



ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 10th May 2020

Volume 26 Issue 15

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was talking with my youngest brother Ian, who lives in Perth, earlier this week. He told me that both he and his wife Raylene have been laid off from their jobs and are now on Job Seeker payments. Up until a few weeks ago he was working flat out as an electrician on a large development, under pressure to work weekends and public holidays. But now, like so many other Australians, he is at home, unsure of when he'll work again. Our family, like all Australian families, has been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. We have been very fortunate not to experience any of the worse possibilities, but I'd have to say that one of the things we have found most difficult is the limitations on attendance at funerals. When someone we love dies, we want to be comforted and supported by family and friends, and we want to participate in the funeral rituals, and hopefully receive the assurance of being reminded of the promises of God in Jesus Christ. At present, many friends and family members are having to say their farewells from a distance, and this is hard. This is a time when we particularly need to uphold the bereaved in our thoughts and prayers and help them in any way we can, as they can feel very alone.



As Christians, we know that death is not the end. This week's Gospel reading from John 14 reminds us that Jesus has gone ahead of us into the presence of God to prepare a place for us in the heavenly realms. This week Rita Wilson, who was a long time, much beloved member here at Traralgon died. Her funeral will be next Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 pm in the church. I haven't got all the details yet but I assume it will be live streamed by La Trobe Funeral Services. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children June, Ray, Helen and Anne and their families. In the midst of our sorrow at her death, we can be confident that Rita is now with the Lord she so long loved and served,
Blessings, Sandra

Contact details for Rev. Sandra Houghton are:
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If you are unsure whether your contact details and email address are correct, please contact the Church Office. We want to get the worship resources out to as many members of our congregations as possible.



Traralgon District Uniting Church
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



**Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches
Worship at Home**

**SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020
EASTER 5A**

SONG: [El Shaddai by Amy Grant](#)

(El Shaddai is one of the Old Testament names for God Almighty, particularly used in relation to God on Mt Sinai who gave the commandments to Moses; El-Elyon na Adonai- Most high be my God, O Lord; Erkahmka na Adonai- I love thee, O Lord, be my strength)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us come before our God in worship,
God, our refuge and our strength.
Let us sing praises to Jesus Christ –
God: the way, the truth and the life.
Let us celebrate the Holy spirit –
God: the comforter, the one who prays for us.
Let us worship God!

Words for Worship April 28, 2002

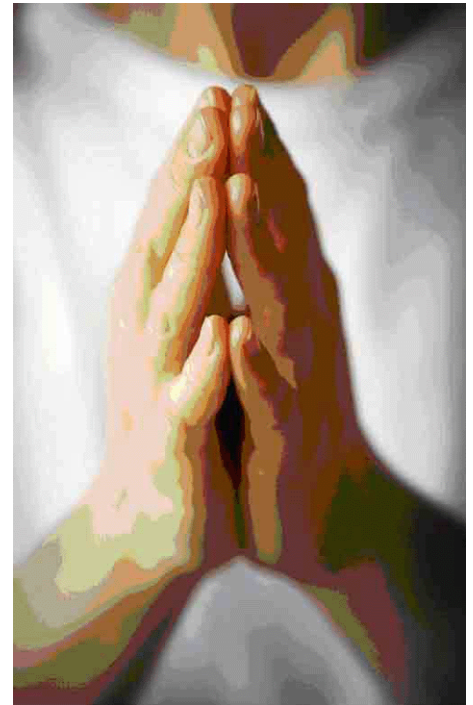
HYMN: TIS 111; [Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation](#)

OPENING PRAYER

For a new day that follows each night,
We give you thanks, O God.
For the seasons of life, their coming and going,
We give you thanks, O God.
For the hope of renewed life,
We give you thanks, O God.
For the gift of your compassion,
We give you thanks, O God.
For your presence among us now,
We give you thanks, O God.
Be with us in our worship,
speak to us, and guide us. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (paraphrase)

In you, O Lord, I have sought protection
do not let me be humiliated, in your faithfulness, deliver me.
Turn your ear toward me, rescue me quickly, O Lord.
Be a mountain of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.
You are my rock and my stronghold.
For the honour of your name you will lead me and guide me.
Deliver me from the net which they hide for me for you are my refuge.
Into your hands I entrust my life; pay the price for my safety, O Lord God.
My future is in your hands –
rescue me from the hands of my enemies and my pursuers.
Let your face shine upon your servant save me in your loving kindness.



NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

SONG: [Yet not I but through Christ in me by City Alight](#)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you show us the way - the risky way which challenges all that is evil and destructive. We confess that we can choose the easy way which allows evil to grow and denies people the chance of new abundant life.

Forgive us: when we avoid your way, truth and life. *Silent reflection*

Lord Jesus Christ, you speak the word of truth which brings good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed and enslaved, and healing to those whose lives lack wholeness. We confess that too often our minds are swayed by the media's 'truth' which can be so contrary to the gospel.

Forgive us: when we avoid your way, truth and life. *Silent reflection*

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us the gift of life - emptying yourself in order to empower others with your beautiful life and selfless love. We confess that we can misuse power for our own purposes, at a cost to others.

Forgive us: when we avoid your way, truth and life. *Silent reflection*

Lord Jesus Christ forgive us and remind us that
God's grace becomes clearer when we follow your way;
God's voice is heard when our lives speak your truth;
God's love beats in us when our lives witness to your life. Amen

Read the [HOMILY](#) now.

SONG: [Christ be our light by Bernadette Farrell](#)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

God, whom we know in Jesus Christ,
we cling to you as our rock and our refuge as the world swirls around us
in troubled confusions and its destructive departures from truth and justice.

We cling to you as the one who never ceases to love us and all people,
sighing into our tiredness, endlessly moved by our tears, groaning with the creation
as it struggles towards the light and reels in its painful mistakes and choices,
showing your face to those who bravely suffer for the truth.

As we meet here in your presence, we bring before you those people, situations and nations
who are closest to our praying hearts at this moment:

Add your own prayers. And....

May they feel you as a steady rock under their lives,
and a gentle refuge from their efforts to survive.
Spread out your risen life as a way before them
and paint a new picture of your abundant life
before their eyes so that hope may be restored.
Especially be with those who are isolated, those who are afraid,
Those who are homeless, those who are sick and the bereaved.

Call us all again into your adventure of passionate life
which leads us towards the truth
and opens new pathways before our feet.
Give us the faith to believe that you wait for us
at every turning point,
and leave us your footsteps on the road,
that we may see where to follow.
Amen.



HYMN: TIS 432; [Christ is made the sure foundation \(Hymn Channel\)](#)

BENEDICTION:

Go forward believing that you are not alone.
Go to journey with Jesus by your side.
Go to celebrate each day that:
he is the road, and the truth and the life for you.
And as you go may:
the blessing of God's strength be in you,
the life of Jesus Christ direct you
the inspiration of the Holy Spirit empower you always! **Amen**

SONG: [Alone, but not alone by Joni Eareckson Tada](#)

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Bold power and glorious majesty are wrapped around her as she laughs with joy over the latter days. Her teachings are filled with wisdom and kindness, as loving instruction pours from her lips. She watches over the ways of her household and meets every need they have. Her sons and daughters arise in one accord to extol her virtues, and her husband arises to speak of her in glowing terms. "There are many valiant and noble ones, but you have ascended above them all!" Charm can be misleading, and beauty is vain and so quickly fades, but the virtuous woman lives in wonder, awe, and fear of the Lord. She will be praised throughout eternity. So go ahead and give her the credit that is due, for she has become a radiant woman, and all her living works of righteousness deserve to be admired at the gateways of every city!

- Proverbs 31:25-31 (The Passion Translation)



What is happening with Ministry in Traralgon District?

Rev Sandra Houghton has agreed to continue with Supply Ministry at Traralgon District, until at least the end of June. We thank her for her ongoing care and support of our Congregation at this time of uncertainty.

If you are unsure whether your contact details and email address are correct, please contact the Church Office. We want to get the worship resources out to as many members of our congregations as possible.

NEW OFFICE HOURS (until further notice): Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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