**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***8.00am MORNING WORSHIP***

**COCU24A.EASTER SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2017**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Christ has risen.

**Waiting for us to take notice**.

Christ has risen.

**Waiting for us to respond**.

Christ has risen.

**Christ has risen indeed!**

**HYMN TIS 370** Christ the Lord is risen today

**READING Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Loving God, your presence is all around us:

the air in which we move and our every breath.

Nothing separates us from you.

Nothing we do or do not do; say or do not say believe or disbelieve. Nothing in the wide world separates us from you: not even deathliness. Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Amen**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Today we hear that deathliness is defeated

and a new world has begun. We do not know how to respond.

We do not know how to trust that new life is ours.

Therefore we confess that we have not risen into this new day

sure that we are renewed;

sure that each day is a new world opened to us through love.

We have not lived the great joy

of our forgiven and renewed hearts and minds.

We have not danced for joy in the morning nor sat speechless with gratitude in the evenings.

We have missed the earth-shaking, earth-sustaining, earth-renewing burst of love that comes to us in the story of resurrection.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

**WORD OF ASSURANCE**

Hear this: Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Loves conquers fear.

Day banishes night.

Laughter defies despair.

And all the earth sings for joy.

Christ is risen and we are free! **Thanks be to God.**

**BIBLE READING: Matthew 28: 1-10**

**REFLECTION**

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Prayers are shared with concluding words, “this is my prayer,

**this is our prayer”.**

**HYMN TIS 382** Now the green blade rises

*The offering is received.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, in the offering of our gifts and of our lives, we remember the love and hope that is ours to share. May these gifts be as new life to any in need. **Amen**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**

Through light and the word, through bread and wine, we recall Christ’s death and resurrection, we share Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and with invincible hope we renew our faith in Christ’s presence at this table and in our lives. Come, for all are welcome.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Let us lift up our hearts**.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**,

Thanks and praise to you awesome God who takes death and looks it square in the eye and says, ‘I’m not finished yet’

Wonderful God, so much praise is offered today. Thank you for this whole Easter experience, the life, the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

This morning, with the whole realm of nature around us,

with earth, sea, sky, and bush, with creatures great and small, with angels and archangels, with all the saints before us

with brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south, we sing the hymn of unending praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of truth and light,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, O God, who breaks open wide the tomb of our world, calls life out of death, and leads all creation into life eternal.

Blessed is your son, Jesus, who in life and death revealed your glory.

Breaking forth from the grave's stronghold, he pushed back the stone, meets us on the road of life, giving hope, life and peace.

He is everywhere present, gathering up all things in the surprise of new life and desire fulfilled.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who is known again in the breaking of bread; who, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

**"This is my body, which is for you.**

**Do this to remember me."**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.**

**Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."**

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we remember and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, here in this place, we celebrate the life that was born at Bethlehem, the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now.

Come now, Spirit of Jesus, brood over this bread and this wine and us. May they be for us your body and blood, Vibrant with life, healing, renewing and making us whole.

And burst forth in us with your life-giving power that we might recognize your presence in each and every person

who breaks bread and shares wine round this table.

Because you are one with us, O Christ, make us one with you as we pray the prayer you taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the Kingdom, the power and the glory**

**are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**The sharing of Holy Communion**

**Prayer after Communion**

God of Good Friday and God of Easter Sunday, as again we take on our lips the joyous and explosive greeting,

‘Christ is risen’ may we take into our hearts, the beautiful but challenging truth that our faith in you does not cut us off from the world, but immerses us in it.

**God of Good Friday, give us your peace,**

**God of Easter Sunday, go with us now.**

For Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Amen**

**HYMN** **TiS 390** Alleluia alleluia

**WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING**

You carry a great and wonderful secret, one that shapes your life and the essence of who you are. You are a people who know that deathliness is not an end. There is yet more life.

May God surround you with everlasting love.

May Christ Jesus raise new life in you.

And may the Holy Spirit anoint you with power to do good.

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you**.

The sign of the peace is exchanged.

Everyone is welcome to stay for a light continental breakfast in the Lounge following this service.