

SONG SMS 13 Christ is risen while earth slumbers

Words: Iona Community
Music: "Byrnes" - Norman Inglis 2018

Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has ris - en when hope had died,
As he said and as he prom - ised, as we doubt - ed and de - nied.
Let the moon emb - race the bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer;
let the world con - firm the rum - our: Christ is ris - en, God is here.

SENDING OUT

On that first Easter evening Christ spoke - "Peace be with you."
On the next Sunday evening,
with Thomas present also, Christ spoke - "Peace be with you."
Words for those Sundays and words for today - "Peace be with you."
And may God bless you with life forever. May Christ Jesus breathe his
Spirit and peace into you. And may the Holy Spirit lead you into the life
and light of God.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE (in a COVID safe way!)

*Please join the community in the Pilgrim Centre for refreshments
and conversation after the Service.*

Acknowledgements.....

This service was prepared by Rev Sandy Boyce.

*Thanks to those who led the liturgy and brought us the Bible readings
and those who shared in the witness. Thanks to Peter Russell on the A-V
desk and Greg Bassani for the live-streaming.*

*And gratitude for Emma Thompson's beautiful reading of the poem
Musicians.....*

Video credits: <https://youtu.be/LGFIBNWsIx0>

*[https://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/24/us/florida-shaq-police-officers-game/
index.html](https://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/24/us/florida-shaq-police-officers-game/index.html)*

Church where we are by Geoff Boyce

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping
the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.**



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am
Community Worship

Sunday, 11th April 2021

Easter 2
COCU32B

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to
sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.*

**This Service is being live-streamed. The Service will also be available for
viewing on YouTube at 'Pilgrim Uniting Church Adelaide' for two months.**

The challenge and the promise of Easter is how to help a community of fearful dismay
realise they are a community of the resurrection. That is why Easter is both an event
and a season in the church - it takes time to come to terms with the enormity of the
event and what it means, then and now. This second Sunday of Easter is therefore an
opportunity to let the events of the previous weekend sink in a little deeper.
The scripture passages lend themselves to that - celebrating unity of purpose,
care for one another and acknowledgement of our need of God's peace and forgiveness
in the midst of distress and brokenness.
(Source, Church of Scotland)

Living as an Easter Community

LIGHTING THE EASTER CANDLE

Fear was present but subsided -
Doubt was present but subsided -
So, fearless and sure of Christ's risen presence,
we draw near to God in worship:
For Christ is Risen!

Christ candle is lit

We light our community candles as a celebration
of the light of the risen Christ among us,
and as a reminder of the call for us to be a community
in which, and through which,
the light of God's grace and justice shines.
For Christ is among us!

The community candles are lit

SONG TIS 474 Here in this place

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Gospel Reading John 20: 19-29

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, [in fear of the authorities they had] locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing Jesus with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as God sent me, I send you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 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."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You come to us, even through our closed doors,
through our private and personal locked hearts,
through our public and systemic barriers,
through our ecclesial and spiritual defences,
and you say, "Peace be with you."
You come to us, despite our fears, our prejudices, our grief, our losses,
and you say, "Peace be with you."
You come to us, in spite of our doubts, our demands, our questions, our
cynicism, and you say, "Peace be with you."
We acknowledge our indifference to resurrection
our resistance to its possibilities
our familiarity with the story that dulls our imagination;
those times we fail as a church to keep Jesus alive and highly visible,
not recognising him in all those who knock on our door
and stand in the doorway shouting to us.
those times we neglect to proclaim the kin-dom of God-in-community,
through our preoccupations and weariness and wariness;
those times we are closed to new possibilities,
live pessimistically, and give in to despair,
those times we fail to forgive and to love. *A time for silence*

Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives.
We pray that they may help to bring the
Good News of Jesus Christ to our world,
today and always, here and everywhere. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Behind closed doors... afraid. That was how your disciples found themselves that first Easter evening. Risen Lord, you appeared and said, "Peace be with you."

In the world today so many places lack peace - those places where lockdowns are in place,
people indoors struggling with relationships, a lack of space and freedom applying added pressures.

Those wrestling with emotions because they have not been able to be beside some of their loved ones as they would have liked at significant moments - from birthdays to serious illnesses to weddings and funerals. Those patients, residents and staff, in hospitals and care homes in so many places around the world where staff are stretched, where resources are scarce, where illness either threatens or dominates.

Those suffering the pain of bereavement.

Those living in places of turmoil where wars still rage.

Those people and situations uppermost in our minds which we lift up to you now in this silence...

A silence is kept

So many places lack peace. Breathe on these situations. May your peace offer some respite in the midst of today's concerns and may it point to better days to come. As well as peace you gave the Holy Spirit - God present with us in all we do. May we be guided by that Spirit, to offer help and convey peace wherever that is possible.

Hear our prayers, through the Risen One, Jesus Christ.
God, heart of the world.

Revealed through every aspect of creation,
understood through our awareness.

**May we honour
the holiness of creation and act accordingly
so that your love is reflected
in the way we live.**

May we always be thankful for the food we eat
and the friends we have.

May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our own transgressions.

**In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat
and not be compromised by hesitation.**

Through our freedom,
may your justice be seen and heard
and experienced forever and ever. **Amen.**

(Sherri J. Weinberg)

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

WITNESS

"Kindness" by Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand, what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.
Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.
Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for, and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

(From Words Under the Words: Selected Poems. Copyright © 1995 by Naomi Shihab Nye, and read by Emma Thompson)

A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

SONG: We are the church where we are Geoff Boyce

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you have given each of us gifts to use
as members of the body of Christ.

In a moment of wise counsel or the presence of deep listening,
in the passion of environmental activists or anti-racism heroes,
in the caring of front-line workers or shelter staff,
in the breathing of fresh spring air or the winding of a river,
in the colours from an artist or the magic lines from a poet,
you come to us and say, "Do not doubt but believe."
In the needs of a weary world,
in the battles for dignity and respect,
in the work for economic change and social justice,
in the call for compassion and heart,
in the cry for prophetic witness and faith-filled love,
you come to us and say, "I was sent, now I send you."
You come to us and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

We give thanks for the signs among us
of renewed and transformative life.
For the faithful witness of many generations who,
against all odds, kept alive Jesus' vision of radical love
and authentic humanity.
We give thanks for the many public initiatives of compassion,
goodwill and intelligent concern that,
even when named otherwise,
proclaim Jesus' vision of abundant life for all:

We give thanks.

For the ordinary, personal acts of grace and kindness
that tell us that we are loved and connected,
and that restore our energy and hope:

We give thanks.

Let us commit ourselves once again to live as a resurrection community;
to let Jesus be seen through lives of openness, inclusivity and generous
service.

To see Jesus in those for whom he showed special care;
the alienated, the troubled, the vulnerable 'little ones'.
To go on choosing life over deathliness.

May it be so. Amen.

(April 2021, Diaconal Minister Ted Dodd, United Church of Canada, adapted)

SONG AND 29 Friends

The Easter celebration continues with the familiar upper room appearances from John's Gospel. But, this year the supporting texts highlight a feature of the resurrection that can easily be missed - the way Christ's resurrection brings us into a unified, loving community in which we share joy and abundant life together. *(Source: John van de Laar, Sacredise)*

Let us hear from our spiritual ancestors writing to the early church. The early disciples of Christ witnessed to the resurrection through their generosity and care for one another, ensuring that no one among them had any need.