

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



16 APRIL 2023

EASTER 2



# WORSHIP AT HOME

*This time is an opportunity to be still, seeking to be aware of the presence of God within.*

*Carve out a time for this practice; prepare yourself, as you might for a usual Sunday morning and remember that there are others from the congregation gathering at the same time as you. There are also many from the church around the globe who are gathering to seek the presence of God as we are.*

*Prepare a space in the house; find a comfortable chair, light a candle, turn off distracting noises and close the door if that will help you to be still. This is something that does not need to be hurried.*

## Welcome and Call to Worship

You show us the path of life.

**In your presence is fullness of joy,  
In your right hand are pleasures forever.  
This day we celebrate new life.**

**We celebrate light out of darkness.**

We rejoice in the presence of the Risen One.

**We delight in the transformation of the world.**

## HYMN TIS 367, The strife is past...

### Prayer of Confession

We do not believe what we have heard.

**We are slow to believe what we have seen.**

We forget easily what we have been told.

**We turn aside from what we know.**

You called us to dance,

**But we did not.**

You gave music to our souls,

**And we did not listen.**

Even now we doubt and are uncertain.

**Even now we falter and are distracted.**

Call us again to yourself. Grant us forgiveness.

For our lack of response by the transformation  
of our lives.

Grant us your peace.

# Declaration of Forgiveness

I declare to you that forgiveness we seek. It is God's will that we remain loved children.

In the name of the One who rose again.

**Amen.**

## HYMN: Life Abundant (sung to Beethoven's Ode to Joy)

Come O life and flow like water  
Giving birth to all that is  
Come O water spring of living  
New formations ever give  
Come O life, alive with laughter  
Gifting life to all things new  
Come O water, life releasing  
Acting to restore, renew.

Let us know the gift of living  
Spreading wide across the earth  
Let us feel our life up-springing  
Growing into priceless worth  
Seize the power of green and growing  
See the power of wind and storm  
Tell again of God's deep moving:  
All things living, all things born

Celebrate this life abundant  
Celebrate this life complete  
See in all its many facets  
The light, the joy, the love it keeps.  
Come O life, alive with laughter  
Gifting life to all things new  
Come O water, life releasing  
Acting to restore, renew.

# Scripture

## Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

<sup>3</sup>As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup>I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.”

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>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.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## HYMN: TIS 681, Lord let me see...

## Reflection: God-Consciousness

How did God-consciousness come to you  
Suddenly, as a lightning bolt illuminating  
A dark and threatening sky  
Gradually as a realisation that love  
Had grown, a small seed into a spreading tree  
Or from mother's milk, always there  
Deeply indwelling, invisible friend  
A sense of presence growing brighter

And did that realisation evoke in you  
A life, larger, richer, more satisfying  
Filled with a yeasting delight in itself  
A sense of more, expanding into newness  
Where beauty and joy and possibility  
Broke out into a glorious technicolour  
Of awareness of otherness everywhere  
Was that how God-consciousness came to you

And did it change the world for you  
Not just its physicality, but the hidden energies  
Moving deeply in all things as sap  
Flowing into branch and twig to Spring  
Bursting forth in wonder and delight  
Where what is the personal you  
Named itself afresh and on the way  
Was that what God-consciousness gave to you

And did you become freer, more gentle  
At ease with silence, at rest in stillness  
Able to reach out to others  
Without shame, or doubt, or fear  
Discovering a deep current of purpose  
At work in all you did and contemplated  
Finding yourself at home in life's deepest meaning  
Was that what God-consciousness gave to you

## HYMN: TIS 380 Yours be the glory...

# Prayers of the People (prepared by Marg Davis)

On this first Sunday after Easter Day, we bring our prayers for all people near and far – for Christians, non-Christians, believers and non-believers.

## Let us Pray

### **Jesus, wounded and risen**

We pray for your people in places of war and unrest

in places of ecological disaster

in places of famine and disease

We pray for people of all beliefs, that their faith will sustain them and lead them into care and kindness for the sake of the world you love

**Wounded One**, we pray for all who are hurting.

For people in pain - of body, mind or spirit.

For those who suffer for their faith, and those who struggle to find meaning.

**Creator of Life**, we pray for our planet, groaning under greed, struggling to breathe, abused by misused power.

**Spirit of Truth**, we pray for our leaders:

For leaders of faith in all places of worship, for leaders of nations and states and communities, for leaders of thought and new ways of living, for leaders of our young ones bringing hope for the future.

**Holy Father** we pray for ourselves and each other:

For the people sitting near to us,

for the ones who are far from us

and for those we hold in our hearts.

**God of Grace and Peace**

Thank you for always being with us and for your prayer, which we pray together:

Fig Tree – East Gippsland and Let Us Pray – Janet Nelson

## Lord's Prayer

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

HYMN: TIS 391 Come, God's people, sing for joy...

## Benediction

And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

**Amen.**

## Postlude

*You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.*

*Music and Words reproduced with permission under CCLI licenses*

Presider: Rev Dr Denham Grierson

Music: Peter Hurley

Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-1.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Phone: 0411 958 127

[office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au)

Website: [www.ormondunitingchurch.org](http://www.ormondunitingchurch.org)

NEWS & NOTICES



