

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

Holy Week 2022 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

## > Seeing through the Eyes of Jesus

During the seasons of Lent and Holy Week we have followed the story of Christ's passion through Rita Broadway's series of drawings. Rita Broadway (1949 – 2015) was an artist and an art teacher. She loved painting, especially flowers, so delicate and beautiful. Rita taught in Clare, S.A. and loved going out with a colleague on weekends, painting beautiful landscapes.

Rita was always open to the smallest acts of kindness with a deep sense of gratitude. She was a person of great depth, known for her great delight in beauty.

Prompted to create a contemporary Stations of the Cross, Rita took up the invitation to walk the journey with Jesus. Reflecting on his pain, she created ten drawings of Jesus' experience, in the Garden of Gethsemane to Easter morning, reflected in his eyes. It was a journey she could walk with great sensitivity, with feeling, depth and insight, for Rita lived with bipolar. These paintings also reflect her own journey.

The drawings were a response by the artist to an invitation by Bruce Prewer, then the minister at Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide.



1. Jesus enters Jerusalem



2. The Garden of Gethsemane



3. Jesus is betrayed and arrested



4. Jesus is whipped and given a crown of thorns



5. Jesus carries his cross



6. Jesus is crucified



7. 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'



8. Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief



9. Jesus dies on the cross



10. Jesus is risen

This artwork provided the inspiration for worship week allowing us to engage more deeply in the Jesus' journey to the Cross than is ever possible in a single Good Friday service. Through Jesus' eyes we have looked at the suffering and injustice of the world. We have prayed, sung and reflected.

During Lent we explored Christian pacifism and non-violence, redemption and transformation, witnessing to truth, the horror of war and asked the questions 'Where is paradise? and Who belongs there?'

Our Holy Week journey took us all the way back to the beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into the Jerusalem, his last Supper and the journey to the Cross. On Easter Day we found the tomb empty and celebrated the Risen Christ.

This special edition of the Olive Branch offers the story of Holy Week in words and photos.

**Saide Cameron**

## Palm Sunday



Holy Week began as always with **Palm Sunday** - Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Ian welcomed everyone to worship on **10th April** as we rewound our Lenten journey 'Looking through the eyes of Jesus' back to the beginning to remind us how Jesus got there. He offered [Prayers of Confession](#) recalling the symbols of Lent - olive branch, stones, scales of justice, salt and the Cross. Ian then gathered the children to retell the [Palm Sunday story](#) (Luke 19:28-42) with much colour and laying of cloaks.



It is always a joy to worship with our ecumenical neighbours from Christ Church Anglican, Brunswick and Moreland Catholic Mission, Brunswick Salvation Army and Brunswick Baptist congregations and so we met on the steps for our ecumenical procession to begin the ecumenical liturgy offered by many voices beginning with Ian's greeting and Alison Templar (SA) offering the gospel reading. We followed Francesca the donkey from BUC to 260 Sydney Road where Bishop Lindsay (CCA) blessed the palm crosses and branches. He affirmed how good it was to worship together and looked forward to a time when all congregations could be one.



We responded 'Lord hear our prayer' to the Prayers of Intercession offered by Pastor Mark Payne (BB) and Father Greg Bourke (BMCM) read the poem 'The Donkey's Owner before Bishop Lindsay blessed us on our way. After the procession we returned to BUC with the Brunswick Baptists and Salvation Army congregations.



We shared the Prayers of the People and were led in singing 'Love is the Way' by Phil Hudson. The blessing was offered by Mark (BB), Alison (SA) and Ian (BUC).



[Read the Order of Service](#) [Read the Ecumenical Liturgy](#) [Watch the service on YouTube](#)

## Maundy Thursday



After listening to the first part of the story we scooped water from the font and poured it into a jar, a sign of our baptism into Christ's passion.

**Luke 22:1-10** We gathered for worship in the Gathering Space on **14th April** to follow Jesus and his disciples through the preparation, the meal and its aftermath. Ian invited us to participate in a breathing meditation as we prepared to enter the story through word and song and prayer.



**Luke 22:11-13** We left the Gathering space and walked together to the Olive Way space. We stopped briefly there in preparation for the meal and then moved on to the hall to gather around the tables for a meal.

**Luke 22:14-38** We celebrated Holy Communion with prayers and songs woven through the gospel reading. We shared a simple and delicious meal and concluded our time in the hall by extinguishing the candles on our tables.





**Luke 22:39** Outside at the Olive Tree we concluded the service and shared a sign of Christ's peace before leaving quietly.

Planning Team: Helen Burnham Ian Ferguson,  
Dave Hall, Rui Lee

[Read the Order of Service](#)  
This service was not live-streamed

## Good Friday



On Good Friday, **15th April**, we went on a procession around the site of the church to remember the steps that have led us to today - going to three stations, two stations outside and one in the hall before returning to the worship space for the final four stations. At each station we sang Kyrie



Eleison, an ancient prayer in the Greek language meaning Lord have mercy. The tune we sang is from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to connect us with the horror there. We heard a summary of the gospel story followed by the reproaches of the cross, a modern version of an ancient Good Friday prayer and then a Bible reading from the prophet Isaiah or Psalm 22.



### At the Olive Tree. The First Station – Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives.

We joined Jesus in the place of prayer, conflict and healing and listened to Isaiah 53:1-5. We took a leaf from the Olive Tree and moved to the Indigenous Garden.

### At the Indigenous Garden. The Second Station – Peter's Denial.

We joined Jesus in the place of denial and listened to Isaiah 53:7-9. We took a stone from the Indigenous Garden and moved along the front of the church and back in the front doors of the West End (current Olive Way).



### In the Main Hall, current "Olive Way". The Third Station – Jesus is tried before Pilate and Herod.

We joined Jesus in the place of injustice and listened to Psalm 22:1-5. We placed our olive leaf representing our desire for peace and our stone representing the hard places of our humanity amidst the prayer cards, committing to join God in the work of justice, healing and transformation.



**In the Church. The Fourth Station – Women weep on the Way of the Cross.** We joined Jesus on the way to the Cross and listened to Psalm 22:9-11. We took salt crystals, a sign of the tears of world, the tears of our hearts, and the tears of God's compassion and sprinkled them in the water then returned to our seats.



**The Fifth Station – Jesus is crucified.** With Jesus we looked upon the place of suffering and listened to Psalm 22:16-31. We sang 'Were you there' for this and the final two stations.

**The Sixth Station – Jesus Breathes his Last.** We listened to Luke 23:44-49.

**The Seventh Station – Jesus is buried.** We listened to Luke 23:50-56.



**Veneration of the Cross.** As we approached the end of the service Ian invited us to come forward to Jesus' Cross, to touch it, to pray there, to venerate his Cross and all that he has suffered for the world.

**Prayers of the People.** Before the cross and tomb of Christ, we prayed for the world that God loves so much, for a deepening of our compassion for those who suffer, and strengthening of our love, our generosity, our understanding and our forgiveness.



**Sending.** Ian blessed us on our way inviting our return on Easter Sunday - *'For now know the peace of God, the light that shines in the darkness and is not overcome. Go in that peace. As Christ has loved you, love one another.'*



Planning Team: Ian Ferguson, Dave Hall,  
Rui Lee, Amelia Ware

[Read the Order of Service](#) [Watch the service on YouTube](#)

## Easter Dawn



We gathered for worship at 6:30am on Easter Day, **17th April**, by the Indigenous Garden. Ian lit the fire and we listened as the story of Jesus' resurrection from John's Gospel was spoken before the sanctified fire by Saide.

Ian proclaimed the Risen Christ and lit our new Christ candle. We processed into the church singing our Brunswick Alleluia.



In the Gathering Space Natalie offered our Easter Prayer inviting our response - This is the day that God has made; **let us rejoice and be glad**. Ian invited us to *commit ourselves anew to God, reaffirming our baptism, trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and in the Holy Spirit as God's power and presence along the way*. As a community of love we lit tapers and offered prayers for the world, for the church, for those we love.



Planning Team: Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Natalie Sims

[Read the Order of Service](#) This service was not live-streamed

## Easter Breakfast

In between the two Easter services we enjoyed a nutritious breakfast provided by Linda Wannan and Jamie Thom.



## Easter Day Eucharist



**17/4 Easter Day, Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-22** We filled the Gathering space to begin our worship for our Easter Day Eucharist service. Ian welcomed us to worship reminding us that we had followed the stations of the cross through the 6 weeks of Lent, looking through the eyes of Jesus at the suffering and injustice of the world guided by the paintings around the room. Each of symbols (alongside the font) represents a place that we paused with Jesus – his prayer on the Mount of Olives, Peter’s denial, his trial before Pilate and Herod, the wailing women, the criminals at the place of the skull. Then on Friday we saw him die and his body placed in a tomb.

Saide spoke the Gospel reading into this space and Ian joyfully proclaimed the risen Christ. He lit the Christ Candle with the assistance of the youngest person in the room, Sophie and her mother. We moved into the worship space singing the Brunswick Alleluia.



Ian gathered the children around the Easter Garden and unveiled the Resurrection painting. He invited the children to look around the worship space to see what



Jesus sees and commented that this is how we know Jesus is alive because we see Jesus looking through the eyes of his people, looking at each other. We filled the Easter Garden with Valmai’s floral arrangements.



Ian began his reflection ‘[Believing in the Resurrection](#)’ noting that the Apostle Paul ‘really really wants us to believe in the resurrection’ and went on to share a mythical story about a man and a flood. He went on to explore the different meanings we use for the word believe. Ian shared that ‘Paul and I think a lack of belief in the resurrection is causing our world to drown, causing it to turn away from the source of its salvation. And this is because for so long we Christians have been obsessed with saving souls to heaven while God is busy loving bodies and souls together on earth.’ and explored the implications of this. He returned us then to the mythical town of Lismore and a true story of the rescue of a 93 year old woman and wondered who in the story was doing the saving. Ian concluded ‘And it’s not just her, the people saving her also have to risk the deep. It’s like baptism. That little bit of water that we splash around up there symbolises being plunged into the drowning depths of God’s salvation. Being baptised means we have already drowned in the dark depths with Christ, and now we live in the light by resurrection faith, for the sake of the world that God loves so much. What is that going to look like for you? How will you live out your baptism with resurrection faith?’



Kirsty offered the Prayers of the People, inviting us to write or draw a response on the cards we were given, and we celebrated Holy Communion. Ian blessed us on our way concluding '*Go in peace to celebrate the risen Christ in your living*'.

Planning Team: Lyn Anderson, Kirsty Bennett, Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson

[Read the Order of Service](#) [Watch the service on YouTube](#)

## Thank you

The worship committee takes great joy in the creative process that has shaped the seasons of Lent and Holy Week. We offer our thanks to the planning teams for the Holy Week services, to the music co-ordinators, musicians, Bible readers, liturgists and prayer leaders who have been the faces and voices of worship.

We also offer our thanks to the AV teams who have navigated various challenges and learnt much during Holy Week and particularly acknowledge Ray Cameron who has oversight of the live-stream of worship.

We are grateful to Valmai Brunlow, Helen Burnham and Faye Findlay who bring life to our worship space each week and offer our abundant thanks to Valmai for the Easter Garden. Each year Valmai asks that the arrangements are given to members of the congregation who are so very thankful for the beautiful Easter gift.

And of course we are thankful for the hospitality shown by the welcomers and all who provide and serve morning tea.

This list finishes with our heartfelt thanks to Ian and Dave for all that they offer in worship. We note Dave's disappointment and our own sadness that he was not able to participate in worship during Holy Week due to an extended time in COVID isolation.



## Seeing through the Eyes of Jesus

We are so very grateful to Rita Broadway's partner, Cath McBride, and Pilgrim Uniting Church in Adelaide for the loan of the paintings that have shaped worship during Lent and Holy Week. We are also grateful to the Sophia's Spring congregation for sharing them with us.

Christina Rowntree from Sophia's Spring recently commented '*The exhibition has been a fabulous collaborative project brought to fruition by many folk including Alison Telfer from Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide who personally delivered the paintings, and Pearl Taylor Fairfield Uniting Church who stored them until Lent and all those who opened the church and monitored the exhibition. The reflections and responses in the exhibition book are also interesting, and comments from visitors show how inspiring the works have been.'*

