

# Pitt Street Uniting Church

*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia  
Founded 1833*



## SUNDAY GATHERING

### ON GADIGAL LAND

*always was, always will be*

CONTEMPORARY FAITH — JUSTICE — ENGAGING — COMMUNITY

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31 March 2024

## Easter Sunday



*Image: Brandy Martell, 400 block of 13<sup>th</sup> St near Franklin St, Oakland*

### **Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church**

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Wherever you are on your faith journey,  
wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to,  
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.

All we ask for is mutual respect.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold italics***.  
We will sing the hymns without announcement. Stand if you are able, but feel  
free to remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.

A quiet activity area is available at on the northern side of the church  
young children.

### **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

#### **EXULTET (EASTER PROCLAMATION)**

Tune: Woodlands TiS 161

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute new life in glorious symphony!

### **CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*The Christ candle is lit and lifted high.*

Let us celebrate the Resurrection:

The light of Christ  
***Thanks be to God!***

Christ is risen!  
***Christ is risen indeed!***

*The Easter candle is placed at the heart of the gathering.*

## EXULTET (EASTER PROCLAMATION)

Tune: Woodlands TiS 161

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory God's Love shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives; God's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land,  
and we recognise that we meet on sacred country.

***This land is Holy ground.***

We honour the Gadigal of the Eora  
***and pay our respects to elders past and present.***

*Please be seated.*

## EASTER GREETINGS

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In this moment we are gathered, welcoming love's return  
***Our Hearts are lifted. We open our eyes. We welcome love.***

The tomb is empty. The stone laid back.  
***The womb is full. The stones cry out for joy.***

Risen One, walk among us, speak your words of peace  
release us from our fears, heal us from our wounds.  
***Forgive us our betrayals, our denials of your love***  
***Guide us into your Way of compassion and peace.***

Holy dancer, you soar from the grave with cosmic rhythm,  
wiping earth's tears in heralding the dawn.

***Hold our hands in the dance of justice.***

***Weave our steps into spirals of freedom.***

*Please remain seated to sing.*

## TAIZE CHANT

Jubilate Deo, Jubilate Deo, Alleluia.



## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Grace upon grace is the gift of God to us,  
love eternally renews us. Thanks be to God. ***Amen.***

## SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of God be with you now and always!  
***And also with you!***

*We are invited to greet one another, sharing a sign  
of the peace of Christ.*

## GLORIA by Vivaldi

sung by Pitt Street Singers

# We listen for God's Word

**A Contemporary Reading:** from *Monsignor Quixote* by Graham Greene

For the mysteries of resurrection  
***Thanks be to God.***

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SUNG RESPONSE

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!  
Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah!

## A Reading from the Gospels: from Mark chapter 16 verses 1-8

For sacred stories of transformation  
***Thanks be to God.***

## REFLECTION

Josephine

*The strange transformative truths of resurrection*

## EASTER ANTHEMS (affirming the scriptural proclamations of Resurrection)

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,  
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
***but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over them.  
In dying Christ died to sin once for all:  
***in living they live to God.***

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
***and alive to God in Jesus Christ.***

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.  
For as by humanity came death:  
***by humanity has come also the resurrection of the dead;***  
for as in A'dam all die:  
***even so in Christ shall all be made alive.***

Glory to the Life-Giver and to the Light-Bearer  
and to the Love-Maker;  
***as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be forever. Amen.***

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

*Let us pray:*

God of astonishing love, you broke from the tomb on Easter Day,  
challenging our preconceptions  
and calling us to extraordinary transformations.

Give us grace to live in the power of Resurrection faith.

***May we sing, and live, alleluia, now and always.***

We pray for ourselves and the wider Church:  
that we may rejoice in Christ's Resurrection,  
and offer comfort to our world.

***May we sing, and live, alleluia, now and always.***

We pray for our nation:  
that we may grow strong together, and find fresh joy.

***May we sing, and live, alleluia, now and always.***

We pray for our wider world:  
Remembering all who struggle this day.

***May we sing, and live, alleluia, now and always.***

We pray for those who are ill or greatly burdened:  
remembering, in a moment of silence,  
those known to us and for whom our prayers have been asked ...

*silent pause*

***May we sing, and live, alleluia, now and always.***

We hold a time of silence together to offer our own prayers, to reflect  
upon what has been in our media headlines and whatever rests heavy  
on our hearts ...

*Please feel free to offer your own prayers,  
in silence, or (if on Zoom) via the chat facility.*

May we sing, and live, alleluia

***and may your enduring love transform all things,  
now and always, in the power of the Resurrection. Amen.***

## OFFERING

We bring our offering  
as we seek to love God, to love creation,  
and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

### BANK DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERING

Account name: Giving Direct

BSB: 634-634. Account: 100025916 Reference: your name

***Donation Tap Point is available at the back of the Church.***

Contact the Church Office if you would like information about planned giving.

*We give thanks for the gifts of food (for the Wayside Chapel)  
and money, and gifts given to support the work of the church  
through automatic payment.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN

Because You Love, O Christ

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: Vruuchten TiS 381

*(music over page)*

Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower,  
the darkness of the tomb  
is flooded with your resurrection power.

*Refrain: The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,  
our cages of despair  
no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

*Refrain:*

Because you live, O Christ,  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,  
the colours of your love  
will draw all humankind to adoration.

## Refrain:

Be - cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the world has come to — flow - er,

7 the dark - ness of the tomb is flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion — pow - er.

13 The stone has rolled a - way and death can - not im - pris - on!

18 O sing this Eas - ter Day, for Je - sus Christ has ris - en,

23 has ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - - - - en!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Let us pray:*

***We give thanks to God for the gift of new life.***

***Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.***

***Let our faith be expressed in just living.***

***Let our hope for the future find full expression. Amen.***



# Holy Communion

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community and all are invited to the table. All are welcome to participate in the communion, or simply to be present.*

Gather around this resurrection table  
where all are welcomed and the good earth is affirmed.  
From earth's generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.  
***Witnesses to hope, we participate in Christ's liberation.***

## THE GREAT EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Eucharist means "thanksgiving". In this meal we give thanks for all that God has done for us, and we offer ourselves back to God.*

*This is a shared thanksgiving and all are invited to stand throughout with the presiding minister as an expression of this.*

*However Christian traditions differ and you may prefer to sit, or kneel, for parts or all of the eucharistic prayer.*

The God of Love is among us

***God's Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Holy One.***

Let us give thanks to the God of Love.

***It is right to give thanks and praise.***

We praise you and we bless you,  
holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

***From before time you made ready the creation.***

***Your Spirit moved over the deep***

***and brought all things into being:***

***sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters;***

***and every living thing.***

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.  
But we rebelled against you. We disobeyed, we didn't listen,  
we thought we knew best and we wandered far away.

***And yet as a mother cares for her children,  
you would not forget us.***

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.  
And so this day, with all people of holy dreaming,  
we join in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

## **SANCTUS**

TiS 761

***Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and love,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.***

Glory and honour and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a child,

***Jesus the holy one of God.***

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

They broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
They yearned to draw all the world to God.

***Yet we were heedless of Christ's call to walk in love.***

Then, the time came for Jesus to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of their life, and to be glorified by you.  
On the night before they died, Jesus was at table with friends.  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,  
and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, Jesus gave thanks to you, gave it to them, saying:

“Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
***and ourselves, a living sacrifice.***

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.  
***Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.***  
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honour, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

**SUNG AMEN**

**BREAKING OF BREAD**

We gently break this bread of fragile life  
***Our breaking down becomes our breaking through.***

As we eat this living bread and drink the new wine of resurrection,  
let us celebrate the resurrected Christ, our liberator and sustainer  
***With divine tenderness you remake us.  
By transforming pain you heal us –  
Your passionate energy empowers us.***

## JESUS PRAYER

*In the spirit of Jesus, we gather up all our prayers and, in these words, or in those of our own language or tradition, we say:*

***Breath of our every fibre,  
Flowing in and beyond the stars,  
May we rejoice in your ever-renewing life.  
may your love flourish, may your peace be known,  
in all beings and becomings.  
Sustain us in what we need.  
Transform the suffering we inflict,  
as we transform the suffering we endure.  
Free us from all that crushes joy,  
and keep us from unbearable pain.  
Let your way be our journey, your truth our story,  
and your life our coming home, now and always. Amen.***

*The bread of life. The cup of blessing.*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is made ready.

*In sharing communion we are invited to gather in a circle  
inside the building.*

*As we share the gifts with each other we say the words  
"The bread of life" and "The cup of blessing."*

*If you do not wish to take communion, you are still most welcome  
to join the circle or feel free to remain in your seat.*

**LAUDATE TE** (during communion)

sung by Katrina Mackenzie  
and Elizabeth Maddox

## SENDING OUT & BLESSING

Touched by the light of new dawn  
***Send us out to dispel the darkness***  
Helped by your grace to look twice  
***Send us out to see you in the stranger***  
Nourished like seeds in rich earth  
***Send us out to bring life to the world***

Rejoicing that death could not hold you  
***Send us out to bring joy to the sorrowing***  
Brushed by the wings of angels  
***Send us out to proclaim the good news.***

## **BLESSING**

Go in peace, for Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
***Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

## **HYMN**

Words: adapted by Ruth Duck  
Tune TiS 362

Jesus Christ is risen today: Alleluia!  
Let the joyful people say: Alleluia!  
Christ has shared our earthly life: Alleluia!  
Conquered death to end our strife: Alleluia!

Pow'rs of death have had their day: Alleluia!  
Earthly rulers have no sway: Alleluia!  
Nothing more to fear have we: Alleluia!  
Those who trust in Christ are free: Alleluia!

Sharing in Christ's death, we rise: Alleluia!  
Soar like eagles to the skies: Alleluia!  
Finding mercy, we forgive; Alleluia!  
Off'ring up our lives, we live: Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high: Alleluia!  
Let the whole creation cry: Alleluia!  
Let the name of Christ be sung: Alleluia!  
Ev'ry-where, by ev'ry tongue: Alleluia!

## **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

Peter Bennett

*Following the postlude, you are invited to refreshments  
and those on Zoom to share a time of sharing online*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our organist and singers for the music.

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Prayer of Awareness is based on "Easter Sunday" in *Eggs and Ashes* edited by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill. Wild Goose Publications. p. 224-230.

Easter Anthems adapted from liturgical resources of the Church of England

Jesus Prayer and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity by Josephine Inkipin

Eucharistic Prayer is based on St Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church, North Carolina

Sending Out Prayer by Penny Jones