



### Gathering with God

Christ is risen!

A new day has dawned. Death is conquered and the whole creation is renewed!

Light the candle)

This candle is lit proclaiming that the One who died on the cross lives!

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out (John 1:5)*

The presence of the risen Christ, the light of the world is in our midst.

We come to God in trembling faith, remembering that we are the church, Christ's living body, despite not being physically present with one another.

God is present with us and through us, to one another.

### Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Let the whole creation say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing now, heaven, and earth reply, Alleluia!  
  
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
vain the stone, the watch, the seal: Alleluia!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!  
  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

### Prayers of Praise and Confession

With the first gold of dawn after the long dark night,  
you come bringing new life to us as we breathe deeply of your love.  
A new hope grows with the rising sun and we sing with joy:  
Alleluia! We adore you, risen Lord Jesus!  
As brothers and sisters gathered for worship  
yet spread across the city  
we acclaim with one voice  
We adore you, risen Lord Jesus!



Yet we confess that in this time of isolation and sadness when our lives feel that they are on hold, we are sometimes afraid to dream and find our dreams deferred. Break us open like the tomb so that the hope we celebrate today may pour forth. Give us the faith to believe when we are discouraged, the eyes to see new possibilities when we are gloomy and the imagination to dream anew. Give us trust as this new day unfolds to shine as people of your resurrection. Amen.\*\*

## **And we are forgiven ...**

Christ has risen from the grave to bring us out of the shadow of death, to free us from all fear, to liberate our souls into newness of life. This is good news indeed. **Thanks be to God.\*\***

## **Bible reading**

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

Read in English by Pam Neale-Justins and Tongan by Kaleki Katoa



## **Reflection**

## **Prayer of Intercession**

*God of life, we are reminded that your time is not our time.*

As we are in the midst of a difficult season,  
today we give thanks that resurrection is at hand.

In a time when we are called to stay indoors,  
our hearts are full of the news that Christ is risen.

As this day dawns we carry the sadness of uncertainty,  
wondering when it will be over, and restrictions will be lifted.

We remember how the women discovered the stone was rolled away.

We remember those who gathered at the tomb, their trembling and fear,  
their wonder and amazement.

We remember their witness in the face of the unknown.

We bring to mind people who are especially in need of hope this day  
People whom we know and people whose names are unknown to us -  
especially those who are sick and grieving, and those who nurse and tend to them  
Those who are far from home and those who are isolated in their home  
Those who are depressed or abused and for whom staying at home is dangerous  
and those refugees and homeless seeking a home that is safe.

Those with heavy responsibilities and feeling the weight and weariness of it  
and those who feel forgotten and longing to be noticed.

Those who yearn for God looking for salvation in all the wrong places

*Be bold in us, O God, to proclaim the resurrection now.*

*Be bold in us, O God, to live out our faith by doing our part to care for our neighbours and loved ones.*

*Be bold in us, O God, to trust in a future with hope that is beyond what we can perceive right now.*

*Be bold in us, O God, to proclaim that Christ is risen and that the season of new life and hope has begun.*

*Amen.\*\*\**

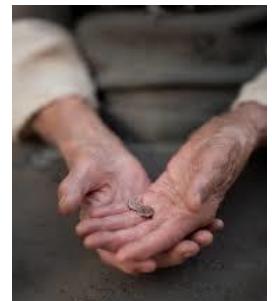
## Offering

I invite you to hold your offering in your cupped hands as we dedicate it and ourselves giving thanks for God for all the blessings of this day.

Let's pray:

The gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by the grace of God. May these gifts serve as a token of our love and gratefulness. May they be used to further God's justice and love in the world. May we live in new life and share that life with others Amen. \*\*

Offerings can be transferred electronically to  
**Blacktown Uniting Church**  
**BSB: 634 634**  
**Account No.: 100023472**  
or deposited directly to this account at any Westpac branch.



## Song

### Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Lord I lift your name on high  
Lord I love to sing your praises  
I'm so glad you are in my life  
I'm so glad you came to save us

*You came from heaven to earth,  
to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift your name on high*

Rick Founds

1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing  
CCLI# 103607

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Invitation

This is the Day of Resurrection!  
The Day of Celebration is here!  
We gather at the table here in the church and  
in our homes to witness this Banquet of Life!



### Thanksgiving

Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed!**

Let us give thanks!

**Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!**

Gracious God, we raise voices and shout alleluias, we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb, we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death.

As inheritors of that hope we join together in the cries that welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Remembering**

We remember that Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation.

And while sharing the ancient story of freedom, he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.

We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

Then later he took the cup, blessed it and passed it among them saying:

This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it remember me, and look toward the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

And so, we break the bread and we take the cup - and we remember with hope.

On this Easter Day we witness this Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

### **Transforming**

God of Life, in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the water, calling forth life, creating and inspiring.

Send forth Your Spirit now upon us and upon this bread and cup shared here.

May we experience the power of new life pulsating in our veins, the fire of hope blazing in our hearts, and the joy of that first Easter Day dancing in our souls.

**For Christ who died is now alive!**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

We pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking and Sharing**

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

*Ko e mā 'oku tau pakipakí, ko 'etau ma'u 'inasi ia 'i he sino 'o Kalaisí.*

On this day of celebration we lift the Cup of Promise.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

*Ko e ipu 'oku tau talí, ko 'etau ma'u 'inasi ia 'i he ta'ata'a 'o Kalaisí.*

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

*Ko e mea ofa ae Otua, ki he kakai ae o Otua*

As minister and leaders share the bread. the people are invited to share bread in their homes and then the same to serve each other a cup with juice or water and drink it. This is an open table and everyone from the oldest to the youngest family member are invited to partake.

## **Closing**

The bread has been broken and the cup has been raised.

In doing so, we proclaim the beginning of the new age where the light overcomes the darkness, where love overcomes hate and where life vanquishes death.

Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together in a different way on this Day of Resurrection, will live as people of hope, a people of life, a people of the Kingdom.

May the meal we have witnessed today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we live the Good News.

Christ is Risen!

Alleluia and Amen!



## **Song**

### **We Shall Go Out**

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be  
healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
including all in circles of our love.

## Blessing / Benediction

May the loving power of God,  
which raised Jesus to new life,  
strengthen you in hope,  
enrich you with his love,  
and fill you with joy in the faith.

The grace of the risen Lord Jesus Christ  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.  
Amen.

*Ko e Kelesi 'a e Eiki ko Sisu Kalaisi, mo e 'ofa 'a e 'Otua, mo e feohi 'o e Laumalie Ma'oni'oni, ke 'iate kitautolu kotoa pe ia, 'o ta'engata.  
'Emeni.*

### Resources:

\* adapted from Easter Day Holy Communion, United Church of Canada

\*\* Penelope Stokes, Before the Amen, ed. Maren Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland pp.79-80

\*\*\*adapted from rev-o-lution.org/2020/04/03/worship-resources-for-april-12th-2020-easter-Sunday