

Order of Service – 31/03/2024, *Easter Day*

GATHERING

Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time ‘set apart’ for the purpose of communal prayer.

During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.

A quiet retreat room is available for those who need it.

The worship area is wheelchair accessible.

There is a children’s corner with books and activities.

Opening verse

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb.
John 20:1

Greeting and Call to Worship

Cath

The leader greets the people in God’s name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you

Welcome to worship here on this, the greatest day of the year

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed

Alleluia!

This is the day that our God has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Let’s sing out our joy as we welcome the Word and the Light -
our new Christ Candle lit for the first time at dawn today.

Song – Hear the bells ringing, TiS 389

*Hear the bells ringing, they’re singing that we can be born again.
Hear the bells ringing, they’re singing, ‘Christ is risen from the dead.’*

*The angel upon the tombstone said, ‘He is risen just as he said.
Quickly now, go tell his disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead!’*

*Joy to the world, he is risen, alleluia,
he’s risen, alleluia, he’s risen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

SONG: [Hear the bells ringing](#), by Anne Herring, © 1974 Latter Rain Music, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*. Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ is the light of the world.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overtake it.

Song – Halle, halle, TiS 720

We usually stand during the songs.

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

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Saide

We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship

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

Saide

People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.

Welcome to worship on this joyful Easter morning. We are so glad that you are all here, in person and online, now or later, as we celebrate the Risen Christ. Alleluia! A very special welcome to a few of our regular online worshippers – Wesley Trigg, Vilma Collard, Rosalind Smallwood, Fi and Jack Bottcher.

This morning, at dawn, we read from Mark's gospel and remembered the women who came with spices for burial. Here in this space are spices, fragrant reminders of their devotion.

Here around them are flowers and greenery, a celebration of beauty and new life.

And you were offered stones as you arrived this morning, reminders that the stone was removed from the tomb and that God's love sets us free.

Today we will flower the cross, celebrating the Risen Christ who shows us the way.

There won't be a time for notices today, as is our custom on Easter Day, instead please check out all the news in the Olive Press sent by email or available on the website.

I'm Saide leading worship with Cath, our minister, Christine, Josh, Briain, Meg, Kirsty, the musicians led by Dan and so wonderfully supported by the AV team.

Please join us for morning tea through this door and into the hall after worship.

Song - Christ the Lord is risen today, TiS 370 (NCH version with TiS v1)

And now let's sing our joy with many Alleluias - 'Christ the Lord is risen today'.

1. *Christ the Lord is risen today, ALLELUIA!
Let the whole creation say: ALLELUIA!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. ALLELUIA!
Sing, glad heavens and earth reply; ALLELUIA!*
 2. *Let the Victor's people sing ALLELUIA!
Where O death is now your sting? ALLELUIA!
Dying once, Christ lives to save. ALLELUIA!
Where your victory O grave ALLELUIA!*
 3. *Love's redeeming work is done, ALLELUIA!
Fought the fight, the battle won, ALLELUIA!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, ALLELUIA!
God has opened paradise ALLELUIA!*
 4. *Soar we now where Christ has led ALLELUIA!
Following our exalted Head ALLELUIA!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, ALLELUIA!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, ALLELUIA!"*
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SONG: Christ the Lord is risen today, by Charles Wesley, from New Century Hymnal,
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Easter Prayer

Saide

We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.

This is a day of resurrection, we offered our confessions on Good Friday and so let us take a breath together, filling our lungs with joy as we turn towards the Risen Christ in prayer.

Jesus of the wilderness we walked with you
through the long Season of Lent
turning away from fear and judgement,
turning towards all that is true and good.

Today we turn our attention
away from the harshness of the cross,
away from the tomb that held you so briefly
turning towards you in your risen glory.

Jesus of the Easter Garden, you name us
you call us out from our fearful, sorrowing silence
and send us out to share the Good News
that love will always reign even in the deepest darkness.

Jesus, Risen Christ, you show us the way
your love sets us free to follow you
in a world much in need of your foolish wisdom,
your passion and justice seeking
your abiding compassion.
Amen

HEARING AND RESPONDING

We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.

Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).

Bible Dedication

Cath

Some of you may know that the Bible that we carry in for worship has gone missing. So today we give thanks for this new Bible, an updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version. Let's offer a prayer by way of dedicating this new Bible:

God of endings and beginnings,
We give thanks for this Bible,
which reveals to us your living and transforming Word
as well as our heritage, the words of the prophets and our ancestors

On this Easter day, we give thanks for Christ's resurrection
revealed to us through these Scriptures
In Jesus name,
Amen

Gospel Reading – John 20:1-18

Saide

Josh – Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

Christine – So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Briain – Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Josh – Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Briain – But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Christine – When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Josh – Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Invitation to place flowers on the cross (during song)

Cath

And so we come to the moment of flowering the cross.

A perfectly imperfect symbol for the church.

For no amount of flowers will ever hide the fact that the cross is an instrument of torture and death

And no amount of violence, fear, hatred and betrayal will stop us from showing up with boundless hope, with flowers in our hands, to say - we are 'Easter people living in a Good Friday world'.

So come with your flowers and your hopes, come with your questions and your doubts about how all this could be true come and see how God's transforming presence calls us back to life, and love.

from a post on the Regenerating the Church Facebook group

Please come now and take a flower, place it on the cross as we sing

Song - This is the day, CS 148

*This is the day
This is the day that our God has made.
That our God has made.
We will rejoice
We will rejoice and be glad in it
And be glad in it
This is the day that our God has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
This is the day that our God has made.*

SONG: [This is the day](#), copyright unknown, from [Covenant Song Book](#) Covenant Music

Epistle – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Meg

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I

worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Cath

Gods love sets us free. The Easter event of Jesus death and resurrection shows us the way.

Offering with Song – You are holy, TiS 753

Saide

We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward.

We offer our gifts to God for the work of God's mission in the world.

You are welcome to make an offering of money by placing it in the bowls as they come around or by using the account details on the screen.

We offer our money, time, gifts and skills here in this space, this community and in all the places and spaces that we live, work and play.

Let's sing You are holy

I will invite you to stand when the offering is ready to be brought forward

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near; blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

*You are holy. you are wholeness,
you are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!*

SONG: [You are holy](#), by Per Gunnar Harling, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious, Copyright uncertain

Offering Prayer

Saide

We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward. Communion elements brought forward as well

O God of joy and resurrection we offer what we have,
impelled by the shining miracle of your Son Jesus re-born.

Let our giving continue the joy and the doing of miracles in our lives and the world.

Bless these gifts. Amen

Prayers of the People

Kirsty

We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.

Risen Christ

We pray for the world,
Where violence and death is all too easy to see:
In Gaza, in the West Bank, in Ukraine, In Yemen.
Where people are weeping in unimaginable grief,
having lost those they love most,
the homes they have created,

the lives they have built.

As we turn toward the flowered cross,
We pray for peace and justice,
Knowing that from the depths of despair new life can come.

We pray for the church,
acknowledging its frailties and compromises,
and its institutional power and privilege.
We pray for our local churches here in Brunswick
As we strive to offer leadership and give of our time and talents,
living out your gospel
in this time and this place.

As we turn toward the flowered cross,
We are reminded who is at the heart of the church:
the Risen Christ, who spoke truth to power.

We pray for our community,
For those of us who are in failing health,
For those of us who face uncertainty,
For those of us who are anxious.
We hold before you those who can be here in person,
those who are with us on line,
And those who are with us in Spirit.

As we turn toward the cross,
We see your love and compassion
Light in the midst of darkness.

Christ is risen! The stone has been removed from the tomb.
May we live as a people of hope and of love.
Amen.

BEING FED

We are invited to Christ's table to reunite ourselves with him and one another in the sharing of bread and wine. We honour God for all that God is, and give thanks for all that God has done in the work of creation and salvation. We serve gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Holy Communion

Cath

Invitation

This is an open table to which all are invited.

Bread is gluten free, non-alcoholic

Please join the circle even if you don't wish to receive communion and receive a blessing instead

Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and life-giving God,
you are Creator of all things,
and Lover of each one.
Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope
Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

And so with the risen Christ,
who makes all things new
we join in the song of a new day

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)*

*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)*

As we gather at this table,
we remember that on the night before Jesus died
he had supper with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks as we are doing now
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying:

**Take, eat
This is my body given for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.**

Then he took a cup and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends saying:

**Drink. This cup is the promise of God
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.**

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,

Enliven this bread
Awaken this body
Pour us out for each other
Transfigure our minds,
Ignite your church
Nourish the life of the earth
Make us while many, united
Make us though broken, whole

Make us, despite death, alive.

Let us now pray in the words Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen***

Breaking of the Bread

The body of Christ

Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

The blood of Christ

Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.

Let us become what we receive:

The body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God, come for all is prepared.

Distribution

Music: *musicians' choice*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Exchange a sign of peace as you return to your seats

BEING SENT

Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.

Sending Song - Thine be the glory, AHB 303/TiS 380

- 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.*

SONG: [Thine be the glory](#), by Edmond Louis Budry, from [The Australian Hymn Book](#), Collins, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Cath

The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed.

May the blessing of the Living God,
who brings life out of darkness,
be upon you now and forever.

Amen

Thank yous

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

Planning:

Helen Burnham
Saide Cameron
Cath James
Amelia Ware

Liturgists:

Saide Cameron
Cath James
Jenne Perlstein

Bible readers:

Briain Dixon
Christine Hornby
Meg Orton
Josh Whitty

Reflection:

Cath James
(Minister of the Word-CYYA)

Prayers of the People:

Kirsty Bennett

Musicians:

Daniel Broadstock
(co-ordinator)
Jane Allardice
Helen Burnham
Michael Cameron
Quilan Goff
Colin Hunter
Leigh Johnston
Mick Pope
Bronte Potter

Holy Communion servers

Cath James
(presiding)
Kirsty Bennett
Peter Blair
Saide Cameron
Jenne Perlstein
Shawn Whelan

Postlude Song::

Halle, halle, halle, words:
traditional liturgical text,
from [Together in Song](#),
Harper Collins Religious,
PUBLIC DOMAIN
Musicians: Elaine Potter,
Julia Potter,
Shawn Whelan

Images:

BUC Library

Editing / Production:

Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Alistair Hunter
Marcelo Mendoza
Jamie Thom

Closing verse

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord";
and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18