

## Morialta Uniting Church April 12<sup>th</sup> 2020



**John 1: 1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

### **Prayer:**

God of all life, we give thanks for the signs of your care and creativity that surrounds us and blesses us. May our hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy in our participation. This is the day to roll away the stone of fear - to throw off death's clothes, and go into the future where we are called to be true disciples of the risen Jesus.

We know there will be times when we choose to stay within the confines of self and family and small community – rather than accepting your challenge to work for a just and caring world – where all have food and shelter and can know a future.

We stay paralysed before our fears. We are held fast by events – both current and long past – and we remain silent holding your truth within us.

Forgive us for remaining at the tomb, and lead us out into your world,  
ready to share your risen life.

From now on, whenever we walk in strange places, we shall find your footprints  
there; whenever we meet with unknown faces,  
we shall see your image there;  
whenever we face nameless terror,  
we shall hear your 'Fear not' there;  
whenever we stumble into unexpected joy,  
we shall feel your heartbeat there.  
Wherever we go we start from here.

**Song: TiS 370 Christ the Lord is risen today**

Christ the Lord is risen today: Hallelujah!  
Let the whole creation say: Hallelujah!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Hallelujah!  
Sing now, heaven, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won;  
vain the stone, the watch, the seal:  
Christ has burst the gates of hell.

Lives again our glorious king;  
where, O death, is now your sting?  
Once he died our souls to save;  
where your victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise:  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

**WORDS OF MISSION and COMMISSION**

We shall not seek God among the dead.  
We shall be bearers of hope among the living.  
We shall carry the stories of our hurts and losses  
that we may tell the story of healing and resurrection.

Live then, in the promise of Resurrection Life!  
Live according to the story of the One:  
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit,  
Knowing that the scattered community of God is placed in the world, for the sake  
of the world.

Glory to God and Peace to All.  
ALLELUIA AMEN.

May we go back to the poor, and say, “Yes! We are on your side, and we will be your companions.” May we go back to the hungry, and say, “Yes! We are preparing a feast right now, and we would love you join us at the table.” May we go back to the oppressed, and say, “Yes! We want to work for each other’s freedom.” Living Christ – comfort and bring life to all people. Be with each of us gathered with family or alone in our homes for this Easter service. May we find strength in each other’s love and care and may we be true disciples of you. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Song: TiS 380 Yours be the glory**

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you’ve won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you’ve won.

See, 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 the Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you’ve won.

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you’ve won.

**Welcome and Acknowledgement of land**

We acknowledge that this Land is home to generations of the Kurna people, the traditional owners of this area. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and we pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We also give thanks for those who have gone before us in this place, whose care and commitment allows us to use this space.

And so we finally come to what may be thought of – in some senses at least – as the most important Sunday of the year. If resurrection is just about a miraculous event that happened to Jesus long ago, or if it’s only about something that happens to some people at the end of time, then it has little real value, no matter how fascinating it may be. But, of course, resurrection is about far more than this. It’s the promise of God’s life available to us both now and forever. And it the call for us to follow Christ by becoming life-givers and agents of resurrection in our families, communities and our world. What a glorious and miraculous challenge! May the empty tomb be more than an event for us as we worship this year, and may our worship lead us into a real and transforming encounter with God’s irrepressible life!  
*(John van de Laar)*

**Song: Alleluia Aotearoa # 146 we are an Easter people**

We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
the yeast is rising in the bread,  
our wine has vintage taste.  
Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.

We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
our tears are freed to flow and heal  
our shattered hopes and hearts.  
Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.

We are an easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith

our fears have died,  
we rise to dream, to love, to dance, to live,  
Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Risen in our lives.

### Scripture John 20: 1-18

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. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look<sup>[a]</sup> into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,<sup>[b]</sup> “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>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.’” <sup>18</sup>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.

### Sermon

**News and notices. How are you going?  
Remember to contact each other, find new ways  
to stay in connection, support those who are finding  
things tough. We take this time to acknowledge the  
offerings that have been made that support the work of  
God’s church in this place and beyond**

### Prayers for others

Brooding God, who hovers over the waters,  
Remain with us, for we are stranded on tiny islands of fear.  
Draw a circle around our solitude,  
hold us back from bringing danger to ourselves and others.  
And where touch can no longer reach,  
let love spin light across dark waters,  
a thread of sweetness for small songs we might sing.

God who speaks the word ‘Beloved’  
Keep watch on those who give voice to care,  
Who speak trenchant truths,  
explaining, instructing and chiding without blame.  
Let us hear the warmth and strength in voices that stir response  
and nourish hope in thoughtful action.  
Give us ears to listen without fear.  
Risen Jesus – we bring to you our concern and compassion for all those who share  
with us in this time of uncertainty and isolation.  
We remember especially those who are sorrowing because of untimely or sudden  
death – those who care for the sick, the dying and the bereaved: nurses and  
doctors and health workers, aid workers, priests and pastors, counsellors, friends  
and family and funeral directors.  
Risen Jesus set us free to join you in the life of the world.