-do woman of a certain age. Her Pittsburgh manse is in need of an overhaul, so she decides to spend some time at the country home of a friend to escape the hustle and bustle of the remodelling process. But what appears at first to be a quaint rural outpost soon reveals itself to be the epicentre of a beguiling puzzle.



The BUC Book Club is currently at capacity.

However, we are happy to hear from anyone interested in participating in an evening or daytime Book Club with a view to connecting interested parties if there is sufficient interest and someone willing to take on leadership.

Email [bucpost@gmail.com](mailto:bucpost@gmail.com) marked attention Faye or Christine.

### Out & About Group

Out and About group for older adults is taking a break at the moment. Members are encouraged to stay in contact with each other by phone or email at this time. If you are in need of particular pastoral care, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care Compassion Team or contact Helen Rowe: ph. 0423 009 813 or email [helen.rowe@rocketmail.com](mailto:helen.rowe@rocketmail.com)

### Food Co-op

We have paused distribution days until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Members will be notified of the date of re-commencement via email and Facebook. Contact person: Helen Rowe 0423 009 813.

## > Reports

### Church Council

Church council met on 1 April 2020. As many have noted before me, time seems to work very differently in the lockdown days as opposed to our time BC (Before Covid). This meeting seems like it happened months ago - so much has happened since then.

Our meeting focused on recording and acknowledging the hard work of many people that are keeping our Church open, contactable and relevant.

This Olive Branch newsletter showcases some of these and they include:

- Our Supply Ministry
- The Pastoral Team
- The Worship Committee
- Olive Way
- Children and Youth Services

Our Facebook page and website also gives a small insight into the many contributions from our diverse congregation and extended community.

There are many other people making a difference in the lives of each of us. These acts of kindness may be unknown or unnoticed to many of us, however they are of no less importance. We can each make a difference in the lives of others in very simple ways – a smile; a phone call; an email. I encourage us all to look out for those opportunities.

And, again, I remind you that: *I would personally like to acknowledge the privilege it is to be a member of BUC Church Council. It is a great blessing to be able to be involved in the workings of a Church congregation and extended community.*

**Claire Foley**

Secretary, Church Council 2020, 26 April 2020

[foleyclairep@icloud.com](mailto:foleyclairep@icloud.com)

### Property Committee

*The following activities have been undertaken/completed over the past month:*

- The compost bins have been emptied, with only two remaining on the site for use by the ASWC.
- Church Council approved the quotes for 1) Property Maintenance Reports to be prepared, & 2) For the supply and installation of rain heads to the existing guttering.
- Mortar repairs are being undertaken on the church buildings.
- Two dead trees have been cut down and removed, lawns mowed.
- Replacement pump has been installed in the south water tank.
- Painting was undertaken in the apse, due to peeling paint.
- Attended to the areas where slaters were getting into the Olive Way.
- Attended to the areas where mice were getting into the ASWC.
- The notice board attached to the Sydney Rd fence came off, and has been reinstalled.
- A 1800 number has been organised for the Olive Way.

*The following activities are being attended to over the coming months:*

- Awaiting Synod to be part of their trial of services to ensure that Essential Service Measures (ESMs) are undertaken annually and that outstanding items are addressed. We are currently on their short list. This will include addressing the emergency lighting in the church that has failed the run-down test. This has been delayed by COVID -19.
- Obtain Property Maintenance Reports, detailing planned maintenance works for up to the 10 year period.
- Supply and installation of 12 rain heads to the existing guttering.
- Addressing items raised on the Routine Inspection - 1/278-280 Brunswick Road, Brunswick, Jan '20
- Laurie to investigate the requirements to repair, 1) stone capping on west wall, 2) lintel over west door entrance in the welcome space and 3) key stone repairs/replacement in a window in the chapel space.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised.
- Student House painting quotes being obtained.
- Finalise the repairs of the damage after the break-in, modifications to the hall door lock which isn't working.
- Oversight the installation of a 3-phase power outlet for the Orange Sky mobile laundry service.
- Review the Synod's OH&S document and prepare a plan to align to their requirements. This includes the preparation of an annual Emergency Services Measures report. We are hoping to participate in the Synod pilot for this activity.
- Attend to the damaged church laptop that is used for the slide presentation on a Sunday morning. Seeking a replacement laptop.
- Attend to the damaged sound system which currently has a number of issues, buzzing in the fold back, mixer controllers not operating correctly, wiring causing noises, etc.

**Ray Cameron**

## Worship Committee

The worship committee met on 22nd April with a big agenda.

### Live Streaming/Recorded worship

When restrictions were first introduced we offered worship on 22nd March with a smaller congregation in the space and also online. The next week 29th March we offered a live stream service with recorded components and only four people in the worship space. And from 5th April onwards we have offered worship made up of all pre-recorded segments.

We want to affirm the amazing work that has been done not only without any long term planning but also during the busiest liturgical seasons of the year.

We have loved seeing so many people involved in worship through offering the recordings. Feedback has been very positive from within and beyond the congregation. A lot of people have been connecting and appreciating what is being offered. Thank you for all the feedback offered. Thank you, thank you to the growing group of people who have provided recordings from their homes.

We have also taken note of the tensions experienced in providing and sharing worship in this way. Liturgists have commented on the strangeness of recording in the empty worship space but feeling the 'specialness' of worshipping with everyone else on Sunday. We will continue to work on issues such as sound, transitions, length of songs etc.

Our music coordinators (Natalie, Elaine, Shawn and Alistair) have been working with our musicians to prepare recordings of music for worship. These recordings are being uploaded and made available to the wider church community through our website. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this aspect of our worship and especially the coordinators

We noted our particular thanks to Saide, Ray and David Cameron. They have respectively coordinated and collated the contributions, filmed at the church on request and compiled the service for uploading to YouTube ready for worship on Sundays.

### Holy Week

We agreed that each of the services during Holy Week held their own space each respectively capturing the moods of anticipation, intimacy, solemnity and joy.

We offer our thanks to Dave, Clara and the SMP children for the silhouettes of the Lenten characters we met during Lent and travelled with us through Holy Week.

We also acknowledge the careful and respectful way in which the planning teams for the services incorporated the silhouettes into the services allowing people from beyond our congregation to engage with our Lenten journey in a meaningful way.

We offer our thanks to Natalie Papworth, Leanne Salau and Glenice Cook for the loan of their Imaginative Garden installation which added so much joy to our Easter Day Celebration and continues to do so for the Season of Easter. See Worship News on page XX for stories about each of the services.

We also shared our gratitude to Valentina for her reflections and sermons noting the many expressions of appreciation also offered by the congregation.

**Holy Week Prayers** Thank you to Saide Cameron, Dave Hall, Peter Blair and Peter McKinnon for offering prayers during Holy Week, responding to the lectionary readings for the day.

**Nourish** was offered by Janet Watson Kruse supported by Dave Hall over three Wednesday during Lent and Holy Week. See Janet's story on page XX. Thank you Janet for your beautiful and engaging story telling and wonderings with the children.

### Holy Communion

On Palm Sunday, 5th April, Valentina Satvedi Leydon offered a Liturgy of the Empty Hands from her home. We affirmed the beauty of this liturgy, also offered in feedback from the congregation.

Following permission granted by Assembly to celebrate Holy Communion online Valentina celebrated with bread and juice in the worship space on Maundy Thursday and Easter Day. In our discussions we agreed with Valentina's decision to again celebrate an Empty Hands liturgy on 3rd May.

### Worship & Communication

These two areas of ministry have been very much intertwined. Saide attends to this work which includes

- engaging with liturgists, contributors, receiving recordings
- sending out pre and post worship emails
- uploading worship information (prayers, sermons and service details) to the website
- uploading recordings of music to SoundCloud and our website; maintaining a database of recordings
- posting printed orders of service to people who do not have access to the internet

### Worship Calendar

See page 2 for details about

- the conclusion of Valentina and Yoo Mi's supply ministry
- Church Camp
- Pentecost Sunday

### Concluding prayer

for our meeting  
*from 'When I talk to you' by Michael Leunig*

We pray for another way of being: another way of knowing.

Across the difficult terrain of our existence we have attempted to build a highway and in so doing have lost our footpath.

God lead us to our footpath: lead us there where in simplicity we may move at the speed of natural creatures and feel the earth's love beneath our feet.

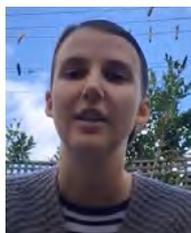
Lead us there where step-by-step we may feel the embrace of the common soul.

Nothing can be loved at speed.

God lead us to the slow path; to the joyous insights of the pilgrim; another way of knowing; another way of being. Amen

Saide Cameron

See **Worship News**, pages 4-8 for stories and photos from **Holy Week, 5th-12th April**.



**19th April, [Easter 2](#), John 20:19-31; Psalm 16** From her home in Fairfield Julie shared a story about special things and in particular a knitted ladybug tea



cosy that Kirsty had given her commenting on how precious things are made even more precious by the stories attached to them. She spoke about the events of Holy Week and how precious the Cross is in reminding us of Jesus. Julie concluded inviting us to think about precious things in our lives and the stories attached to them. Some of the children shared photos of special or precious things in their lives.



We welcomed Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor, as our preacher. Peter's sermon took up the story of Jesus resurrection when he came to the disciples in the locked room and said to them ['Peace be with you'](#). Peter began by welcoming us to Grace Tree from where he was preaching. Referring to the gospel Peter said *'what I think is happening in John's gospel is a contrast between the dimness of night and the dimness of understanding and the clarity of morning and the clarity of understanding'*. Peter shared a little of his involvement with the Forge community commenting that the founder, Alan Hirsch, *'argued at the time that the early church was transmitted like a virus, and that the disciples and those that came after them 'sneezed' out the gospel. It was very contagious, and never has there been a more apt*

*description'*. Peter explored how the early church came to *'catch on as much as it did'* and brought us to the present where he says *'we have often confused the idea of being the body of Christ with the buildings we build and inhabit'*. In this time of corona virus imposed lock down questions of identity arise. Referring to John 13:34,35 Peter reminded us that *'The community that Jesus was building was to be founded on love.'* And he affirmed that *'It remains Jesus' command to his disciples and to us at all times.'* Concluding he referred to Jesus' words about forgiveness reminding us *'There can be no love without forgiveness, there is no community without love.'* ... *'We are learning, we are innovating. And as the church we commanded to love, and to forgive. Our world may change, but this does not change. Peace be with you!'*



**26th April, [Easter 3](#), Luke 24:13-35; 1 Peter 1:17-23**

Jill & Andrew Moorhouse explored the story of Cleopas and his companion encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus. They found much to perplex them in the story, posing questions and wondering about possible answers. We enjoyed Bruce and Harry Jackson's stop motion Lego video which also retold the story. Shawn taught us his new song ['Road to Emmaus'](#).



[Resurrection happens in many places](#). Valentina also invited us along the road to Emmaus talking first about her daily walks with Tom, noting that many others in our community are similarly going on walks in their neighbourhoods. She reflected on the days when her vision is fuzzy from too much time spent staring at her laptop screen. She commented on the feelings that emerge for us as we walk through our lives and noted that Cleopas and his companion were probably experiencing *'confusion, pain, disappointment and perhaps some more'* as they walked. Valentina wondered about their inability to recognize Jesus, to see him, and reminded us that in this season of Easter we too are in time of loss and grief. She encouraged us to retell the story as Jesus did with the two disciples. She encouraged us as we look around to *'re-evaluate everything around us'*, to be aware of what we



are seeing. Valentina reminded us that Jesus joins us at the table, just as he did with the disciples and invited us close our eyes and *'visualize who is at this table along with Jesus'*. Concluding Valentina offered a prayer for us *'that we remain enlightened, and illumined and that we keep walking towards where we are called in our current world.'* She invited us as we *'make fellowship with another, (to) retell the story, retell your story, retell how and where you recognize the risen Jesus. Look for how Christ reveals Christ self to you. Resurrection happens in many places, in our everyday living and in our dark nights. God is with us even when we fail to see clearly. Jesus walks beside us!*

*May we recognize the risen Jesus on this, our walk.*



Saide Cameron

## Finance Matters

*It was the worst of times; it was the best of times...*

(with apologies to Charles Dickens)

Welcome back to Finance Matters, in which we attempt to highlight key things you might need or want to know about BUC's money.

First, a huge THANK YOU to those of you who responded to last month's appeal to help keep BUC running. A number of you have responded, including people who:

- made a direct deposit of their month's offerings (directly, or through family members),
- made a direct deposit of their whole year's worth of plate offerings (WOW!),
- increased their weekly or monthly direct debit amounts, or
- gave an additional gift or "thanksgiving offering".

If you're inspired by these examples, or simply forgot to do what you intended, the details are reproduced here on the right.

Second, we are indeed (as expected) missing out on funds from a variety of sources.

Having said that, we have been delighted to discover – just this week – that we should be eligible for the government's "JobKeeper" subsidies for some of our paid staff. Like most Treasurers, I won't be celebrating fully until I see the money in the bank. However, it's looking likely that this will end up being a very significant injection of much-needed funds into our budget for the year. This is indeed a "silver lining" in the Covid-19 cloud that hangs over us all.

Which leads me to my last thought, far more important than any of these financial musings – I hope you're all keeping healthy, fit, and connected with each other. I'm always up for a chat if you want to call, whether it's about financial matters or just to catch up!

**Shawn Whelan**, Treasurer, 29 April 2020

### Help keep BUC running!

Please give directly to BUC, if you can. This could be a regular automated amount (ideal) or a one-time payment that you set up each week. You can easily set up either approach through your online or mobile banking, using these details for our bank account:

BSB: 013-236

Account: 0086-87863

Please write "Gift" or "Offering" in the reference line, so we can distinguish it from other kinds of deposits.

For those of you who need or prefer to put cash aside each week, please keep it in an envelope in a safe place. Let us know, and we can identify a contact person who can collect and bank your offerings from time to time (subject to health restrictions).

Contact any member of Finance Committee for more information or assistance. Thank you for continuing to support BUC's worship and mission in these challenging times!

## > Preaching Plan

May 3	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter 4, Holy Communion</b>	May 24	Ian Ferguson <b>Easter 7</b>	June 14	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 2</b>
May 10	Linley Liersch <b>Easter 5</b>	May 31	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	June 21	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 3</b>
May 17	Valentina Satvedi <b>Easter 6</b>	June 7	Ian Ferguson <b>Trinity Sunday, Holy Communion</b>	June 28	Ian Ferguson <b>Pentecost 4</b>

## > Lectionary

**Easter** – The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
3/5	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
10/5	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
17/5	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
24/5	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Jn 17:1-11	W
25/5	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
31/5	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30 34,	Ps 104:24-34,35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39	R

# May Diary

Worship services are live streamed. All meetings and gatherings are being conducted through video conferencing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 3 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi 12:00 – Worship C'tee  4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – OG catch up 7:30 – Student House	4 5:30 – Meditation	5 9:00 – Meditation	6 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Church Council	7 9:00 – Meditation	8 5:30 – Meditation	9 7:30 - YUCY
10 9:30 – Linley Liersch  6:00 – Table Church 7:30 – Student House	11 5:30 – Meditation	12 9:00 – Meditation	13 5:30 – Meditation	14 9:00 – Meditation	15 5:30 – Meditation	16 7:30 - YUCY
17 9:30 – Valentina Satvedi <b>Celebration of Supply                      Ministry</b> 7:30 – Student House	18 5:30 – Meditation	19 9:00 – Meditation 7:30 – Property C'tee	20 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship C'tee	21 9:00 – Meditation 6:30 – JAM C'tee	22 5:30 – Meditation	23 3:00 – Church Camp <b>Connecting</b> 7:30 - YUCY
24 9:30 – Ian Ferguson  6:00 – Table Church 7:30 – Student House	25 5:30 – Meditation	26 9:00 – Meditation	27 5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Book Group	28 9:00 – Meditation	29 5:30 – Meditation	30 7:30 - YUCY
<b style="color: red;">Pentecost Sunday</b> 31 9:30 – Ian Ferguson  7:30 – Student House	June 1 5:30 – Meditation	2 9:00 – Meditation	3 5:30 – Meditation	4 9:00 – Meditation	5 5:30 – Meditation	6 7:30 - YUCY