

**WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG**

**EASTER SUNDAY 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.***

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we greet You.

You knew the prison of fear,  
the pain of humiliation,  
the loneliness of rejection.  
But You also found that love was stronger than fear.  
Just as You came,  
risen and unexpected  
to those first friends of Yours  
who went to the garden, anxious and fearful,  
be with us now, and touch us with Your peace.  
**Amen.**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Out of the darkness of grief and despair  
comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen, indeed.**  
We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.  
And it is true. Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen, indeed.**  
We hear a voice call our name,  
and we know our risen Lord  
is with us now and always.  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ is risen, indeed.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **SONG TIS 362**

Jesus Christ is risen today.

Jesus Christ is risen today,  
alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day,  
alleluia!  
who so lately on the cross  
alleluia!  
suffered to redeem our loss,  
alleluia!

2

Hymns of praise then let us sing  
unto Christ, our heavenly king,  
who endured the cross and grave  
sinners to redeem and save.

3

But the pain that he endured  
our salvation has procured;  
now exalted he is king,  
and the angels ever sing:

## **PRAYER**

God of power and love, we give You thanks that You raised Your Son Jesus Christ from the grave, that You caused His tomb to be empty, that You gave hope by Your presence.

***We thank You that the powers of evil which seemed to overcome all light and goodness and love on Friday were overcome on this day, defeated in Your Son's rising.***

We thank You that in Christ's rising, we have hope for life before and beyond death, inspiration for our lives as witnesses to Your grace, comfort for pain, and faith in place of fear.

***We thank You for every sign of resurrection we sense by Your Spirit, in nature as the seasons, slowly, turn, in society, as Your kingdom makes its way, in our lives, as anxieties give way to peace.***

## CONFESSION

Gracious God, we pray in sorrow for the ways we go wrong in our lives, the ways we fail in our witness to Your love.

***We have journeyed through Lent, attempting to shape our lives around the compassion and courage of Christ, yet we have heard in our hearts the impulses of those who denied Jesus, betrayed Him and mocked Him.***

Forgive us for the ways we have abandoned the path of love and justice.

***Yet we trust in Your grace, Your forgiveness, and Your acceptance flowing from the cross;***

***Your joy shared in resurrection life.***

Help us to live lives liberated from guilt, and inspired to follow Your risen Son.

**Amen.**

## SONG TIS 390

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.

*Refrain:*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name*

1.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
he is the king of creation.

2.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.

3.

We have been crucified with Christ;  
now we shall live for ever.

4.

God has proclaimed his gracious gift:  
new life for all! Alleluia!

5.

Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **Psalm 118: 1,2,14-24**

#### **A Song of Victory**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,  
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'  
The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'  
I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.\*

### **Mark 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint

him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## **REFLECTION**

When the sun rose upon the empty tomb,  
it brought a new day,  
Everything was changed:  
there was a new Creation.

**God of resurrection,  
by the light of Christ's rising,  
grant us a new day.  
By the mystery of your grace,  
raise us up to new life  
in the Spirit of Christ.**

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death.

Therefore we have been buried with him  
by baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of God,  
so we too might walk in newness of life.

**By God's great mercy  
God has given us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
and into an inheritance  
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.  
Blessed be God!**

## OFFERING & NOTICES

### 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!

## SHARING

### INTERCESSIONS

*Response:*

Lord, in Your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in this troubled and divided world where fear runs so deep,  
hopes are so often dashed and dreams so often broken,  
we remember today the faith in the future You brought to so many,  
both through Your coming and through Your resurrection from the dead.  
Lord, in Your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, a world is waiting, hurting, longing, searching for hope,  
crying out for meaning, hungry for some reason to believe in the future.  
Come again in Your living power, and bring new life to all.  
We remember especially those places where there are real fears for people's safety,  
and for those places where people may have forgotten a time before fear  
and we name such places in

*silence*

Help them and us come nearer a place and time without pain and  
mourning,  
where there will be no more tears.

Lord, in Your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

On this Easter Day,  
we think of our families, perhaps far from here,  
who are celebrating as we do but many miles apart.  
Comfort all who miss family and friends at this time,  
and help us feel united in faith and love.

Lord, in Your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we now name before You those people and situations  
we are particularly conscious of:  
friends and family members whose life seems to be running out,  
all who are struggling with mental health,  
anyone who seems imprisoned by the past,



who is fearful of rejection, or missing out, or what the future may hold;  
all who are anxious over work undone, or not having enough to do:  
come to them with the joy of your presence...

*Silence*

Lord, in Your mercy

**Hear our prayer. AMEN**

## **SONG TIS 242**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun.

1.

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth:

*Refrain:*

*Dance then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;  
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

2.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,  
they came with me and the dance went on:

3.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die:

4.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
but I am the dance and I still go on:

5.

They cut me down and I leap up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you as you live in me:  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he:

## **BLESSING**

We have come from darkness and despair  
to hope and joy.

**We have been transformed by new life.**

Go forth to witness and to testify to the message of hope  
we have received this day.

**Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Amen.**

## **SONG**

We are marching in the light of God.

1.

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching - Oo

we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching - Oo

we are marching in the light of God.

2.

We are living in the love of God,  
we are living in the love of God.

We are living in the love of God,  
we are living in the love of God.

We are living - Oo

we are living in the love of God.

We are living - Oo

we are living in the love of God.

3.

We are serving in the name of God,  
we are serving in the name of God,  
we are serving in the name of God,  
we are serving in the name of God,  
We are serving - Oo  
we are serving in the love of God.  
We are serving - Oo  
we are serving in the name of God.

4.

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching - Oo  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching - Oo  
we are marching in the light of God.

### **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.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3rd

Craft Group  
10.30 am



April 7th

Sunday Lunch



April 8th

Fellowship and Friendship  
1.30 pm



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





# CERTIFICATE

OF APPRECIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

*Wesley Uniting Church*

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATION TO AND  
SUPPORT OF PEACE OF MIND FOUNDATION

  
Bec Mallett, CEO

26th March 2024

Date



peace  
of mind

Brain Cancer Support,  
here and now.



Thank you very much to everyone who has supported the 'Book Nook', a further \$120, has been forwarded to Uniting, Food for Families. Additionally, thank you for the many new donations of books, magazines & DVD's, they are greatly appreciated. Happy Reading !

# Daily Diary

Monday	1st April		Public Holiday
Wednesday	3rd April	10.30 am	Craft Group
Sunday	7th April	10.00 am	Service with Lunch

## Rosters

	Today	Next Sunday
WELCOME	Betty Backwell	Vicki and Ian Uldrich
READER	Lorene Day	Leon Pederick
Camera Operator	Tim Qaranivalu	Zara White
Data Projection	Graeme Harris	Scott Barnes
Morning Tea	Hermina Pearce	Jackson Bell
Offering Counters	Jan and Ruth	Vicki and Ian
Communion		Sue Strong, David Armstrong, Peter Greenwood

### MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

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

#### CHURCH OFFICE:

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