

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Sunday 19 April, 2020

Theme - Scars that speak

We welcome all to join us
in the worship of God

Opening Song - Alleluia Alleluia give thanks to the living Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U1MuOCHon4>

Let us remind ourselves of when the risen Lord met Thomas -

From Jn 20:19-31 - Jesus appeared to his disciples on the evening of the Resurrection morning and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. but one of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Acknowledgement of Country
St Georges Uniting Church, Eden
acknowledges that we are on the
traditional lands of Aboriginal people.
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.

In response to the this reading we join in this CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come and worship: the doubters and the questioners,
the ones who hover to observe, feeling unsure,
the ones who skip and dance and enter with joyful step,
the ones who want proof and evidence,
and the ones who hold truth with firm clasp.

However you are – come. God calls us to worship.

Prayer of Invocation

Jesus Christ, you are present with us
regardless of whether our faith is enough, or our questions answered.
It is not about how much we believe or the items we tick.

You love us unconditionally.

You do not ask us to be worthy, or to pretend we are perfect.

You simply invite us to be in your presence because you are worthy.
Breathe your peace upon us, Jesus Christ, that we may be assured of
your presence and understand that we are enough, however we come.

Amen.

Our being '**enough**' is because of God's deep forgiveness.

Deep as it is enough for all our failings.

So with thankful hearts we pray this prayer of Confession -

The truth is, Jesus Christ,
that many of us are more like Thomas than we care to admit. We would
like to put our hands in your scars
and to find ourselves certain of faith and life,
as though all the answers would fall into place with this single act.
We like certainty because it allows us to be right and others to be wrong.
But faith does not work this way.

It is in the seeking that we find and in the questions that we discover
meaning. Forgive us when we prefer to be right and certain,
when we speak with arrogance or are quick to judge others.

Help us to hear your call to relationship with you.

(Confession continues on top of page 3)

(Confession continued from page 2)

Sometimes we feel that if we can complete a checklist of statements then our belief is enough, as though this is an achievement on our part. Forgive us when we forget that faith is so much more than ideas.

Help us to hear your call to relationship with you.

Sometimes we see other people of faith and feel like their faith is stronger or better than our own. Forgive us when we are envious of the faith of others.

Help us to hear your call to relationship with you.

Words of Assurance

Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus did not ask for perfection, nor a checklist of beliefs. He offered peace and gave the gift of relationship. It is with this trust that he sends us too. Be assured – whatever faith we have – it is enough. Thanks be to God.

Reflective song as we recommit ourself to follow God's love -

Create in me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noUeQQ64Q1I>

Receiving God's Word

A prayer of preparation to receive God's Word

Holy one, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, we may hear your word with joy, Amen

Read Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and 1 Peter 1:3-9

Song - Psalm 116 - I Love the Lord - by Sons of Korah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfut1pKTNGY>

Sermon - Scars that Speak - by Leone Fairweather

Song after the Sermon - How Firm a Foundation -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTqRiP2w0_8

Intercessions

A prayer in offering our all to God

Loving God, in faith we offer our body, mind, hearts and souls – gifts that you have given to us.

Use our money, our thinking, our reasoning, our living, our hands, our loving and our hopes that these may bring glory to. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Holy Spirit, bringer of peace, we pray for places of conflict, where violence speaks loudly, and people live in fear. Breathe your peace upon the world, Holy Spirit. *(A time of quite prayer for the world)*

So many lives are lived searching for acceptance, belonging and meaning. We pray for restless souls and those who feel they are not worthy. Breathe your peace upon the world, Holy Spirit.

(A time of quite prayer for those struggling with belonging)

For some life is difficult and anxiety is overwhelming.

For those who wait for test results, face separations or relationship challenges and those who are finding life difficult, we pray.

Breathe your peace upon the world, Holy Spirit.

(A time of quite prayer for those known to you who are in need)

Through the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration, Thanksgiving and Commissioning

Holy God, giver of life, we give thanks for all of your creation.

The earth exudes your presence and speaks of your glory.

Jesus Christ, mystery of God incarnate, Word and Wisdom,

we give thanks for your life and truth,

for in your being we find ways of compassion and love.

Ever-present Spirit, animator of faith and encourager of service, we give thanks for your movement in our midst and for the peace you offer.

Triune God, for the mystery of faith, we are thankful. As we step into this day and the days ahead may our understanding grow, our faith deepen, and our love reflect your love for the world. Amen.

Concluding Song - Thine be the Glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CorLsVVhcW4>