



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 17th May 2020

Volume 26 Issue 16



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

My youngest brother, Ian, who lives in Western Australia rang me up Tuesday week ago and asked me to buy flowers on his behalf for mum for Mother's Day. I had seen on Landline that there was going to be a shortage of flowers, so I ducked into the florist that day and ordered his flowers. Just as well, as it turned out, as when I went to pick up the flowers on the Friday morning, the florists had taken the phone off the hook as they couldn't cope with any more orders and they were fast running out of flowers.

Clearly, this year many more people than usual were unable to see their mothers on Mother's Day, but still wanted to show their mothers that they loved them, hence all the extra flower orders. I'm sure that the recipients were delighted with their flowers, as was my mother, but, clearly, they would have rather seen their family members. But just as clearly, it is evident that although a few restrictions have been eased (which is welcome), there is not going to be a quick ending to most of the other restrictions. Many people will need to remain physically isolated for their own sakes, especially the elderly and chronically ill. So please, as members of the body of Christ in this place, keep reaching out to your brothers and sisters in Christ in any way you can – especially to those who are alone or unwell or bereaved. Many of them are struggling and need to know they are loved and remembered. This week, do especially remember the family of Rita Wilson whose funeral was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a memorial service for Rita later in the year. Blessings, Sandra

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



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

**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 - Easter 6 A**

**MUSIC:** TIS 745; [Seek ye first](#)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God who was there long before anyone gave you a name:  
We worship you.

God who meets people in their own place and in the depths of their own hearts:  
We worship you.

God who speaks to us in our own language and through our own culture:  
We worship you, for you are beyond all names, God who is eternal and who so loves the world.

**HYMN:** TIS 217; [Love divine, all loves excelling](#)

**OPENING PRAYER**

When we cannot see you: Gather us.  
When we cannot find you: Find us.  
When we cannot speak to you: Speak to us.  
When we cannot hear you: Listen in us.  
When we cannot touch you: Touch us. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Acts 17:22-31

**PSALM:** Psalm 66:8-20 *paraphrased*

Celebrate your God, you people, let the songs of praise be heard loud and clear.  
For God has given us a great living and has not permitted our feet to slip.  
You God, have surely tested our faith, like silver we have been assayed.  
You certainly let the pressures fall on us, and we have been kicked in the groin.  
You allowed others to run over us, we have gone through hell and high water.  
Yet you have led us out of disaster and given us an open space.

I will bring my offerings to your house, I will renew my vows to you;  
I will fulfil the things my lips uttered, all that my mouth promised when in trouble.  
I will give you the best of my possessions, like sweet incense my thanks will rise.  
I will make an offering of my strength, of the choicest that I have and am.

You who are in awe of God, come and listen,  
and I will tell of what has been done for me.  
I cried at the top of my voice to my God, and praised with a joyful tongue.  
If I had nursed evil in my heart, God would not have listened.  
But the truth is that God has heard and known my outspoken prayer.  
Wonderful are you, loving God, for you have not been deaf to me,  
or for one second removed your love and faithfulness from me.

*B.D. Prewer 2001*

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:  
old things are passed away;  
behold, all things are become new.  
—2 Corinthians 5:17



**NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

**GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21**

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**SONG:** TIS 154; [Great is thy faithfulness](#)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

In today's gospel Jesus announces that we will receive another Advocate from God who will be with us forever, and that this is the Spirit of truth.

There will be an opportunity during this prayer of confession to ponder in silence four questions:

What truth does our worship reveal?

What truth do our lives reveal?

What truths do our communities reveal?

What truths does our world reveal?

Let us pray: What truth does our worship reveal? *time of silence*

Living God, forgive us when our worship does not reveal the centrality of Jesus Christ in whom we meet you. Retrieve our wandering minds and fix them on the wonder and holiness of the divine clothes in human flesh.

Holy God, inspire and renew our worship with the Spirit of truth.

What truth do our lives reveal? *time of silence*

Eternal God, forgive us when we worship idols of our own making – gods fashioned for our own selfish ends.

Merciful God, bless and renew our lives with the Spirit of truth.

What truths do our communities reveal? *time of silence*

Loving God, forgive us when we ignore the pain and hopelessness of so many people- young and old – in our communities and so deny Christ's command to love one another in lives of self-giving service.

Compassionate God, inflame and renew our love with the Spirit of truth.

What truths does our world reveal? *time of silence*

Creator God, forgive us when our desire to maintain our standard of living contributes to the poverty of life experienced by countless people and to the growing environmental problems of our world.

God of all righteousness, restore and renew our sense of justice with the Spirit of truth.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us to God (*based on 1 Peter 3:18*). So hear again this great good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, and we are made new. Thanks be to God!

**SONG:** [I want to know you – City Alight](#)

Read the [HOMILY](#) now

**SONG:** [The summons](#)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Loving God, open us to your Spirit's urgings,  
and awaken us to live faithfully as your people in a challenging COVID-19 world. *(Silence)*

We pray for those around us who need your care,  
and ask that you would make of us your instruments of healing, peace and redemption. *(Silence)*

We pray especially for the family of Rita Wilson and all who mourn,  
And we pray for all who are recovering from surgery or who are ill,  
and we pray for those we now name to you this day *(name those in your heart)*. *(Silence)*

God of life, reveal your loving presence  
in the faces of the people we meet, so we may be empowered to serve you in the world, for which  
Christ died. *(Silence)*

We offer our prayers and our lives  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and  
forever. Amen.

**SONG:** [You have called us - Bernadette Farrell](#)

## **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go forward on your journey but not alone.  
Go forward isolated but not forsaken.  
Go blessed and filled with the gift of God's Spirit.  
And as you go may: the blessing of God be upon you  
May the presence of Christ uphold us  
May the Spirit of truth be always within us. Amen!



**BLESSING:** [Deep peace: A Gaelic Blessing](#)

*Call to Worship from Words for Worship, May 5, 2002; Opening  
Prayer from Seasons of the Spirit 2005; Prayer of Confession by Moira Laidlaw; Intercessions & Benediction  
from Brian Cole Hymns copied under CCLI Licence no 206729*

## **Joint nominating Committee (JNC) for the Interim Ministry position at Traralgon District.**

Church Council has approved the names for the Joint Nomination committee from Traralgon District.

<b>Tony Boulton</b>	<b>Kerryn Conabere</b>	<b>Greg Samson</b>	<b>Sue Scarlett</b>
<b>Jan Smart</b>	<b>Simon Treblicock</b>		

We are now a part of the Presbytery Lyrebird cluster, so on the JNC we have input from other participants in the cluster.

Rev Deacon Peter Batten	Chairperson
Cathie Halliwell	Presbytery representative
Steve Thomson	Morwell congregation
Di Kiddell	Mirboo North congregation

The JNC will have a conversation with a prospective Interim minister. If this conversation is successful, then the Interim minister will be appointed for a maximum of 2 years.

In that 2 year time frame, we as a congregation, will develop our mission plan for the future direction and focus of our Church with implementation strategies to enact our mission.

A permanent appointment for a minister will then be made after the 2 year period.

Sue Scarlett (Church Council Chairperson)

## **Uniting Church in Australia - Traralgon District**

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