

# Order of Service –16 /4/23 Easter 2

---

## Opening verse:

'Do not doubt but believe' John 20:27b

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Kirsty

Let us listen for the sound of God,  
Let us feel the breath of God,  
Let us know presence of God.  
Jesus is risen and is among us.

## Song of praise

Kirsty

**Tune In / Online Resource Making things new** (Sheree Anderson).

---

*The desert will spring to life  
A path will be made in the wild  
- even now as you look I am making things new*

*The lion shall lie with the lamb  
The day shall extinguish the night  
- even now as you sleep I am making things new*

*Take hold of the hope that I give  
Trust in me  
Reach out for the love you can live  
Eternally*

*The river of life shall flow down  
The mountains shall break forth in joy  
- even now as you speak I am making things new*

*The barren give birth, the lame walk  
The deaf and the blind hear and see  
- even now as you pray I am making things new*

*Chorus x2*

---

SONG: [Making things new](#), by Sheree Anderson, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission

## Acknowledgement of Country

Kirsty

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung 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

Kirsty

Welcome to worship. My name is Kirsty and I will be leading worship this morning with our Minister Cath, and Helen, Claire, and Ray, along with the AV and livestream team who make it possible for us to worship together here, and together on line either now or later.

Today in this season of Easter, as we celebrate new life in the risen Christ, we will think about where we see God, how we know God. As we explore the gospel story of Thomas, who needed to touch Jesus' wounds in order to have faith, we will ask how we too experience the mystery of the resurrection here and now.

We will frame our prayers of adoration and confession with the Taize refrain 'Ubi caritas et amor, Deus Ibi es' – Where charity and love are, God is there.

Let us pray:

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Kirsty

---

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

---

Crucified God,  
You offer us the greatest love of all,  
A love that sets no limits,  
You give us new life.

Jesus who comes to us through closed doors  
You are risen from the grave!  
We see your hands and your side  
And we receive your peace.

Holy Spirit given to us  
You come among us  
We feel your breath on our face  
As we are sent out in your name.

---

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

---

Forgive us when we find it hard to believe,  
When we have doubts and are overcome with grief and fear.

Forgive us when we do not live confident in your peace  
When we do not embrace the new life that you offer.

Forgive us when we do not live out your love,  
A love that is freely given to everyone.

---

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

---

SONG: [Ubi caritas](#), Jacques Bertier © Ateliers et Presses de Taize, WORD OF LIFE

## Word of Grace

Kirsty

Siblings in Christ:  
God is love and the giver of life

Jesus reaches out to us and gives us the Holy Spirit,  
Even when we doubt.  
And so we know that our sin is forgiven  
*Thanks be to God.*

## **Bible Reading: John 20:19-31**

**Ray**

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**

## **With the Children**

**Cath**

Activity: Feeling things in boxes – what do we believe when we do not see?

## **Song**

**Cath**

**Tune In / [Online Resource Can you see God?](#) (Matthew Lees)**

---

- 1. Can you see God on a clear, starry night sitting down under a tree?  
Can you see God on a high mountain top looking out across the sea?  
God's been in creation since very long ago.  
As seasons pass, to all creatures and plants, God brings life and makes them grow.*
- 2. Can you see God in the heat and the noise of a bustling large city?  
Can you see God in the faces you pass as you walk down a main street?  
God is with the people throughout their busy days.  
In ev'ry act showing kindness and love you can see God there always.*
- 3. Can you see God in a man long ago from a place you've never been?  
Can you see God when he teaches and heals and shares meals with the unclean?  
He scared those in power; they nailed him to a tree.  
But he lives on, and his message of love has rung out through history.*

4. *Can you see God when you get out of bed, go to church on each Sunday?  
Can you see God when you're welcomed inside and the people start to pray?  
Making some time sacred is just the very start.  
Learn to be one with God all through the day 'til you find God in your heart.*

5. *Can you see God in a world that's unfair, full of people cold and poor?  
Can you see God in a world where the rich are the ones the best at war?  
God calls us to change it, to set God's people free.  
May kingdom come and may Gods will be done so the world's how it should be.*

---

SONG: [Can you see God?](#), © Matthew Lees, April 2006, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC,  
Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE 604502

## **Bible Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

**Claire**

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## **Reflection**

**Cath**

## **Song**

**NCH249** *Peace I leave with you my friends* instrumental

## **Offering with Song**

**Kirsty**

Let us make our offering as we sing of God's peace. Our offering can take many forms. If you wish to make an offering of money, our bank account details are on the screen, and the offering bowls will be shared.

*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.*

---

SONG: [Peace I leave with you](#), by Carey Landry, from New Century Hymnal,  
Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE # 604502,

### **Offering prayer**

Jesus who shares God's peace and love with us,  
Let us take your hand as we offer you our time, our talents, our energy, our prayers, and our money as we strive to show God's love and kindness in our lives and the world. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

**Helen B**

Creator God, you are making a new world through the centuries,  
even as we listen, watch and wait like the disciples.  
Creating God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are caught up in the agonies of war, and conflict.  
For those fighting, those just trying to survive, those who try to find safety.  
Comforting God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer from discrimination.  
For women and children whose rights are denied.  
For those who suffer because of race, religion colour or sexuality.  
We pray for a world where there is no conflict, hunger, poverty, and exploitation.  
Suffering God, hear our prayer.

We pray for our earth, for the land that nurtures us.  
We pray for all those facing the problems caused by climate change.  
Land and homes being lost by rising seas, storms, floods, fires, drought.  
Animals facing loss of habitat from encroaching human habitation,  
and the changing climate.  
Designer God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church here in Brunswick and throughout the world.  
We pray that people of faith work together for the renewal of your kingdom,  
that we hear, see and speak through you, to show your love to the world.  
Caring God, hear our prayer.

We pray for the communities we live in.  
For all those who are searching for you, we pray for open arms and a welcome.

We pray for all those we love, for our families and friends.  
We pray for Governments that work to make a better place and lives for their people.  
Nurturing God, hear our prayer.  
We pray for ourselves, for comfort in the time of grief and trouble,  
for courage in times of doubt and pain.  
Faithful God, hear our prayer.

We are your people. We are the blessed who haven't seen and yet, believe.  
Hold us when our faith is shaken. So that we may help the desert too spring to life.  
That we may be the path made, and the light that shines in the dark.  
Speak to us, that we may speak your word and help to create the new world you are creating.  
Mother, Father, Jesus, Spirit, hear our prayer  
Amen

## Notices

Kirsty

## Sending Song

Kirsty/Cath

**TiS 398** Come down O Love Divine

---

*1. Come down, O Love divine, seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*2. There let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*3. Let holy charity my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*

*4. And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess the grace till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes her dwelling.*

---

SONG: Come down O love divine, by Bianco de Sinea d.1434,  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Blessing and Sending

Cath

May the God who comes to us in loving touch  
who makes known to us the path of life in the spirit  
bless you with the way of fullness and joy:  
a living hope in times of despair;  
an enduring faith in times of doubt;  
and the peace that surpasses all understanding  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the risen Christ,  
Amen.

**TiS 749** Send me Jesus / Thuma mina

---

*1. (Thuma mina) Thuma mina, Thuma mina, thuma mina Somandla.*

- 1a. *(Send me, Lord) Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me Jesus; send me, Lord.*
2. *(Lead me, Lord) Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.*
3. *(Fill me, Lord) Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.*
4. *(I will go, Lord) I will go, Lord; I will go, Lord: in your name, Lord I will go.*

---

SONG: [Thuma mina](#) Traditional South African. Words and arrangement by permission Walton Music Corporation, Florida, USA. From [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

## Thank you's

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

Liturgist: Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:  
Ray Cameron  
Claire Foley

Children's time  
& Reflection:  
Rev Cath James  
(Minister of the Word  
– CYYA)

Prayers of the People:  
Helen Burnham

Musicians:  
Matthew Lees  
(co-ordinator)  
Anthony Hinds  
Alistair Hunter  
Bronte Potter  
Kate Scull  
Melvin Tan

Postlude Song: Peace I  
leave with you, my friends,  
by Carey Landry, from New  
Century Hymnal (249)  
Reproduced with  
permission under ONE  
LICENSE # 604502  
Musicians: Natalie Sims,  
Shawn Whelan

Images:  
Photo qinghill on Unsplash  
Painting: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubting\\_Thomas#/media/File:Der\\_ungläubige\\_Thomas\\_-\\_Michelangelo\\_Merisi,\\_named\\_Caravaggio.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubting_Thomas#/media/File:Der_ungläubige_Thomas_-_Michelangelo_Merisi,_named_Caravaggio.jpg)

Editing / Production:  
Jane Allardice  
Hugh Brown  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Alistair Hunter  
Marcelo Mendoza

## Closing verse:

'Through believing you may have life in his name' John 20:31