



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 27, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Uniting tradition led Carol Harris (no communion)

11:15am at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday April 27

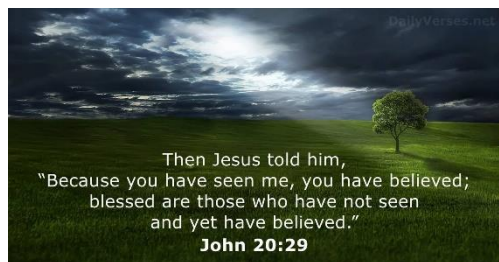
Easter 2

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas



But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-31

Bible Readings for Sunday May 4

Easter 3

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Praying For One Another 2025

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 **Rutherglen, Corowa and Howlong** beginning Sunday, April 27.

EASTER RESURRECTION

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Dear Lord and saviour, here we come as your disciples, your wounded hands and feet in the world today are ours. At times we have been the frightened ones, staying at a distance, worried about our safety or our reputations. At times we have been the doubting ones when creeds conflict or certainties evade us. At times we have become the confused ones feeling far from you with questions that don't have answers. But you come close to us, bringing peace and challenge unlocking our potential and setting us free. In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

SOME THOUGHTS

A harsh summer can turn a healthy rose bush to a shabby one that needs severe pruning. A process of dealing with thorns, yellowing leaves, intertwined branches and wasted flowers. As challenging as this process may be, it can be a personally purging process. Cutting back dead or dying branches which have no chance of rebirth. Removing mulch and waste matter from the crown of the bush to let light, space and air to the plant in the expectation of new growth. This is all part of the pruning process; now to watch the tiny leaves appear and unfurl from the small stems and the crown itself.

This experience can become an icon of what resurrection really means in our lives. For just as the disciples in despair had given up on Jesus, we can give up on a rose bush or any other bush that may be struggling. The fact is, resurrection does not depend on our realistic expectations. Or least of all our own efforts. Resurrection just happens.

Resurrection comes into our lives unbidden most of the time. Just as we have given up hope, New Life in the face of some kind of death. There is nothing we can do to create resurrection or make it happen. But there are faith practices that allow us to make room for resurrection to happen in our lives. The fact that we prune the old dead canes and leaves from the rose bush and sometimes heavily, it allows the sap to develop and travel through the plant. The energy needed for the plant to grow is enhanced by pruning.

We naturally dread the experience of grief. But among the important questions for the growth of faith are these.

What are we clinging to that is no longer alive for us? What do we need to purge from our spiritual habits in our prayer life or in our convoluted or destructive relationships? What needs to be clearly and finally mourned so we have room in our lives for resurrection?

In John's gospel Mary Magdalene was so shocked by Jesus that she did not recognise him. Barely into a day into her grief process of losing him she was unable to perceive the resurrection before her eyes.

When the crucifixion and dark days overwhelm our openness to Easter, perhaps we need to consider what we need to prune away to make room for resurrection to break in.

SELAH

BENEDICTION



The risen Christ says to us: 'Peace be with you, as the father sent me so I am sending you.'

THROUGH OUR FEAR OUR DOUBT AND CONFUSION
MAY WE CONTINUE JESUS' WORK AS WE TRAVEL
MANY ROADS
LIBERATED AND UNITED, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF
OUR RESURRECTED CHRIST
AMEN

Thank You for Flowers



A special thanks is extended to everyone who provided flowers for the Easter Day service last Sunday at Emmanuel Church. The flowers certainly enhanced the atmosphere of this special worship service. Once again, many thanks.

Interment of Ashes of Reverend Christine Page

On Sunday May 4, the Interment of the Ashes of the late Reverend. Christine Page will take place in the St. John's Church Memorial Garden, Beechworth Road, at 11am, following the Eucharist and Morning Tea. Everyone is most welcome to this brief service. Reverend Peter McKeague will welcome your support.

Coming Events

Wed April 30, 8:30am	Grounds and Maintenance
10:30am	Morning Tea and Fellowship
Fri May 2, 9:00am	Craft Group

Food Relief Assistance

Donated items of nonperishable food items such as pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, any type of soup or pasta sauce can be placed in the basket at the rear of the church on Sunday. The items are passed on to the Felltimber Community Centre on Wednesday. Cash donations can be left at the Felltimber Community Centre.

Emmanuel Roster

April 27

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris
Reader: Necia Searle
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Carolyn Renfrey
Usher: Carol Clutterbuck
Organist: Colin Harris

May 4

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader:
Prayers: Rod Clutterbuck
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Ted Stabb
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
0419 990 358
lfindlay03@bigpond.com

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 Saggars on 0427 761 044
Address:	PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
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

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



On September 18-22, the WCC delegation visited Armenia to meet with His Holiness Karekin II, the Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians.

Photo: Peter Prove/WCC

We are thankful for:

- the long history of Christianity in these lands
- Christians and Muslims who have witnessed to their faith during long years of repression and persecution
- positive developments these countries have undergone since the end of the Soviet era
- those who pursue peace and reconciliation in the face of old suspicions and animosities.

We pray for:

- greater respect for the human rights of all the peoples living in these countries
- just changes for those living in situations of poverty and discrimination
- the healing of past wrongs and distorted memories of what has occurred
- a prophetic witness of the churches in relation to new challenges
- the Georgian Orthodox Church, that it may rediscover a rich relationship with the family of churches worldwide.

THE RICH YOUNG MAN AND JESUS

By Bill Pugh

If there was such a publication as the Jerusalem Times, you could picture the wealthy young man eagerly following the investment page daily. Maybe buying or selling shares as the market changed.

He was pleased with his investments so far, and his good behaviour. But what about Jesus teaching about eternal life? Can I earn that too. I have

kept the commandments. What more need I do? Jesus gave him the answer. "If you wish to be perfect, go sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

How did he respond? When the young man heard this he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. For him, the cost of discipleship was too high.

Reflection:

It's a hard lesson. Keeping the commandments, going to church every Sunday, having fellowship, Bible study and supporting mission are Christian duties. But not adding up to a score to reach heaven? Eternal life is God's gift, the reward of grace, a free and undeserved gift. The important thing is the direction of our life each day as disciples. Any reward is ours by grace.

www.victas.ca.org.au/resources | Photo by freepik.com | April 2025