

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



EASTER DAY 2021



*The Risen Christ – He Qi*

*Congregational responses are printed in bold type*

**HYMN: TIS 375** – unannounced

Come, let us with our Lord arise,  
our Lord, who made both earth and skies;  
who died to save the world he made,  
and rose triumphant from the dead;  
he rose, the prince of life and peace,  
and stamped the day for ever his.

This is the day the Lord has made,  
that all may see his love displayed,  
may feel his resurrection's power,  
and rise again to fall no more,  
in perfect righteousness renewed,  
and filled with all the life of God.

Then let us render him his own,  
with solemn prayer approach the throne,  
with meekness hear the gospel word,  
with thanks his dying love record;  
our joyful hearts and voices raise,  
and fill his courts with songs of praise.

Charles  
Wesley  
1707-88 alt.

## **WELCOME**

We gather on this day – the high point of our church year to mark the mystery of new life which comes to us through death, gifted to us in Jesus. He has ushered in a new creation where all those things which crush life are redeemed through the cross and we are invited to live as resurrection people.

This the gift of God to us and to all people and so this day we celebrate with joy.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen;  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness  
before the chorus of the dawn.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen;  
**He is risen indeed.**

Risen with glory and grace in reserve,  
and authority beyond measure.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen;  
**He is risen indeed.**

Risen to prove that violence is no solution;  
to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen;  
**He is risen indeed.**

For God has taken into his own flesh  
the sin of the world.  
The last laugh is God's laugh;  
God has the last laugh:

**For freedom comes beyond the cross,  
for peace comes beyond the violence,  
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal.  
For life comes beyond the crushing of life.**

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.  
And God has made laughter for us.  
Alleluia, Christ is risen;  
**He is risen indeed.**

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## Lighting of the Easter Candle

Eternal God,  
through the rising of your son from death,  
you broke the power of the grave  
to shape our lives;  
you broke the power of death  
and condemned death itself to die.  
As we celebrate your triumph  
may we also make it the pattern for our living.

*The Easter candle is lit*

**Shine the light of Christ on us;  
resurrect in our lives  
faith, hope and love  
as surely as you raised Jesus Christ  
from death.  
Amen.**

**HYMN: TIS 255** (*sung to 637 – Iste confessor*)

O Laughing Light, O first-born of creation,  
radiance of glory, light from light begotten,  
God self-revealing, holy, bright and blessed,  
you shine upon us.

Day's light is fragile, your light is eternal.  
We look to you, our light within the shadow.  
We sing to you, Creator, Christ and Spirit;  
you shine before us.

Light of the world, O Jesus, you are worthy!  
Giver of life and Child of God we praise you.  
Hear as the universe now proclaims your glory!  
You shine among us.

Sylvia G. Dustan 1955-93  
based on *Phos hilaron*

## PRAYERS OF GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Lord God, early in the morning,  
when the world was young,  
you made life in all its beauty and terror;  
you gave birth to all that we know.  
Hallowed be your name,  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
when the world least expected it,  
a newborn child crying in a cradle  
announced that you had come among us,  
that you were one of us.  
Hallowed be your name,  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
surrounded by respectable liars,  
religious leaders,  
anxious statesmen and silent friends,  
you accepted the penalty for doing good,  
for bearing so fully the image of God:  
you shouldered and suffered the cross.  
Hallowed be your name,  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
a voice in a guarded graveyard  
and footsteps in the dew  
found that you had risen,  
that you had returned to those  
and for those who had forgotten,  
denied and destroyed you.  
Hallowed be your name,  
**Hallowed be your name**

On this morning,  
in the multi-coloured company  
of your Church on earth and in heaven,

we celebrate  
your creation, your life, your death and resurrection,  
your interest in us;  
so we pray,

**Lord, bring new life,  
where we are worn and tired; new love,  
where we have turned hard-hearted;  
forgiveness, where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;  
and the joy and freedom of your holy spirit,  
where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

To all and to each,  
on his community and on his friends,  
where regret is real,  
Jesus pronounces his pardon  
and grants us the freedom to begin again.  
**Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet;  
**A light to our path**

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalms 118. 1-2, 14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Let Israel say,  
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'  
**The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.**

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
**the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'**

I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
**The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.  
**This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
**The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**  
This is the Lord's doing;  
**it is marvellous in our eyes.**  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Acts of the Apostles 10. 34-43

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Mark 16. 1-8a

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**HYMN: TIS 361**

The day of resurrection!  
earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God:  
from death to life eternal,  
from earth up to the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his greeting  
may hear, so calm and strong,  
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,  
may raise the victors' song.

Now let the heavens be joyful  
and earth her song repeat,  
the whole world shout in triumph  
her living Lord to greet;  
let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end.

John of Damascus c.675-749  
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt.

**SERMON**

**HYMN: TIS 382**

Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth  
many days has lain:  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
*Love has come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.*

In the grave they laid him,  
Love whom hate had slain,  
thinking that he never  
would awake again,  
laid in the earth,  
like grain that sleeps unseen.  
*Love has come ....*

Up he sprang at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
he who for the three days  
in the grave had lain,  
raised from the dead  
my living Lord is seen:  
*Love has come ....*

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us  
back to life again  
fields of our hearts  
that dead and bare have been:  
*Love has come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.*

John Macleod Campbell Crum  
1872-1958 *alt.*

### Offering

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### HYMN: TIS 489

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
*Alleluia!*

We share by water in his saving death.  
Re-born, we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ.  
*Alleluia!*

A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing  
*Alleluia!*

John Brownlow Geyer  
1932-

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*the prayer of thanksgiving continues:*

... joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation  
in the eternal hymn:

### TIS 756

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*the prayer of thanksgiving continues:*

... Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

... as our Lord taught us we are confident to say:

**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**

## AGNUS DEI

... The gifts of God for the people of God.

### TIS 756

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

### PRAYER

O Christ,  
through your resurrection you lifted us up,  
and filled us with rejoicing.  
Through your salvation you enrich us with your gifts.  
Renew our lives and fill our hearts with joy.  
**Joyful thanks to you, Son of glory.**

## HYMN: TIS 383

Joyful the morning when Jesus Christ is risen!  
Golden light is dawning, the dayspring radiant shines,  
all the hosts of heaven raise on high their psalms divine.  
*O Let us too be happy, rejoice and cry out 'Hallelujah!'  
He is risen and opens heav'n for all those who believe.*

Now earth awaking is raising shouts of praise,  
'Jesus now is risen!' All creatures now rejoice –  
they are in the care again of their triumphant Lord.  
*refrain*

All peoples living in lands washed by the seas,  
nations under all four directions of the wind,  
can be joyful in the resurrection of the Lord.  
*refrain*

Traditional Torres Strait Islands hymn  
tr. David Thompson 1941-  
adapted by Wesley Milgate 1916-

## BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

Greater than death is the power of the resurrection life;  
Stronger than violence is the grasp of God's love  
and more shaping than any human curse is the blessing of God.  
and the blessing of God ...

## WORD OF MISSION

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

## POSTLUDE

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

God has made laughter: Eggs and Ashes; The Wild Goose Worship Working  
Group.  
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Rev. Andrew Boyle