

### Welcome

Welcome to Blacktown Uniting Church Sunday Worship with a Difference on this Sunday, the first day of a new week. My name is Laurel Barr the minister of this congregation.

How was your Easter weekend? It was certainly different as most of us stayed in our homes. I hope you are staying well and settled in a comfortable place:

Blacktown Uniting Church has many lay people who assist with worship and today I am delighted that Wendy de Vroom will lead our worship. She is with her son Peter de Vroom and myself.

### Gathering with God

As you light a candle say

This candle is lit to remind us today of the presence of Jesus Christ, the light of the world – the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

We come to God, remembering we are the church, the Body of Christ, gathered together in faith, despite not being physically present with one another.

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

#### Preparing for worship

Find a comfortable space, e.g. around a table or living room, grab your Bible and offering and prepare for worship. You can either work through the service on this sheet or follow along with our online video at <https://youtu.be/dhfDPEcr5XI>

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

One God, yet three Persons, we praise you.

Everlasting Father, Risen Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit,

We come to you the Triune God, enthroned in our lives, presiding over the universe.

We humbly asks for you to strengthen us where we are weak,

Beginning with our worship.

We praise you, because you are the creator, sustainer and ruler of our world,

You humbly left your throne and became a man to save us from the consequences of our sinfulness.

And restore us to relationship with you.

Immanuel, God with us, you comfort us and light the way for us in the dark.

We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, through the cross of Christ we have been reconciled to you.

We wait with hope in your future glory.

We thank you as we are instructed in your Word and sanctified by your hand.

Give us understanding and a pure heart to embrace the truth that we might

Rejoice even in our trials, knowing that suffering produces Christlike character.

We are not only reconciled to you through Christ's sufferings,

But commissioned to be ministers of reconciliation,

May we be fearless and faithful ambassadors proclaiming the good news.

Recognising that we are fallen creatures, without merit of our own, and having nothing of which to boast, we are thankful for everything you have given us.

Father we are sorry for the times that we doubt your goodness and allow anxiety to undermine our patience and kindness to others.

Forgive us for putting our trust in man made things and not bringing all our cares to you, help us to remember that even when a sparrow falls to the ground you are aware of it, and how much more precious are we to you than the sparrows.

Strengthen our faith, seal our wills to obedience, and empower our lives to glorify you.

In the name of Christ we pray

## **Words of Assurance**

Jesus comes to us in all our weakness and failures.

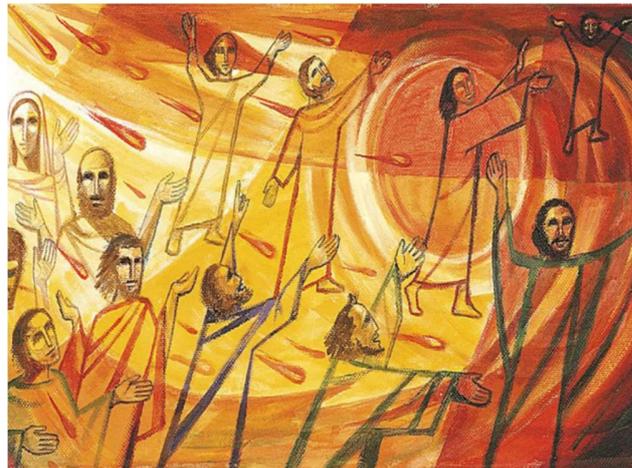
This God is never defeated by who we are.

Receive the Christ with joy.

Receive the grace that is offered with humble thanks

We are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Song

### Mighty To Save

Everyone needs compassion,  
Love that's never failing;  
Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a Savior;  
The Hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains,  
My God is Mighty to save,  
He is Mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me,  
All my fears and failures,  
Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow  
Everything I believe in,  
Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains,  
My God is Mighty to save,  
He is Mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light and let the whole world see,  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King...Jesus  
(x2)

Savior, He can move the mountains,  
My God is Mighty to save,  
He is Mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation,  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.

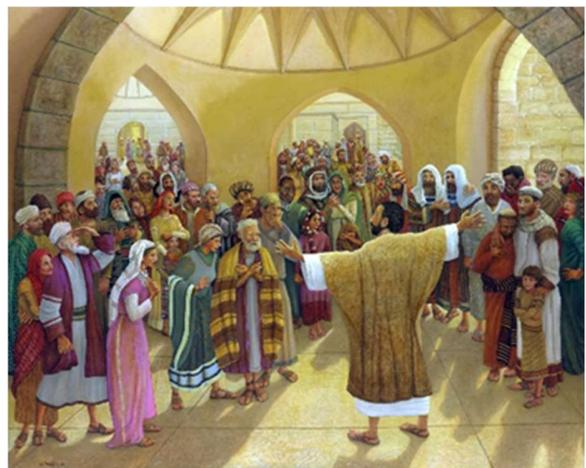
Hillsong Publishing. 2006 CCLI#

## Hearing God's Word

### Reading from John 20:19-21 and Acts 2:1-4, 22-33

### Reflection

A copy of the message is attached separately.



## Prayers of the People

We continue to remember people around the world and in our community affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

doctors and nurses and aides, technicians and cleaners,

researchers and epidemiologists

those who are sick and those who are grieving,

those who are isolated at home or in Aged Care facilities

those who are balancing work and care of children

those who are anxious and uncertain

those who have lost their jobs and struggling to pay rent and keep food on the table.

We pray for safety, health and wholeness.

We also remember our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga where Tropical Cyclone Harold caused great destruction. These island countries were already reeling following the loss of tourism. In Vanuatu in particular many people are homeless and food is running out. We pray for supplies and aid to reach those who most need it and for their recovery.

O Lord our God, Giver of Life,

we bring our prayers for those in special need ..... yet we are confident in your promises:

in the midst of all kinds of suffering, we celebrate the promise of healing and peace;

in the midst of doubt and despair, we celebrate the promise of faith and hope;

In the midst of fear, we celebrate the promise of joy;

In the midst of sin and decay, we celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal;

in the midst of storms and destruction, we celebrate the promise of deliverance;

in the midst of isolation, we celebrate the promise of a new community;

in the midst of climate change, we celebrate the promise of new earth;

in the midst of death, we celebrate the promise of eternal life. Amen.



You may like to pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.

## Offering

Please take your weekly offering or a symbol of your offering in your cupped hands as we dedicate it and ourselves, giving thanks for all God's blessings and mercy.

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives,  
in places we often fail to recognise as blessing.  
Help us to have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of  
your love and blessing.  
Today with gratitude in our hearts  
we give out of that blessedness,  
dedicating ourselves to lives of mercy,  
giving all that we are and all that we have  
to bring about your beloved community  
here and now. 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

### In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.  
In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ  
No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

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## **Today**

Be assured that all things are in God's powerful hand and his sovereign control.

Rejoice in the good news and peace that we have because of Jesus' death and resurrection for us.

And embrace the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

## **Blessing**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you

the love of God surround you

and the Spirit of God sustain you.

The blessing of God be upon you today and always. Amen

