

## Opening Verse

Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals! Psalm 150:5

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Helen

Let's greet each other once again with the Easter greeting:

Christ is risen!

***He is risen indeed!***

***Alleluia!***

We are here to praise God together,

Bringing our whole selves to this place,

Let us praise God together:

In singing, and in silence,

With loud instruments, and with quiet sighs,

In sadness, and in anger,

With hope, and with joy,

Let us together, praise God:

Celebrating the resurrection of Christ,

And the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## Song of praise

As we celebrate the 50 days of Easter, let us sing of the Risen Christ with the hymn "Thine be the glory.

**TiS 380 Thine be the glory risen conquering Son (Edmond Budry)**

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*1. Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay.*

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting.*

*3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love"  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.*

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SONG: Thine be the glory, by Edmond Louis Budry, from The Australian Hymn Book, Collins, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Acknowledgement of Country

Helen, Ralph

During our worship through this Easter season, we are hearing recorded acknowledgments of country from all around Australia from places where our members live or travel. As we gather here on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people, let us remember all the peoples of this land now called Australia.

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,  
the traditional custodians of this land  
since time immemorial.  
We are learning that the land  
is not ours to own, but to look after;  
and that if we listen,  
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.  
***Responding to this call, we commit ourselves  
to work for justice, reconciliation,  
and care of the earth.***

## Welcome and Introduction

Helen

Welcome in person and online. My name is Helen Burnham filling in for Natalie who is unwell.  
Our minister Ian and our children, youth and young adult pastor Dave are on leave...  
Welcome Rev Jeanne Beale, our Presbytery Minister.  
Focus today is on two readings:  
Psalm 150 where we are called to praise God in many ways, and the appearance of Jesus before the  
disciples in the gospel of John. giving peace, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Please join us afterwards for morning tea.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession incl Word of Grace

Helen

Holy God, creator of all that is:  
You love us  
    with a force that is stronger than death,  
Overcoming even our darkest thoughts,  
Giving us hope in the future  
Even when things seem impossible.  
We praise you! Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ, bringer of peace:  
You surprise us,  
    standing before us when we least expect you  
Challenging our doubts,  
Calling us to believe  
Even when things seem impossible.  
We praise you! Hallelujah!

Holy Spirit, breathing through us:  
You fill us,  
    giving us strength and courage  
Helping us to forgive when we have been hurt  
Teaching us to love the unlovely,  
Even when things seem impossible.  
We praise you! Hallelujah!

Holy God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, we turn to you  
    knowing we are imperfect in our beliefs and in our actions.  
    knowing our world is imperfect in showing justice to all people.  
Help us to see your resurrection,  
give us the confidence we need to believe that Christ came to bring forgiveness,  
opening the doors to heaven, reminding us that all are loved, and all is forgiven.

Amen

Sisters and brothers, hear the Good News:  
through Christ, in Christ, and because of Christ, our sin is forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Psalm 150 (from New Century Hymnal)

Kenna

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise God in God's own sanctuary;  
*praise God in the mighty firmament!*  
<sup>2</sup> Praise God for God's mighty deeds; \*  
*praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!*  
<sup>3</sup> Praise God with trumpet sound; \*  
*praise God with lute and harp!*  
<sup>4</sup> Praise God with tambourine and dance; \*  
*praise God with strings and pipe!*  
<sup>5</sup> Praise God with clanging cymbals; \*  
*praise God with loud clashing cymbals.*  
<sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise God! \*  
*Hallelujah!*

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word  
**Thanks be to God**

## With the Children

Jeanne, Helen and puppets!

We listened to Psalm 150 and then Olly and Molly joined us for worship to help us praise God. We were reminded that we are all important to God and that we can all join in praising God with loud noises or in any way we can. Percussion instruments were shared for 10 seconds of crashing sound and noisy praise.

## Song

**TiS 720 Halle halle hallelujah (Traditional Caribbean)**

Bring out the percussion box!

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*Halle, halle, hallelujah!*  
*Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Halleluja!)*  
*Halle, halle, hallelujah!*  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah! (Halleluja!)*

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SONG: [Halle, halle, halle](#), words: traditional liturgical text,  
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

Kenna

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but

believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

***Thanks be to God***

## Reflection - He brings peace

Jeanne

*The reflection text has been created using ‘talk to text’. In the post editing process there are some gaps and some approximations have been made.*

Who likes bees? Yeah, the ones that pollinate our trees? Depends depends. Yeah.

I have a bee in here. A green bee. Do you believe? Do you believe without seeking? That’s the question? I have in this little box a green bean. That’s not alive, so don’t worry. Those who have anaphylactic issues. Hands up if you believe that I have a green bee in this box. You believe without seeing. Hands up those of you who need to see. A few of you. I think I need to come to you, right? So she says there’s a green bee in here. Those naysayers you believe me now? Will you believe me. (Shows the contents of the box,). Is there a green bee in there? Yes there is! (Shows another person who says ‘Oh wow ... technically’.). The big reveal **a green B**

Yes, a sort of a trick but it introduces the Bible reading very well because some of us were happy to believe without seeing. And some of us need to see. Some of us actually need to touch. Some of us need to fill the hole in his hands. So let’s believe the word of those we trust. ‘How many of those have said yes believed because you trust me? She’s the reverend so you trust me to tell the truth, yes? And there were those most in need to see to believe. Now I probably would have fallen into that category myself. I’m one of those people who needs to see it to believe it because I’m quite a visualist. Don’t just tell me. I need to see it. Show me.

Thomas called the twin. He’s our twin in a lot of ways. He says the things that we were thinking often, right. Jesus says ‘You know where I’m going right now’. Thomas says ‘Where are you going?’. Those sorts of things. Thomas has had quite a week with the others saying ‘We have seen the Lord. He has risen’. Thomas is kind of like ‘I need to see it myself’. However if this is true. What does that mean? And so he spent the week thinking about what that would mean if what his friends were telling was true. And so when he does see Jesus Thomas arrives at one the most profound declarations of all the disciples ‘My Lord and my God’. He recognises the divinity in Christ. And Jesus says ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not yet seen me and have come to believe. And at the very end of the reading we have today the author says ‘These things were written so that we might believe’.

But you sees it doesn’t always work. Do you need more? What was it that made you want to follow Christ? Was there something that someone else told you and you instantly believed? Was it growing up in a Christian community that supported you and you said this is something I believe in? These followers of Christ? Or yes, this is a man? Or did you have some sort of conversion experience? Or do you believe because that’s what your parents told you?

Now some started out that that way. I believe because that’s what my parents told me. We’d go to church three times on a Sunday, growing up as a kid, went to church in the morning, have a gospel call and we’d sing around the piano. We’d sing hymns of praise and it was a good, good, good feeling. And would always finish with ‘Trust and obey’ because that was a favourite hymn. So I thought I should ‘trust and obey’. But, asking questions around 8, 9, 10 - ‘If this is happening here, how come that is happening over there?’ And the teacher would say ‘Jeanne, just believe’. But I don’t get it. ... How does that happen?

My mother died when I was 23 and for me in a lot of ways my faith died with her because I believe what she believed. That sent me on a bit of a spiral. I was pretty angry at God. She's died a very painful, slow cancer death and it was horrific on her body. And I thought the one person that I know that believes in God more than anyone else and you treated her like this?! 23 year olds, what can you do?

Ten months later my maternal grandmother. Sorry (backtracking) we came out to Australia when I was eight and I would often go for holidays. So I went for a six month holiday that included a Contiki tour. I was wrestling with identity. Towards the end of the holiday and I was using my grans house as a base in England. I came back to visit with my Gran. She was sitting and I said 'What's going on?'. She said 'I just needed to rest'. I thought that's a bit odd. She did say that when she'd been in Australia when my mother died that she had no more reason to live. ... So we had we had a kindred spirit my granddaughter and I. Anyway, the last thing to do on this six month holiday was for my girlfriend and I to hire a car and drive down to Landsend, up through Wales ... and come all the way down the other side to London. ... go back to Gran's house for 3 days before flying home to Australia and that was my 6 month holiday. Well we started this trip. We went all the way up ... and we're standing at the beach in York and this King tide came crashing against the walls and all of a sudden I felt this thud. 'What was that?' No, something is wrong with Gran. No mobile phones back then we're talking 1983. I thought there's something wrong with Gran because I've seen, I've seen her laying on the floor. So I said to my brother and my girlfriend 'We need to go back now'. They said 'We've got five days of this holiday'. I said 'no, I've hired this car. I'm driving back. If you've got issues you can come with me or find another way home. They said let's go to London first. You promised Madame Tussauds. So we drove down to London, went to Madam Tussauds and then drove back to Rockwall, which is near New Forest. We went into the house and she wasn't home. So I rang my aunt. They had phones on the wall back then. My aunt 56565, very short number, very easy to remember. She answered the phone and said 'Where's Gran?' She said 'she had a stroke this afternoon', same time that I got that thud. I said, oh. She said she's in hospital but it's not looking good. It was late so we couldn't go to visit in that day. So we went to visit the next day in hospital and she was paralysed down one side of her body. She could only talk a little bit and it was a bit funny. She'd asked my brother Paul to bring her back a sprig of heather from Scotland for good luck. So he was able to give her that sprig of heather. That night and I should say that whenever I stayed she would give me her bed to sleep in and she would sleep on the flatbed. So that night I was sleeping in her bed. I wake up feeling like someone is leaning on me, a weight on my chest as if someone is leaning on me. I open my eyes and she said 'I've come to say goodbye'. So I said see you later. In England, when you say 'see you later' it means 'see you later that day'. So if she comes to Australia and getting on the plane to go home and you say 'See you later' she'd say 'what do you mean you going to see me later?' So not a concept. Anyway she said 'wake my friend Mary up I have to say goodbye to her'. Right? Well, she said anything else. I said I love you. And she said I love you too. And then I watched her disappear out of the corner of the ceiling. Wow. And I spent all day like this. This was 5 to 3 on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1983. My aunt rang 7:30 in the morning to say the hospital would run to say that Gran past away just before 3. She came to visit me.

Now my anger at God and my wrestle with belief had a little bit of a shot in the arm that day as you could imagine and I spent that whole day going 'So there is more after all this stuff. So I could feel my Gran and I watched here disappear. So this story of the disciples behind a locked door receiving the presence of Christ and then going. I get it. I spent that whole day in a bit of a 'What does this mean for me?'. Now that evening I'd already organised to my cousin Donald's place for dinner. Now I do have two older brothers that are my Dad's first wife's children. So my cousin was the eldest grandson and I was the first granddaughter, so we had this thing in common. However he was one of those Pentecostal Christians, happy, waving your hands in the air, scared the daylights out of me. Anyway I told him the story because I thought at least he would believe me. He said, 'how blessed are you?' 'What do you think it all means I said?' He said 'I think it's God wanting to come into your house.' I said 'God does not want me'. Now, I just need to back that up a little bit. I was abused as a child, and I grew up believing that I was the worst person in the world, you know I hit out at everything. I was also a saver of those in need. If someone was hurting my friend I'd punch them. Well you can imagine that's what someone who's acting out abuse would respond to. ... So where we are we up to? Oh my God, my cousin and he prays

with me before I leave this place to go home. He says, just ask God into your heart. Oh yeah. And I think perhaps I should. And as I'm driving home I have all these images they keep jumping. A very freaky scary drive. Normally 5 minutes from his house, this drive took half an hour just because the hairs were up on the back of my neck. Anyway I could spread this story out a little bit more but on the drive home I to my gran's house I went past all sorts of places. It was quite a spiritual drive and yet a very very scary drive 'cause I thought someone was going to die, something bad for was going to happen. Anyway, I drove up in front of Gran's house and my friend Maryanne was holding on to the Jesus bar in front of her at least that's what she called it. And said 'It was like you had this force field around you and I couldn't communicate with you so I just sat there and prayed. We got to Gran's house and I looked at her and said 'Let's go inside'. And I shut the door and I put my back against the door and I said 'Hey God, if you'll have me, come into my heart'. And I was like washed with this warm hug and all the fear just disappeared.

So when I read this reading and I hear this 'peace be with you', that's the moment I remember, 'cause that's the moment I received the Holy Spirit, and I received that peace of God's amazing love. It was a five year journey from there to when I candidate for ministry. I got through the candidating process and my congregation said yes. So two people, they know the real me, the real Jeanne but they still accepted me. I had to speak before Presbytery. I was quite arty then and I made up this poem. ... They all said yes. Sight exam. I just listened counselling skills. Anyway, I think it's a physical exam. I used to play cricket and hockey at that time so no problem. .... Always waiting to be rejected. They've got a 5000 word life story in front of them. They read my story. I go into this interview expecting them to say 'See that door? Off you go'. But you know what they said? They said Jeanne Beale, it's an honour to be interviewing with you. I said 'Have you have the right paperwork?'. And they said yes. The story of your life, the struggles that you've been through you have so much to offer for ministry. And it was right at that point that I realised it wasn't Jeanne and whatever this façade is, it was Jeanne that I had locked away inside. ... It wasn't until I unlocked that fear that I actually knew what true love, acceptance and forgiveness meant. It was that day that I gave birth to the real me. So yeah, I was actually one of those people that had an actual conversion experience I think.

However, here's the point. The disciples were afraid. They were behind locked doors. After the first visit the fear lifted. On the second visit yes they were still in a house but this time it says the doors were shut, no locking, no mention of fear. Something had changed. Our world needs the peace that Jesus brought to them that day, the week before and the following week. And the only way to get there is through us sharing the story. So yes there is the written word that hopefully some people will come to believe. But we all need to share their story of how we each came to believe in God and Christ. We need to share the story of how the Holy Spirit breathes that piece into each one of us. We need to be sharing the good news. So I implore you, ... I challenge you to never let an opportunity go by because you never know when you say to someone 'Perhaps God wants you to ask God into your heart' or whatever it is that they might be needing at that time. It could be that thing that changes someone's life and brings God's peace. And Jesus said towards the end of that reunion 'As the father has sent me so I send you'. Please share the good news. Amen

## Offering with Song

Helen

Let us offer our gifts to God. Use this time to pray for the world, to dedicate your time and money to support the work of the church. To offer money, you can place cash in the bowls by the font, or organise electronic transfer either by regular direct debits or a one-off donation today through your banking app on your phone to the account on the screen.

As we make our offerings let's stand and sing of the peace that Christ brings to help us serve each other and the world. The musicians will play through the chorus once before we stand to sing.

## **NCH249 Peace I leave with you my friends (Ray Repp version)**

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*Peace I leave with you, my friends,  
Shalom, my peace in all you do.  
Peace I leave with you, my friends,  
I give to you so you can give to others too.*

*1. To share God's love is why I came  
To show God's kindness without end  
Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
until I come again.*

*2. Take my hand and be at peace;  
The spirit of our love I send.  
And with this love you will be free,  
until I come again.*

*3. With this love now all will know  
That loneliness is at an end.  
Rejoice, my friends, although I go,  
for I will come again.*

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SONG: [Peace I leave with you](#), by Carey Landry, from New Century Hymnal,  
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## **Prayers of the People**

**Helen**

Hallelujah

Praise the Lord with all the church has to offer

Instruments, trumpet, guitars, strings, drums, voices,

Words

Dancing,

Food

Art,

Craft

Flowers

Teaching

Drama

With everything we have, and all we are, we praise you for you have done wonderful things.

We are your Easter people and we join our voices together in prayer.

God of wonders,

Hallelujah

We pray for the victims of war. For families torn apart, for soldiers forced to fight, for those trying to defend their land and for the millions of refugees throughout the world. We pray especially for those still imprisoned here in Australia. Wherever there is conflict, ethnic or religious cleansing, we pray for tolerance and an end to aggression and greed. We pray for peace.

Mother and father of creation.

Hallelujah

We pray for our world suffering through climate change. The signs are everywhere. We pray for those suffering through the floods here in Australia and droughts and food shortages in other countries. For islands slowly sinking under the sea and our animals and flora disappearing. For earthquakes in Turkey and Tsunamis in Tonga. We pray for governments and leaders who will care for the future of our children and very earth we walk on.

Resurrected Jesus

Hallelujah

We pray for your Church. For people of faith everywhere to raise our voices, to speak your word, to be your light in this troubled world. We pray for all who gather, watch online, or work in this place, and for all who come here to find you. May we see with your eyes, work with your hands, and speak your words of peace.

Mother, Father, Jesus, Spirit  
Hallelujah

We are your Easter people and we pray for all who suffer from illness, discrimination in its many forms, imprisonment, unemployment, hunger, inequality. As we leave here and go into the coming week, May we take you with us, and share your love and peace with all we meet.

We pray these things in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus  
Amen

## Notices

Helen

## Sending Song

Helen

**MV212** Sent out in Jesus name

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*Sent out in Jesus' name.  
Our hands are ready now,  
to make the world the place  
in which the kingdom comes repeat*

*The angels cannot change  
a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love  
of justice and of peace.  
The task is ours to do  
to set it really free  
O help us to obey  
and carry out your will. repeat*

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SONG: [Sent out in Jesus' name](#), Traditional Cuban, from [All Together Okay](#),  
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## Blessing and Sending (Title slide)

Jeanne and Helen

Go now with joy to love and forgive,  
Knowing that Christ is risen,  
And that the God of eternal life,  
though the gift of the Holy Spirit, is sending you.

And may God continue to lead you beyond the walls of this room;  
May Christ Jesus surprise you with joy in the midst of your doubt;  
And may the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and wisdom to share with the world.

Go in peace to love and serve our God,  
***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

## Thank you

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist: Helen Burnham  
*offering the liturgy prepared  
by Natalie Sims*

Acknowledgement  
of Country:  
Ralph Eduardo

Bible readers:  
Kenna Morrison

Children's time:  
Jeanne Beale  
(Deacon &  
Presbytery Minister)  
Helen Burnham  
Olly and Molly

Reflection:  
Jeanne Beale  
(Deacon &  
Presbytery Minister)

Prayers of the People:  
Helen Burnham

Musicians:  
Matthew Lees  
(co-ordinator)  
Joel Hallinan  
Anthony Hinds  
Bronte Potter  
Elaine Potter

Images:  
Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: Peace I leave  
with you my friends, by  
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Musicians: Natalie Sims,  
Shawn Whelan

Editing / Production:  
Jane Allardice  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Jason Minator  
Kenna Morrison  
Mal Rowe  
Shawn Whelan

## Closing verse on screen:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
John 20:21