



# REACHING OUT

Friday March 29 – Good Friday

Sunday March 31 – Easter Day

**Good Friday - 9:00am. at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church**

*Uniting tradition led by Rev Rhonda Kissick*

**11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church**

**Easter Day – 9:00am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church**

*Anglican tradition led by Rev Peter McKeague*

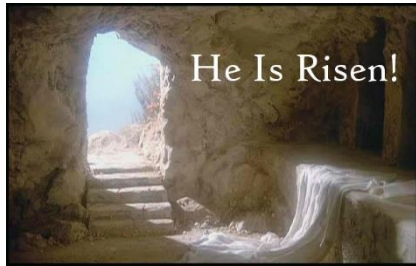
**No services at Kergunyah Uniting Church**

## Bible Readings for Sunday March 31

### Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

### The Resurrection of Jesus



Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running

together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**John 20: 1-18**

## WORDS FROM THE CROSS

### A Reflection-Rev Leonie Findlay

#### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you have suffered in ways that we cannot comprehend.

You died declaring God's forgiveness, and you rose on the third day, transforming death into life.

Lord there are really no words which can express our gratitude to you for the gift you have given.

God, the wonder is that in spite of the many times we fail to live as people of faith, your children, you still walk with us guiding and leading us along the way.

Lord, walk before us in hope and inspiration. Stand with us in truth and create the wonder of new life in our hearts. In the name of Christ, we pray.

**AMEN**

#### SOME THOUGHTS

While hanging on the cross, suffering an excruciating death Jesus uttered his final words. Words of love, forgiveness and faith.

Having been beaten, scourged, humiliated and rejected Jesus used every ounce of energy he had to say:

**"FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING." NEITHER DO THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING**

In unimaginable pain, Jesus hung between two thieves. One who mocked and cursed him. "If you are a saviour save yourself and us." The other a repentant thief who received a promise of salvation.

To this man Jesus said, **"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."**

Unlike most people the thief came to Jesus just as he was. He came to the Saviour carrying his burden of sin, relying on the mercy of God. **"WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON.... SON, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER."**

There came a time when Mary's heart would be pierced with a sword, as old Simeon had prophesied many years before. At the foot of the cross Mary, the mother of Jesus stood, a witness to the cruel death of her son. Mary was destined to drink her cup of bitterness. But God was going to comfort her, **"Mother your son and son your mother."**

Words from the mouth of a dying son. Words of safety, security and great love. On that terrible cross Jesus cried out for his father.

Jesus, forsaken by his father, cried out in agony and despair, **"ELI ELI LAMA SABACHTHANI. MY GOD MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME."**

Being forsaken by his father was a cup that Jesus asked to be taken away. However, not my will but yours be done was his heart cry. **"I THIRST."**

This was a cry that each of us could offer. In this respect Jesus was like us. His physical body also knew pain, suffering and thirst. Now He, the source of living water hangs on a cross, dry mouthed and barely able to speak. Jesus the source of life and salvation paid the price for our sin.

**IT IS FINISHED.**

When Jesus cried out **'it is finished,'** He uttered the most decisive words ever spoken.

Implicit in the word Kala, 'it is finished', Jesus could rightly say, "For you, I have finished the work of reconciliation with God." At this point God's revelation is finished.

**FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.**

What a disappointment for his enemies. They thought they had taken everything away from Jesus.

But they forgot the one thing they couldn't take away. His Spirit! The storms may howl, and his enemies may do their worst, but Christ won.

**THE VICTORY IS HIS.**

**SELAH**

#### BENEDICTION

Go in risen life.

Find this life rising up among us. and find this life spreading out before us.

Experience this risen life dwelling within us.

**AMEN**

## Bible Readings for March 29

### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

### April 7

### Easter 2

Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1: 1-2: 2; John 20:19-31

## 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 congregations of **Mansfield** and **Tolmie** commencing Sunday March 31.

## Coming Events

Wed April 3, 8:30 am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30 am	Morning Tea and Fellowship at Emmanuel
Fri April 5, 9:30am	Craft Group – no meeting on this date

## Emmanuel Roster

### March 31

Elder on Duty: TBC

Reader: Jenny Mathieson

Prayers: Worship Leader

Early Word: Nil/Worship Leader

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Harold Cover

Organist: Betty Bjorksten

### April 7

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck

Reader: Rod Clutterbuck

Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck

Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Harold Cover

Usher: Carol Clutterbuck

Organist: Betty Bjorksten

## Worship assistants Good Friday and Easter

Looking at the roster for Easter Sunday, you will notice that most of our regular helpers will not be around over Easter. If you are going to be attending the Good Friday or Easter services, you may be asked to help out. We thank you for your involvement in advance.

## Flowers for Easter Sunday

It is customary to not have flowers in the church during the reflective time of Lent. However, the flowers do come out for Easter Sunday. If you have fresh flowers in your garden at Easter, which may be a big ask after our crazy summer, do bring some on Easter morning to adorn our worship space.

## 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](mailto:stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au)  
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care:	Speak with an Elder or Warden
Emmanuel Prayer Chain:	Give requests to Betty Saggars 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 <a href="mailto:hcover@bigpond.com">hcover@bigpond.com</a> or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 <a href="mailto:stabb@iinet.net.au">stabb@iinet.net.au</a> by Wednesday.

## Easter Message 2024

Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Uniting Church in Australia

Of all the Gospel accounts of the resurrection, Mark's is the briefest. There are no walks along the road, no breakfasts by the beach, no conversations with Jesus, no wounds to plunge our fingers into.

Easter Day begins early in the morning. The women disciples who have been with Jesus throughout the crucifixion, come to the tomb to anoint the dead body of their friend and teacher. They come in love without hope, not even sure how they will move the stone in front of the tomb.

The story is drenched with grief, death and betrayal. It does not turn away from the trauma of Jesus' death. It immerses us in the sorrow, despair and speechlessness of the women. In their heartache, they respond in fear and terror.

Nor does Mark avoid the failings of those around Jesus as he dies. Not Peter who denied knowing Jesus almost as soon as he'd finished boasting that he never would; nor Judas who betrayed Jesus for money; not the empire of Rome which used violence to enact their rule; nor the religious leaders who deny the new thing God is doing.

This story is for all of us, the broken, the grieving, the boastful, the enactors of violence and the victims of violence. For the broken humanity in each of us, the good news of resurrection life is proclaimed.

Mark's gospel ends abruptly with the announcement of resurrection and with fear and silence. And yet the story continued to be told and continues with us.

In a world of violence, empire and groaning creation, God raises Jesus from the dead with the hope of new life, a gift of grace, love and mercy for each of us. A grace that cannot be defeated by empire or violence, not by grief or sorrow, not by our unfaithfulness.

God's resurrection grace keeps being offered to each of us over and over again, drawing us into awe filled silence for all that we have been given. Resurrection life invites us to respond to God's gift of grace with such joy at what God has done that it overflows into our worship, witness and service.

We live the Easter message each time we answer the call to discipleship. When we act with compassion towards each other and creation, in our seeking for justice for the world and living in love.

Dwelling in the heart of love that is God, may we live as Easter people who are being made whole because God raised Jesus from the dead.

Happy Easter.



The 2024 Easter message from Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis is now available for congregations to download and share!

See <https://uniting.church/easter-messages-2024/>