

# Bairnsdale Uniting Church – Worship@Home

## Sunday 26/04/2020 – Easter 3

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### **Welcome to our Worship@Home pack for Sunday 26th April.**

To view a video of this service search YouTube for Bairnsdale Uniting Church or follow the link on our website. Alternatively, you can read through the service here and follow the instructions as you are moved.

Today's liturgy has been prepared by the Shearwater Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Gippsland. For this service you will need: a candle, a bible marked at Luke 24:13-49 and Psalm 116 and a piece of bread, (for use during prayer of confession).

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We give thanks to God for the Land upon which we worship. We gratefully acknowledge the First Peoples of this district as we work for healing and reconciliation in this Nation.

### **Opening Prayer and Call to Worship**

Sit with us, Jesus of the lonely cross while we are apart from each other.

Surprise us, Jesus of the empty tomb, whisper our names as we keep our distance.

Break through to us Jesus of the wounded side.  
Through our locked doors come with your peace.

Break bread with us Jesus of the open road.  
Make our hearts burn with love, open our eyes to your life.

### **Easter Proclamation**

*Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

### **Candle Lighting**

May this light burn like a fire in our hearts connecting us with the risen Christ today.

### **Song – *One more step along the road I go* (All Together Again 200)**

### **Psalm 116 and Prayer of Adoration**

**I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

*I love you, because you hear me. I know this: I'm not speaking or crying into an empty nothingness. Because you listen, I can speak to you, so I'll keep on praying while I have breath.*

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

*I've had tough times. I've been out there on the edge in all sorts of pain. That's when I cried out to you for rescue. You saved me; I know you did because I'm still here to tell the story.*

**What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

*What can I give back to you for all your extravagant blessings? I'll honour you with gratitude in the quiet of my house, and I'll make sure others know that I belong to you.*

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

*As you look on us with love in this life, so you hold us gently through the passage of death; this I know.*

**O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

*Just like my ancestors in the faith, I will do your work because you have set me free. I will keep on thanking and blessing you and calling on you by name.*

**I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

*Let this affirmation ring out; We belong to the living God! Let it fill the places of emptiness, let it resonate through the halls of power, let it ring over cities and towns and echo through the heavens; Praise the living God!*

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 24:13-49 – the walk to Emmaus**

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Take your piece of bread and break a piece after each part of the prayer - \**

God of all our lives, here from our familiar spaces we can imagine being on the road to Emmaus. We can imagine the disciple's pain and confusion as they walked away from the city after Jesus' death.

*When we have walked away from hard places instead of staying in the struggle, forgive us. - \**

We can imagine Jesus walking with them listening carefully to their stories, acknowledging their grief.

*When we have chosen not to walk beside others and acknowledge the reality of their pain, forgive us - \**

We can imagine Jesus' gentle teaching filling their ears and firing up their hearts with truth and life.

*When we have not listened for your Word and paid no attention to the way you work in our hearts, forgive us - \**

At the end of the day Jesus sat at the table with them and broke the bread. It was in the breaking that they finally knew who he was. In our own brokenness Jesus comes to us with healing and forgiveness, and the power to make us whole.

*In gratitude for the healing presence of God with you now, you are invited to eat a piece of the broken bread and be thankful.*

### **Reflection**

See separate sheet

## **Song – Abide with me; fast falls the eventide (Together in Song 586)**

### **Prayers of the People**

Today our Prayers of Intercession are in two parts: the first where we pray for the world and the Church, as we normally do, and the second is in acknowledgement of Anzac Day, with a liturgy for Peace. Let's pray:

Lord of all nations, let not our eyes be kept from recognizing You as we journey through life. Remain with us regardless of our doubts or fears, and when you appear suddenly or unexpectedly, possibly in the guise of a stranger, remind us Lord that repentance and forgiveness of sin is to be proclaimed in Your name to all nations.

Sit at the table with those who occupy this isolation time alone. Let them know the delight of Your company, and the embrace of Your world-wide family in Christ.

Give hope to those who are away from home, or who long to travel to be with family far away. Bless them with connection that fills the aching spaces; bless them with courage to see this time through; bless them with coping and kindness for themselves, and others.

Be a guide to those who find themselves meandering, taking paths of trouble and danger; falling into wells of deep doubt and despair, wearing layers of anxiety too heavy to bear. Allow them to see and know You Lord, each time they reach that challenging crossroad of decision.

Let Your Spirit be a constant companion to those who are making their last journey of life, in hospitals or at home; and strengthen and comfort those who care for them.

In prayer, we bring to You people who are hurting, lost and alone, whose names we know, and many we don't.

God of love, Spirit of truth, Christ on the road.  
Be our companion: in the breaking of the bread, in the waking from our sleep,  
in the living through this time. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and for ever. Amen.

## ANZAC Day Litany – Prayers for Peace

They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.  
**Lest we forget.**

Let us pray for the servicemen and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by, and known to God:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For civilian men, women and children, whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For peace makers and peace keepers, who strive and seek to keep this world secure and free:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For all defence force chaplains offering support, encouragement, acceptance, compassion and understanding, whenever and wherever it is needed:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and responsibility of leadership, be it political, military or religious, asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace:

May God give peace, **God give peace.**

God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in Your future, for You are the source of life and hope.

Ever living God, we remember those who you have gathered from the storm of war, into the peace of Your presence. May that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all people, and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering

God, who meets us on every journey,

May the gifts we put aside today bring hearts aflame with hope.

*(Talk with your congregation Treasurer this week how you might arrange for your offering to be collected if you are not direct debiting or paying on-line)*

## Notices

We welcome to our service today those of our Bairnsdale congregation, our friends within the Gippsland Presbytery, as well as those from around the country and other parts of the world. We hope that you all enjoy our services and that they give you a measure of spiritual support. How much harder would this “shutdown” be without internet capability?

Please remember to maintain contact with your fellow congregants, with neighbours, and with those who are not computer literate and therefore may be feeling isolation a little more keenly.

For those who usually contribute to our casserole bank, please continue to do so as our volunteers are quite busy distributing casseroles to folk within our community.

Many of you are asking if Rev Ian Ferguson is staying on under these “shutdown” measures, or will he be leaving as planned. Reluctantly we must inform you that he will be leaving 10<sup>th</sup> May and although we have tried to coerce him to remain longer in this beautiful part of Victoria, alas, we have two more services and then we will wish Ian a fond farewell.

In the meantime, stay healthy and we look forward to being together again very soon.

Think how you might open your heart - on the phone, in a letter, or via email this week?

## Song – *We are marching in the light of God (Together in Song 666)*

### Blessing and Sending

Sit with us, Jesus of the lonely cross while we are apart from each other.

Surprise us, Jesus of the empty tomb, whisper our names as we keep our distance.

Break through to us Jesus of the wounded side.

Through our locked doors come with your peace.

Break bread with us Jesus of the open road.

Make our hearts burn with love, open our eyes to your life.

And may God fill us all with love unbounded so that we might love each other deeply, from the heart, as we are loved. Peace be with you, and yours. Now and always. May it be so.

In the name of Christ. Amen