

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG

EASTER 2B, 7TH OF APRIL 2024



Rev. Tupe Ioelu

A WARM WELCOME to any who are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time today. Please make yourselves known. We trust you will enjoy this time of fellowship with us. You are invited to join us over a cuppa after the service.

We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which Wesley is built. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of love and miracle, you have raised Christ from the dead!

We thank you. We praise you. We worship you.

And yet we long to see Christ in the flesh

We long to touch his wounded, healing hands.

We wait for you.

We reach for you.

And yet even in our not seeing, not knowing, you are here.

We thank you. We praise you. We worship you.

SONG TIS 376

I know that my redeemer lives.

1

I know that my Redeemer lives-
what joy the blest assurance gives!

He lives, he lives,
who once was dead;
he lives, my everlasting Head.

2

He lives, to bless me with his love;
he lives, to plead for me above;
he lives, my hungry soul to feed;
he lives, to help in time of need.

3

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death
he lives, my mansion to prepare;
he lives, to lead me safely there.

4

He lives, all glory to his name;
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;

what joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

PRAYER

Creator God, as we come before You in prayer,
our hearts overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving
for the precious gift of unity and fellowship.

We thank You, Lord, for the bond that unites us as a community of believers.

***Like the precious oil that flowed down Aaron's beard,
we acknowledge the anointing of Your Spirit,
covering us with grace, love, and the assurance of Your presence.***

We are grateful for the refreshing dew, as on Mount Hermon,
symbolising the life-giving essence of our shared faith.

***Your grace descends upon us, bringing renewal, strength, and a sense of
connectedness
that transcends our individual lives.***

***Thank You for the harmonious symphony created when we, your children,
live for each other, no matter our differences.***

In our diversity, you weave a tapestry of love, understanding, and
compassion,
echoing the beauty of Your kingdom on earth.

***As we reflect on the goodness of unity, we offer our thanksgiving
for the moments of laughter, hope, happiness, togetherness,
of comfort, strength and the ability to share the weight of our burdens,
which is found in genuine fellowship.***

Your presence among us, Lord, brings harmony to our gatherings
and peace and joy to our hearts.

CONFESSION

Like the disciples in the locked room, we sometimes find ourselves
paralysed by fear –

fear of the unknown, fear of inadequacy, and fear of the challenges that lie ahead.

In those moments, we have doubted Your presence and questioned Your plans for us.

Lord, forgive us for the times we have struggled to fully trust in Your resurrection power.

Forgive us for the moments when we've allowed doubt to overshadow the profound truth of Your victory over death.

We confess that there are times when we demand tangible evidence, seeking assurance in what we can see and touch rather than trusting in the unseen reality of Your love and grace.

We repent of our limited vision

and ask for the faith to believe without always needing to see.

Grant us the strength to embrace the blessedness of those who trust in Your word

without demanding visible proof.

Lord Jesus, just as You showed Your wounds to Thomas, reveal to us the areas in our lives where healing and transformation are needed.

Make us aware of the woundedness around us, and guide us in acts of compassion, mercy, and reconciliation.

[Hold a time of silence]

May the same Spirit that breathed peace into the locked room breathe forgiveness and renewal into our hearts today.

Empower us to go forth with courage, sharing the good news of Your resurrection and embodying the love that casts out fear.

We offer this prayer in the name of the Risen Christ, who continues to transform doubt into faith and darkness into everlasting light. Amen.

SONG TIS 152

Joyful, joyful we adore you.

1.

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountains,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever-blessing, ever blest;
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You the Father, Christ our brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to your joy above.

BIBLE READINGS

Acts 4:32-35

The Believers Share Their Possessions

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon

them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin*), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe* that Jesus is the Messiah,* the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

REFLECTION

SONG TIS 474

Here in this place new light is streaming.

1:

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken;
gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of your name.

2:

We are the young our lives are a mystery;
we are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3:

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4:

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,

gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

COMMUNION

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

We delight to praise and thank you, God, and we share this meal in celebration.

For you create us in love and make Covenant to be our God.

You expose the crucifying nails we hold and hammers we wield,
and you judge the forces of oppression.

**In love you overcome the power of evil,
and set us free, oppressor and oppressed alike.**

In Christ you receive our weakness and transform it by your grace;
you raise Christ from the dead, and you raise us with Christ, to new lives.

So we come to this feast, singing your praise with all Creation.

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in the power of your love,
and blessed is Jesus, your Christ.

**He taught and healed with love; he gathered the broken and the outcast.
He faced our violence with non-violence and our betrayal with
forgiveness.**

He bore the marks of our cruelty, and died at the hands of our injustice;
but you raised him from the dead. Your love in him prevailed over sin and
death.

Alleluia

[*The Blessing and Covenant...*]

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

As often as we break this bread and share this cup
we remember his death and resurrection until he comes again.

**Remembering these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup,
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of
Christ.**

Breathe your Spirit into us, and send us in your love.

**By your grace may we bear the marks of humble obedience,
suffer for the sake of love and justice,
and trust your power to raise us up in victory over all evil.**

**We pray in the name of the Crucified and Risen One,
Christ our victim, Christ our Savior, Christ our head.**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heaven Give us today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into tempt-
ation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours. Now and for ever. Amen***

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank You, O God, for the nourishment and strength we have received at
Your table.

Thank You, O Christ, for the new life that we enjoy, and which we now take
into the world.

Thank You, Holy Spirit, for feeding our souls with this simple meal, and for equipping us to be Your hands to feed others. May Your grace, love and friendship surround us and flow through us all now and forever. In the name of Christ. Amen.

OFFERING & NOTICES

SONG TIS 675

Lord the light of your light is shining.

1.

Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining,
Jesus. Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you can bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations
with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

2.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance:
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

3.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,

mirrored here,
may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

SHARING

INTERCESSIONS

BLESSING

SONG

May the feet of God walk with you

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

Nominations for Church Council

Nominations are now called for and must be submitted by 21st April.

There are 2 retiring members, David Armstrong and Graeme Harris who are both eligible for re-election.

Please find nomination forms in the front foyer.

Elections will be held at the AGM on Sunday 5th May.

Fellowship and Friendship

Monday April 8th at 1.30pm

Hear Rev. Ivy Goodwin speak on her life in the
Uniting Church.

All welcome, afternoon tea provided.

RECYCLING

If you are uncertain as to what you can recycle, or where you can take it, let the Wesley Sustainability Group assist you.

In the glass walk way you will find receptacle for the following:

- * Plastic Lids
- * Corks
- * Pens/markers
- * Ring pulls
- * Bread ties
- * Mobile phones
- * Coffee pods (Aluminium Only)
- * Glasses/spectacles
- * Light globes
- * Batteries
- * Printer Cartridges
- * Stamps

Bring them in anytime and we will take them to the appropriate place for recycling for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7th

Sunday Lunch



April 8th

Fellowship and Friendship

1.30 pm



April 10th

Craft Group

10.30 am



April 17th

Bus Trip

10.30 am



April 21st

Young Families Lunch

12.00 pm

Congregational Hall



April 27th

Men's Breakfast

8.30 am





Petting Zoo



For young families

Sunday 21st April 12-3 pm



ALL WELCOME



Lunch provided





Memorial Gathering

The Geelong refugee and asylum seeker community, along with friends and supporters, are invited to a gathering to remember our dear friend

Cathie Bond

and to honour her life.

Cathie did not want a funeral, but she had told her family that some kind of gathering would be nice.

We will light candles, create some artwork, listen to music, speak about the wonderful person Cathie was, and share a meal together afterwards.

Saturday April 13, 2024

5:00 pm

Wesley Uniting Church Hall

(the church in front of the Welcome Place building)

100 Yarra St, Geelong

Please bring some food to share.

JUSTICE AND MISSION GROUP

For several years Wesley has been lacking a Justice and Mission Group, a working group of Church Council. This group is charged with proposing to Church Council matters such as – mission / outreach projects, advocacy for issues of justice, allocations of budgeted funds. This is a call for people to join the group. Members do not need to be Church Councillors – all are welcome. The group will meet every second month – the even months. If you feel that this is a way you can contribute to the life and mission of Wesley please let me know.

Graeme Harris

Daily Diary

Monday	8th April	10.30 am	Gentle Exercise
		1.30 pm	Fellowship and Friendship
Wednesday	10th April	10.30 am	Craft Group
Sunday	14th April	10.00 am	Service

Rosters

	Today	Next Sunday
WELCOME	Vicki and Ian Uldrich	Shirley Ogle
READER	Leon Pederick	Sue Strong
Camera Operator	Zara White	Heather Cooney
Data Projection	Scott Barnes	David Strong
Morning Tea	Jackson Bell	Merci, Noli, Nora, Jill Shalles
Offering Counters	Vicki and Ian	Lorene and Judy
Communion	Denis Tomlins, David Armstrong, Peter Greenwood	

MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

MINISTER: Rev. Tupe loelu	0448 415 656
CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACTS: Chairperson: Graeme Harris Secretary: Heather Cooney	0429 415 613 0477 805 234
Pastoral Concerns: Lauren Woolnough Jan Watson	0428 365 910 0421 320 296

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