

## Remade, reformed, renewed. Easter Sunday 2020

Readings for today: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

Unless you're on Christmas Island, which was not inhabited before European expansion, you can acknowledge that the land you are on was sacred to someone before you.

St Georges Uniting Church, Eden acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of Aboriginal people. If you are reading this on the Far South Coast we pay respect to the Yuin people, especially to their elders past and present, and recognise the continuing gift of their culture to the life and spirit of Australia.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of an ending emerges a new beginning; out of death comes new life. Shattered hopes spark new dreams; what was broken is now re-formed. **And so we declare good news for all the world: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

### PRAYER

God of resurrection, we come to worship you with songs and praise! Where we see only an ending, you bring a new beginning. Where we see only despair, you bring new hope. Where we once found only brokenness, you reform and reshape a new creation. All glory and honour, thanks and praise to you, almighty God! Amen.

We sing this one most Easter Sundays. [Low in the Grave He Lay](#)

Here's an active reading of one of Paul's letters. I've thrown in some questions (***Bold, italic***) **Colossians 3: 1-4**

..... If you are fair dinkum when you say you have been raised to new life with Christ, then commit yourself to the things that belong to such a life. (***if these were actions, what would they be?***) Look to Christ — God's right hand man — and take your cues from him. Concentrate on the things that matter to Christ, (***what are these attitudes?***) and don't let yourselves get hooked into the agendas that preoccupy the world around you. (***How many of these agendas can you count?***) Your old life is behind you — dead and buried — and your new life is intimately bound up with Christ, and lived in God. The full reality of this new life is not visible to the general public yet, but it will be. (***when will this be?***) Because your life is now bound to Christ, when Christ makes his triumphant return to the public stage, you will be there with him, in all your glory, for all to see. ©2001 Nathan Nettleton [LaughingBird.net](#)

A kid's talk - This is a shortened version of Michael's talk later in the service. [That Day Sparkles](#) and an Easter Sunday [children's activity](#) based on it

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus Christ of resurrection and renewal, we confess that sometimes Easter confronts and challenges us. The status quo is predictable and comfortable.

Your story of breaking through to bring change and new life may come as a threat to our well-trodden paths. Forgive us, loving God.

We confess that we are slow to respond to the news of the new life you offer, and find ourselves huddled with fearful disciples, rather than with the women who knelt before you and worshipped.

Open our eyes to your life-changing presence and help us to worship you with joy and praise. Remind us of the gift you offer. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news came with the assurance, do not be afraid.

And so we, too, are invited to place fear aside and listen to the invitation of the Christ - the one who calls, renews, reforms and reshapes us. We are not left abandoned but assured of forgiveness.

This is the good news of Easter. Thanks be to God!

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

God of Easter morning,

you bring sunrise after the darkest night, and butterflies from the cocoons of quiet transformation. Your promise of love extends to the far reaches of the earth and encompasses all of creation, **and so we raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise.**

From the tomb of death comes new life and from the pain of broken relationships you bring trust and new paths of living. Your promise of hope is for all people, **and so we raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise.**

You take what was once broken, and breathe new life upon it so that it may be reformed in you.

Your promise of renewal is for all heaven and earth, **and so we raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise.**

We join the song of the heavens, together with all of creation: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

Listen and sing along with the virtual choir. Just like us, they join together from their own homes to be part of a whole. [In Christ Alone](#)

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend*

*In Christ Alone lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group CCLI 222909*

## DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Brokenness does not have the final word. Death and hate, violence and injustice do not have the final say. Love renews, restores and reforms a new future. In Matthew's Gospel, the angel and Jesus both bring good news prefaced by "do not be afraid". The news of resurrection may be a scary thing. Jesus did not return to restore what already was. He did not return to resume ministry as it already had been. God was doing a new thing. The disciples and God's work in the world was recreated - out of the brokenness of the cross and the pain of the betrayal, denial and death of Christ - a new thing was formed. The remarkable part of the Easter story is that we are included in this new thing that is happening in the world. God calls us to be part of renewing, restoring and reforming the brokenness of the world, ours included, into a glorious future of hope.

## PRAYER

Jesus Christ, the one who is love, we bring you our hearts and hands, our time, relationships and resources that we may respond to the love that you have first given to us. With joy and thanksgiving in our hearts we pray. Amen.

John 20:1-18 You can read it here from the Contemporary English Version or watch [a dramatised version](#)

### **John 20:1-18** CEV

On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself. The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed. At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life. So the two of them went back to the other disciples.

Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the tomb. She was still weeping, when she stooped down and saw two angels inside. They were dressed in white and were sitting where Jesus' body had been. One was at the head and the other was at the foot. The angels asked Mary, "Why are you crying?"

She answered, "They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him."

As soon as Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know who he was. Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him."

Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him, "Rabboni." The Aramaic word "Rabboni" means "Teacher."

Jesus told her, "Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Father. But tell my disciples that I am going to the one who is my Father and my God, as well as your Father and your God." Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her.

Michael's talk [as pdf](#) and [as video](#). Have you got something handy that you have restored or polished up anew?

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection, you take what is broken and reform it in love. Hear our prayers for the brokenness of the world, this nation and our community.

In places of hopelessness, break through with the promise of new beginnings.

In places of hatred and despair, reshape hearts with love.

In places of fear and mistrust, renew relationships to bring peace.

On this day of joyful celebration we pray for places that long for change and seek new paths of living. *(Silent prayer)*

Bring transformative paths that all may flourish, holy God.

As we gather together, singing alleluias, we pray those we love who we know are struggling.

*(Silent prayer)* May your loving presence surround them.

Secure in the knowledge of your all-pervasive love, we pray for our own lives.

Remind us of the new life that you offer to us.

Hold us in grace and call us to be your Easter people in the world.

*(Silent prayer)* Through Christ, giver of life and source of light.

Amen.

Let's try having **Communion online**. It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Please gather what you need for the elements and see the [communion order of service here](#). Michael leads us via [YouTube](#).

To finish, let's join with Kings College in London singing [Thine Be the Glory](#). You could be singing or grab your instrument. *Remember only God is listening and he's very accepting of worship.*

## COMMISSIONING

Go out into the world, declaring, Christ is alive! Death is silenced and love triumphs. **Alleluia!**

The good news is shared and has spread through all the world. **Alleluia!**

May God, our Creator, renew, reform and reshape us; may Christ, giver of life and source of light, grow within us; and may the Spirit, presence of joy and hope, lead us in the ways of love. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

Please join us for Zoom interactive, online morning tea.

Accept the invite by clicking the picture or going to

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5158997686>

