



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<http://www.woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

Sunday 5 April 2026



Resurrection: New Life for All!

Leaders: Janet Kay
Reader: Sally Phillips
Reflection: John Schmidt
Music: Brendan O'Loghlin

We Gather as People of God

The Gong is struck three times. We hold silence. We listen to the gong, calling us to gather, calling us to be present.

Prelude music

Proclamation

I greet you on this Easter Day.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the Good Friday service, all the ritual candles were extinguished. Today we light the candles again, proclaiming the transforming power of God. The light the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out.

As the light returns we give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now and will ever be at work in us.

Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities. Christ is alive and living among us!

We acknowledge there is still pain and suffering in the world, but we place our trust in God and in the way shown by Jesus.

In the face of what appear to us to be overwhelming odds, God is at work in us and in the world, working for justice and peace, compassion and hope, and life abundant.

Christ is risen; Christ is risen in us.
All the ritual candles and notably the Christ candle are now lit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Lighting the community candle

SONG TiS 394 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! (Brian Wren)
People stand as they are able, to sing

Welcome and Introduction

Easter Prayer

We believe that death is not the end,
but rather a transformation into new possibilities.

**Nothing that exists is ever completely destroyed.
A star exploding, or a leaf falling:
both offer new possibilities
and will live on in ways unknown to stars and leaves.**

We, too, experience new possibilities
arising from our failures, or disappointments,
or what has come to an end.

We give thanks for the influences in our lives
that have helped us see beyond the present
and have called us to live in hope and trust
whatever endings we have experienced.

**We give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth
for leading us to put our hope and trust
in the Spirit of Life and Love
moving in the depths of our being.**

**We give thanks
for the way he opened our minds and hearts
to see and appreciate the intimate and never-ending connection
between our loving
and the Spirit of Love.**

We give thanks for the Spirit of New Life
active in our lives
as it was in the life of Jesus. **Amen**

The Peace

Leader: May a heart of peace rest within you.

And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace of God with your neighbours, in whatever way is comfortable for you.

Song Morning Prayer ©2021 Paul Chalson

Thanks be to God, I have risen this day to the rising of this life itself May this day be one of blessing and hope of beginnings given, a fresh new start And as the mist clears away from the crest of the hills may every ill clear from my heart and soul	I offer God, every moment this day all I think and do all that I say God's blessing be on all things that I see all I hear, smell, touch all blessed be And as the rays of the sun light the hills, plains and sea so may the love of God shine on all I see
<i>And as the mist rolls away I lift to you, this morning prayer at the rising of this life itself</i>	<i>And as the mist rolls away I lift to you, this morning prayer at the rising of this life itself</i>

We Reflect on the Word for our Time

Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118 (as interpreted in TIS 74)

Matthew 28:1-10

Colossians 3:1-4

Prayer:

Reflection

Music for reflection

We Respond to the Word

SONG May the God of new beginnings

People stand as they are able, to sing

May the God of new beginnings
start with you and me,

May the God of continuing story
speak through you and me,

may the God of infinite wisdom
shine in you and me,

may the God of safe home-comings
welcome you and me. © John Murray

Offering Your offering will now be received.

Prayers of the People

The congregation response is: Lord hear our prayer.

Abba Prayer

Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us;

Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder.

Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us.

Let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity.

**May we find we have all we need
to meet each day without undue anxiety.
Overlook our many stupidities,
and help us to release everyone from their stupidities.**

**May we know we are accepted.
Strengthen us that we will reach out to the best,
always with the faith
to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.**

**And we celebrate the gifts you have given us:
the rich kingdom of life's possibilities,
the power to do good and the triumphs of good,
and the moments when we have seen
the glory and wonder of everything.**

**You are life's richness. You are life's power.
You are life's ultimate meaning.
Always. And for everyone.
And for evermore. Amen. (Francis MacNab)**

Song TiS 382 Now the green blade rises (*John Macleod Campbell Crum*)
People stand as they are able, to sing

Blessing

As we go out into the world, as God's called people,
in all of all its realities:

**We are the people who heal each other,
who grow strong together,
who name the truth,
who know what it means
to live in community,
moving towards a common dream
for a new heaven and a new earth
in the power of the love of God,
in the company of Jesus
and the leading of the Holy Spirit.** (*D McRae-McMahon*)

Candles are extinguished.

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church *Joys and concerns; Church notices; significant birthdays,
anniversaries & events*

Acknowledgements:

Songs from *Together in Song*, CCLI Licence 546647; Easter Prayer: Michael Morwood, *Praying a New Story* (Spectrum Publications, Richmond, 2003); prayer following the readings: Janet Morley, *All Desires Known* (SPCK, London, 1992); Song: God of new beginnings, from *Faith Forever Singing*.