

This service was prepared by Greg Elsdon. Thank you to our liturgists for today, Chris and Brian Ward, and to those who led our prayers; to our musicians led by Norm Inglis with Jenny Ward on piano, supported by instrumentalists Genevieve Bassani, Margaret Chittleborough, Jeff Telfer, Don Bell, Ruth Farrent, Graham Brice and singers Colin Telfer, Bronwen Blight and Peter Muller; to David Davis for running the AV desk, and to Greg Bassani for overseeing the live-streaming of this service.

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.**



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday, 18th April 2021

Easter 3
COCU33B

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.

This Service is being live-streamed. The Service will also be available for viewing on YouTube at 'Pilgrim Uniting Church Adelaide' for two months.

LIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY CANDLES

GATHERING

We gather here as the human ones of creation.

We name ourselves threads in the web of life.

We give thanks for connection, that we are all part of one another and that we are part of the Sacred. *(St Andrew's, Auckland)*

May we know holy courage to reach out to the other without fear knowing that the One that created the other longs to connect us here. *(Chris Corrigan)*

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here in this safe and sacred place.

SONG: HaND 16 Here's a New Day

1.
Here's a new day,
fresh gift from God of grace.
We sense God's presence in this
sacred space;
let us be mindful of God's blessing
here,
pausing, rejoicing, held in God's good
care.

2.
Here in awareness,
gift from God of grace,
may we awaken in this sacred space,
moved to compassion, open heart
and hand,
linked to each other, meeting love's
demand.

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3.
Here in creation,
gift from God of grace,
divine embracing of the human
race;
woven together, intimate and free,
holy the ground connecting you
and me.

4.
Here in belonging,
gift from God of grace,
interconnected in this sacred
space,
and in the web of life each one
may share,
held in God's love, surrounded by
God's care.

*Words: Helen Wiltshire
Tune: Woodlands*

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

It is autumn. The chill is in the air.
It is a season of loss.
Of vulnerability.

Good Friday moves to Easter Day in just three days.
But autumn stretches out for three months,
and the winter for another three months.

It takes the confidence of faith to believe that new life
can emerge from what seems delayed, dormant, dead.

Autumn comes in all its fullness
harvesting both land and hearts
Autumn has its birth in winter
in the stillness, where life starts.

Every death brings hope of birthing,
every birth enfolds life's end,
for the seasons of our living
mirror patterns nature penned.

Autumn gives us time for choosing
seeds which bear the richest fruits,
fragile life which we can nurture
into just or vain pursuits.

Buried in autumnal endings
lies the shoot that bursts the tomb
for the letting go in autumn
sows the seed that births the bloom.

[W L Wallace]

*We pause to reflect on these words for ourselves, and for this season of
life in which we find ourselves.*

SONG: SPG 23 For sake of life

1.
For sake of life the face of truth will brighten.
For sake of life the seeds of hope will root.
For sake of life the way of peace will lighten
for those who dare to walk—for sake of life.

2.
For sake of life the fields are being seeded.
For sake of life there's still growth in the earth.
For sake of life we'll share with all that need it
the bread from common soil—for sake of life.

3.
For sake of life a righteous wrath needs power.
For sake of life let streams of justice roll.
For sake of life the springs of joy will mother
the new-born child of hope - for sake of life.

4.
For sake of life our God became an infant.
For sake of life he lived and died for all.
For sake of life the time of God is constant.
The Kingdom is at hand for sake of life.

Words & Music: Per Harling (Sweden)

SENDING OUT AND BLESSING

Leave this house of prayer confidently. Walk purposefully.
Travel joyfully. Love generously. Serve gladly and arrive safely.
For all things are ours, and we are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

And may God continue to bless you with the gift of life;
May Christ Jesus breathe his Spirit and peace into you;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you into the life and light of God.

PASSING THE PEACE

God's peace be with you.

And also with you.

The sign of peace is exchanged.

Please join us after the service for morning tea/coffee in the Hall.

A PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE BREAD AND CUP:

As you pour out your Spirit upon those gathered in this place,
prepare the gifts of the bread and the cup,
so we might share in your grace.
As the bread fills our emptiness,
may we long for all your people with the deep compassion of Christ.
As the cup graces us with mercy,
may we remember all who live in the shadows of oppression,
working side by side to complete
the great work of justice God began so long ago.

Amen.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have shared the bread and the juice.
We have experienced the love and compassion of God.
We have remembered the mission of Jesus,
which we are called to continue.

**May God's love fill us, change us and inspire us,
that the world may grow into a place where all of God's children
know they have found a home for all eternity.**

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

God, you have given each of us gifts to use
as members of the body of Christ.
Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives.
We pray that they may help to bring the
Good News of Jesus Christ to our world,
today and always, here and everywhere.

Amen.

OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Jesus remained present with his disciples,
teaching them to love all people as neighbors.
As his disciples in this age,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the world
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbors with whom we share it.

Prayers are offered

**Open our hearts to your presence moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your grace is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken.
Amen**

READING FROM OUR GOSPEL TRADITION: Luke 24: 36-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them
and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷ They were startled and terrified,
and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are
you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?' ³⁹ Look at my
hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost
does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰ And when he had
said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they
were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you any-
thing here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it
and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I
was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses,
the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their
minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is
written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the
third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be pro-
claimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are
witnesses of these things.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

SONG: SPG 57 Lord of our Days

Chorus:
Lord of our days. Lord of yesterday.
Lord, our Lord, forever,
your people we are.
Lord of our days. Lord of yesterday.
Lord, our Lord, forever,
your people we are.

1.
From many pasts you fashion one
history -
a people of God created to hold
For all who live the myst'ry of faith.
Lord of our days your people we are.

2.
From many wills you fashion
community -
a people of God created to love;
being for all the promise of hope.
Lord of our days your people we are.

Chorus

3.
From many calls you fashion one
destiny -
a people of God created to be
for all who live the body of Christ.
Lord of our days your people we are.

4.
From many dreams you fashion a
unity -
a people of God created to serve;
bringing to all the witness of love.
Lord of our days your people we are.

Chorus

*Words: Neil Quintrell
Music: Douglas Simper*

WITNESS

SONG: SPG 100 You are Holy

*The two parts of this song are labelled **A** and **B** respectively
Community **East** sings **ABA** and Community **West** sings **AAB***

A

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.

B

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

Words and Music: Per Harling (Sweden)

COMMUNION

The resurrected Jesus is a hungry Jesus.
He comes to feed us with his bread and wine,
his living, loving presence.
And then, he feeds us with his hunger,
until we are hungry for the same things:
companionship, meals shared in community,
a gathering of strangers and friends where everyone is fed
and is so overjoyed they can hardly believe it,
but so overjoyed they can hardly not.

[Michael Coffey]

WE ARE ALL INVITED

It is the risen Jesus who invites us to share this bread and wine,
– two simple elements representing everything
necessary for our human flourishing.
We gather with grateful hearts,
joyfully acknowledging that we are the church
– wherever we are.

INVITED ... AND CALLED TO REMEMBER

Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.
Defying death, he refused to release his hold on life and love.
So now, as he encouraged us, we choose to remember
so that we too can truly live.
At supper on the night before he died
Jesus took bread and blessed it.
Then he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:
**This is my body, broken so that you may know life.
Eat it and remember me.**

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it.
Then he gave it to his disciples saying:
**This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.
Drink it and remember me.**

And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus – his faithfulness, his compassion,
his indiscriminate love, his costly grace,
and his courageous commitment to the righteousness of God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you have given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In the first of your mighty deeds of power
you created the heavens and earth.
You formed for yourself a people,
and through the law and prophets
you led them on the road to life.

Your child and our brother, Jesus Christ,
came to us speaking words of peace and forgiveness.
He was put to death by the enemies of life,
but you kept your promise
not to abandon your faithful one to death.
You raised him up, and freed him from death's power.
Greeting us with hands still scarred,
he stands with us in our fears, doubts and trials
and protects us through faith,
transforming us for life abundant -
life fulfilled, forever in your presence.

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Therefore with grateful hearts we join together
to proclaim these words of unending praise:
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of grace and justice,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**