



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 7 – Easter 3

9:00am. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led by Rev Leonie Findlay and Rev Rhonda Kissick

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

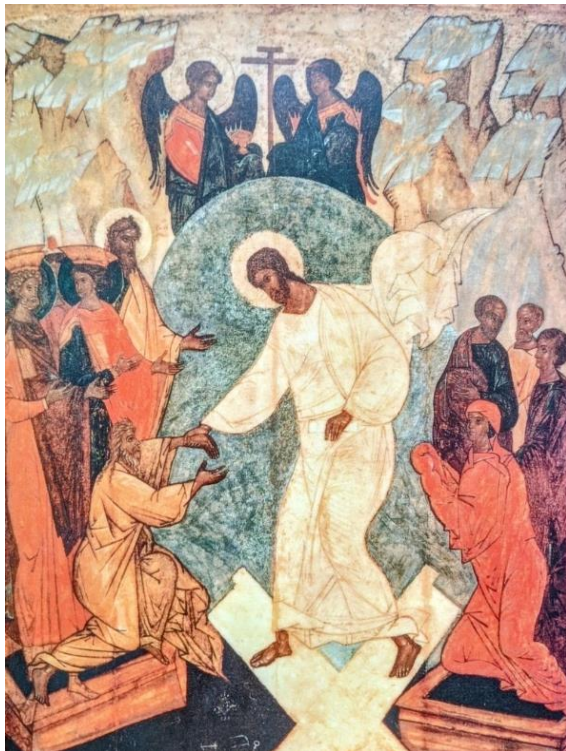
Bible Readings for April 14

Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'



They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be

proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:36b-48

Bible Readings for April 21

Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; John 10:11-18

Praying For One Another 2024

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray for one another each time they meet. By naming each other in prayer we enhance our pastoral support with each other, in God's company. This invitation builds our faith linkages every year. This week we pray for the congregation3 of **Numurkah and Nathalia-Picola** commencing Sunday April 14.

LAY FEAR ASIDE

A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord we are struggling to understand or make sense of the world around us.
Many are sick and increasing numbers are anxious and confused.

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Your word encourages us to lay fear aside.

To live in the knowledge that we are your chosen people and that we are precious in your sight.
Lord, help us live in the knowledge that no matter how challenging the journey you are with us.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

AMEN.

SOME THOUGHTS

It would seem that we are all being increasingly caught up in a whirlwind of confusion, uncertainty, and fear
Each day dawns with thoughts of what might or might not happen.

Around every corner we seem to be confronted to by increasingly difficult challenges.

Confidence, assurance and inner peace passing us by, ever out of reach.

Leaving us, caught up in the turmoil of the inner and outer chaos.

What is the source of such disquiet? How are we to interpret the events of the ever-changing world

Must we simply endure these storms of anxiety as if each of us must process our share of physical, mental, and emotional overload.

The answer to such questions comes through loudly in the words of the prophet. Isaiah (43:1-4) where God says,

'Fear not for I have redeemed you,

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you walk through the fire you will not be burned.

For I am the Lord your God.....

You are precious and honoured in my sight.'

This message stands in sharp contrast to many of our experiences.

Jesus shows, both in his teachings and in his life, that even in the midst of sorrow and disappointment, we can find peace and dare I say joy.

Yes, there are rivers to cross and fires that threaten but the God who calls us precious and surrounds us with love walks with us.

In his dying, Christ revealed a completely new way of living.

Embracing pain, he demonstrated that new life and redemption can be born through suffering.

Jesus calls our pains 'labour pains'. He says: 'A woman in childbirth suffers because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child, she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world.' (John 16:21)

The cross has become the most powerful symbol of this new vision.

The cross is a symbol of death and life, of suffering and joy, of defeat and victory.

SELAH

GRACE

Lord, grant us the graces of clarity, wisdom and courage in the light of the many changes, obstacles, and illusions that fill our days.

May we be directed through the chaos rather than into it.

For change brings endings as well as beginnings, deaths as well as births.

May we not hold onto all that must be dissolved to enable a new way.

AMEN

Coming Events

Wed April 17, 9:00 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri April 19, 9:30am	Craft Group

Emmanuel Roster

April 14

Elder on Duty: Ted Stabb	TV Screen: Harold Cover
Reader: LouAnne Stabb	Usher: David Robinson
Prayers: David Robinson	Organist: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: LouAnne Stabb	

April 21

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck	TV Screen: Harold Cover
Reader: Ted Stabb	Usher: Ted Stabb
Prayers: Carol Harris	Organist: LouAnne Stabb
Early Word: Carol Harris	

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay (currently unavailable)	Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies 02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069 stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au [weekly RDO: Friday]
---	--

Emmanuel Pastoral Care:	Speak with an Elder or Warden
Emmanuel Prayer Chain:	Give requests to Betty Sagers on 0427 761 044
Address:	PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Office Phone:	Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
Reaching Out:	Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 stabb@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine



St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

We give thanks for

- the distinctive icons, art, literature and music that have come from this area
- the faithful witness of churches under the reign of Communism, and their revitalization since then, after decades of official atheism
- all those who help to alleviate the suffering of people due to the conflict in Ukraine and who try to counteract and overcome divisions
- those who work for democracy and openness in government.

We pray for:

- guidance, as these nations work to reconfigure political and economic structures
- compassion and integrity for all peoples in these nations with such diverse ethnic histories
- those who suffer from alcoholism, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and other life-threatening diseases
- the large numbers of people who now live in poverty and are unemployed
- those in Belarus and Ukraine who suffer from the continued effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster
- those who struggle for democracy and truthfulness in the media..

Presbytery Chairperson's letter of encouragement Post Easter 2024

With others, I spent Easter morning in the corner of a paddock, beside a country road, waiting for the sun to rise. In the darkness, in the cool of the morning air, we were more open than usual to the wonder of resurrection.

We began with thoughts of the women who hurried down a similar road all those years ago – his mother and other women whose dignity and self-respect had been restored by Jesus' easy acceptance. Wanting to do for him, the things they had not been able to do for him in life – to lovingly wash and anoint his broken body. We remembered that what they found was an empty tomb.

While we recognised their grief at this last indignity, we did wonder whether an empty tomb was what was needed, for them, and for us. What we were more sure about was that on this morning of mornings we were being asked to choose again, how we would live – a choice between all is lost.....or something more?

What occurred to me, by the side of the road, was that an empty tomb has freed us for encounter with God in all God's wild freedom. The Irish poet John O'Donoghue wrote:

Somewhere out at the edges,
The night is turning
And waves of darkness run
To break upon the shore of dawn.
The heavy dark falls back to earth
And the freed air goes wild with light,
The heart fills, with fresh bright breath,
And thoughts stir to give birth to colour.

That is what it was like for us at the side of the road. Light seeped into darkness, soft pink slowly giving way to deeper shades. The stars disappeared from the sky until only one remained and we could say: Jesus our bright morning star!

The freed air was wild with light and we encountered God, unbound, unfettered, as free as the birds we saw flying, as strong as the butterflies who lifted into the morning, as joyous as the Magpies call, as heady as the smell of dew permeated stubble. No dividing wall, no partition, no separation. The gift of resurrected life.

We do not worship at the tomb of a man, even a great man. Our faith is not fixed in time or space. We need no Wailing Wall or Prophets Tomb. The God we worship, is wild and free. It is when we are most unsettled that we truly see, truly know, truly experience the infilling of the spirit of all that is holy and with all creation cry out Glory! Glory! God is passing here.

Our choice is made, our course is set. Here is our God, we are God's people.

We are blessed indeed,
Gereldine