

Ormond Uniting Church



Easter 5
Jesus comforts his troubled disciples

May 3rd, 2026

Minister: Rev Ann Simons
Music: Dr Karen Roberts

The Gathering of the People

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship

(1 Peter 2:2-10)

Into this place of stone or wood, steel or concrete,
we come seeking refuge from a
battering, buffeting world.

These walls are not the refuge we seek:

**We come to Christ,
a living stone, our rock and our redeemer.**

Into this fellowship we are built
like living stones, a spiritual house.

**We come together in faith,
for now we are God's people,
eager to proclaim the mercy
we have received. Amen.**

Acknowledging country

Hymn: God's graceful moment

1. Morning opens wide before us
like a door into the light.
just beyond, the day lies waiting
ready to throw off the night,
and we stand upon it's threshold
poised to turn and take its flight.

2. Now the earth in all its glory
springs to meet the rising sun,
warms to all who walk upon it
cradling all that will be done.
All our labour, all our loving
mingle and became as one.

3. We receive God's graceful moment
while the day is fresh and still,
ours to choose how we will greet it,
ours to make it what we will.

Here is perfect freedom,
every hope in love to fulfil.

4. As we take the first step together,
passing through the door of the day
may the love of Christ the Creator
give us peace in all that we say,
heart for all that lies before us,
grace to guide us on our way.

Words: Kathy Galloway

Music: PICARDY, French traditional

Opening Prayers and Poem

Loving God,
our times are in your hand.
Make your presence known to us
in this time and place,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit
to renew our courage, deepen our conviction,
and widen our compassion.
**Into your hand we commit our spirit for
you have redeemed us, faithful God. Amen.**

Busting Out

(John 11:17-27, Mark 16:1-8, Matt 28:1-8, Luke 24: 1-12)

O Holy One, who gives life to the dead
and calls forth formless potential into fullness of being,
we feel your tug to realise a resurrection.

Bust open the cold tomb of made-up minds,
massage our hardened hearts into subtle softness,
grant us the mind of Christ, and courage of the Spirit,
to become the people we were meant to be.

Show us where we have erected walls of fear and convinced ourselves that they are not only necessary, but sacred. Show us what we are pretending not to know on this sacred path of becoming.

We commit to revealing and realising your kin-dom, in our homes and houses of parliament in our boardrooms and business deals, in our policy making and in our peacemaking, all in the name of the ever-rising Christ. Amen

(Bruce Sanguin: If Darwin Prayed, *Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics*)

The Service of the Word

Hymn: Thou art the way (TiS 226)

Let us Listen for the Word of God

Gospel Reading John 14: 1-14 (NRSV)

Jesus the Way to the Father

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The

words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

God speaks to us through the Scriptures **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: Jesus comforts his troubled disciples

A time of Silence

Offering

Announcements

Prayers of the people (Heather)

Father, today we pray for the mission activities that our congregation is developing with your guidance.

Merciful God give us courage to do what is right.

We pray for the Little Free Pantry users: the givers and those who take. We give thanks for those who give their time to cleaning and stocking the Little Free Pantry. May the givers give generously with hearts that are light, and may those suffering from food insecurity find sufficient for their needs

Merciful God give us courage to do what is right.

We pray for the Community Lunch program which is held here this Thursday in conjunction with the Glen Eira City Council. May the clients leave after the event with full tummies and a smile on their faces as they remember what it feels like to be connected to the community. We give thanks for those willing to staff the kitchen and set up the space.

Merciful God give us courage to do what is right.

We pray for the Little Free Coffee and Tea Stop. May the congregational members and those who drop in for a coffee find a place to relax and chat. Strengthen the relationships which are developing each Saturday morning. Encourage us to continue becoming the friendly group who are ready to share your love.

Merciful God give us courage to do what is right.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Hymn: The hand of heaven

1. We, who live by sound and symbol,
we who learn from sight and word,
find these married in the person
of the one we call our Lord.
Taking bread to be his body,
taking wine to be his blood,
he let thought take flesh in action,
he let faith take root in food.

2. Not just once with special people
not just hidden deep in time,
but, wherever Christ is followed,
earthly fare becomes sublime.
Though to sound this seems a mystery,
though to sense it seems absurd,
yet if faith, which seems like folly,
we meet Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. God our Maker, send your Spirit
to pervade the bread we break
let it bring the life we long for
and the love which we forsake.
Bind us close to each other,
both forgiving and forgiven;

Give us grace in this and all things
to discern the hand of heaven.

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Music: ABBOTT'S LEIGH, Cyril, Vincent Taylor

Service of Holy Communion

Greeting of Peace

The peace of the living Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Consecration

The Risen One is here,

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the God of grace.

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

Your table is set and your welcome is warm,
for your love knows no bounds.

From your communing life, you long for us,

That we may be one with you,

That we may treat each other well

And live justly and in peace.

In Christ Jesus, you came to us

And gave yourself for us, that we may learn

That nothing can separate us from your love:

Neither trials nor distress,

Neither sickness nor fear,

Neither hatred nor death.

Therefore, with the whole creation

and all the company of heaven

We praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy,
God whose power is love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

For even on the night he was betrayed, Jesus ministered to his disciples -

- to Judas who would betray him, Peter who would deny him and to all he would leave, bewildered and sorrowing.

He took bread, and giving you thanks
He broke it and gave it to them saying
“Take eat, this is my body given for you.”

After supper he took the cup, and again giving thanks
he gave it to his disciples saying, ‘drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant’.

He bid them remember this night and so to live by the kindly gifts of God, that all may be one.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, That we may know Christ’s presence, real and true, and be his faithful followers, bearing your love for our world. Amen (*Heather Thompson, Benedictus Contemplative Church*)

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven.....

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread we break

Is a sharing in the body of Christ

The cup we take Is a sharing in the blood of Christ

The gifts of God for the people of God

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray together:

We thank you God, that through word and sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread of heaven and food of eternal life.

So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

HYMN TIS 392

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: In the name of Christ.

Amen

POSTLUDE

Music and Words reproduced with permission under CCLI licenses

Presider: Rev Ann Simons

Music: Dr Karen Roberts

Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-1.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Phone: 0411 958 127

office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Website: www.ormondunitingchurch.org

This icon depicts the risen Christ raising Adam and Eve, who represent the human race. At the same time, Christ is trampling on the gates of hell, and breaking the power of evil, portrayed here as a strong man who is bound. David and Solomon, a father and son combination, look on, giving Christ the status of royalty, while John the Baptist blesses the lamb of God. The wounds of Christ's hands and feet indicate that it is the crucified one that is raised, the lamb not an imperial figure.

In this icon, the placement of the cross has a special significance. Firstly, it is positioned between Adam and Christ, indicating that the way to life is through the cross. Secondly, the foot of the cross is firmly on the neck of the evil one, indicating the power by which evil is contained. Note how the hand of the evil one grabs the foot of Adam, and is unwilling to let him go. The experience of receiving new life through Christ does not make us immune from sin. The hand of Christ grasps Adam's limp wrist. The gift of life is an act of grace. It is not gained by Adam's achievement. The background at the base is dark and deathly, but above it is golden, incorruptible, eternal and blazing with light.

The icon has been written from a photo of the mosaic in the 11th century monastery of Daphni in Athens which I took with permission. There are many variations of the Resurrection icon. This one was developed in the 9th century. In the monastery church, the crucifixion stands on the left of the altar and the resurrection on the right. In this scheme, the altar can be understood as the tomb. The breaking of the bread at the Eucharist corresponds to the opening of the tomb, and the body of Christ emerges to become alive in the people of the congregation as they consume the elements.

The Colour of Prayer: Contemplating Christian Icons. Rev Dr Rob Gallacher.

NEWS & NOTICES