



KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

10am – Sunday 4 April 2021

Easter Sunday
Aranga

Music to prepare us for worship “Up, up my heart with gladness- see what is done today” Partita by Flor Peters

Everyone is welcomed to worship. Please place your offering in the offering boxes at the back of the church, if possible before worship commences.

Welcome

Music of approach “Let the Song Be Begun” words: Personet Hodie from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
translated by John Mason Neale, 1854, Carol 157 from Rev. Charles Hutchin arr Don Marlin

Call to worship

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. May God be with you.

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Let us sing aloud, **rejoice and exult with all our hearts!**

Let us call out the good news — **The tomb stands empty!**

We look for our Saviour among the living. **Jesus Christ is alive and in our midst today.**

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

Hymn

(tune: Truro [CH4 214i]) CH4 416 - Brian Wren

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

3 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

4 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: **Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!**

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to the many faithful witnesses. **Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!**

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world. **Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!**

Assurance of forgiveness and passing of the peace

E te whanau a te Karaiti, brothers and sisters in Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou. May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Children

Hymn

(tune: Heartbeat) CH4 422 - Shirley Murray

1 Christ is alive, and the universe must
celebrate
and the stars and the suns shout on this
joyful Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must
celebrate
in a great alleluia,
a great alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone
roll away.

3 Christ Spirit, dance through the
dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us
free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's
energy;
with a great alleluia,
a great alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone
roll away.

2 Here is our hope: in the mystery of
suffering
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will
not let go;
here is our hope, that in God we are not
separate,
and we sing alleluia,
we sing alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone
roll away.

Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he

will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God***

Music *"I know that my redeemer lives"*

Johann Michael Bach (1648-94)

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

*This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ **Praise to Christ the Word***

Reflection

In the gospel we have heard today Mark seems to be applying words from the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard: “Some things are true when whispered but become false when shouted.” Today, Mark whispers the news of what happened to Jesus on the third day after he was crucified. Mary and Mary and Salome come to the tomb to attend to the dead Jesus. They are worried about who would roll away the stone from the mouth of the tomb. But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. In the tomb was a young man who told them that the dead Jesus wasn’t there – “He has been raised. He is not here. Go tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee and there you will see him, just as he told you. Terror and amazement seized them and they said nothing to anyone ... “

Later scribes became so worried by this ending that they added on stories of Jesus appearing to people. They wanted a polished end rather than a ragged one. They wanted more of a shout than a whisper. Scholars almost universally agree that verse 8 is the end of Mark. So Mark ends with “... and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” A whisper. But what a whisper!

The young man told them he is to be found in Galilee. So at the end of the gospel, we are led back to its beginning, back to Galilee, back to where the disciples were called. But now we are to read it as disciples in the company of the risen Christ. As Tom Long says, “ ... Where is the risen Christ? Precisely where he was the first time. Back at work, preaching, teaching, calling, healing, cleansing, feeding, challenging oppression, and casting out demons. We should look for the risen Christ, then, especially in places where people suffer, where there is defeat, pain, and loss. There is Christ, standing at the bedside of those on ventilators, standing at graveside with those who grieve.”

In the earthiness of living, there resurrection is whispered as real and empowering and sustaining, giving hope again and again. Paul in his letter to Corinthians also emphasises the presence of Christ in the physicality of living. It isn’t about the Gnosticism of theories or metaphors or universal principles – the risen Christ is known in the ordinary living of Galilee and Otepoti.

As the feminist theologian Elizabeth A. Johnson writes in her book, *Friends of God and Prophets*, “As the narratives of the Easter appearances make clear, henceforth [Jesus] is present through the power of the Spirit in word and sacrament, dwelling wherever two or three gather in his name, encountered as a stranger explaining the Scriptures as he walks along the road, recognized in the breaking of the bread, present where human wounds are touched and healed and, in a special way, served where the hungry receive bread, the thirsty drink, and the naked clothing.”

Whispered but life-changing. Tom Long tells a story about the town in which he lived – Cambridge Maryland. In the long, hot summer of 1967, in the midst of civil disturbances across the nation and the stirrings of local racial unrest, a fire was set in the black elementary school. The all-white volunteer fire department refused to answer the call, and the school and several blocks of businesses were destroyed. The white-run banks wouldn’t

lend money to the black merchants to rebuild. The street still bears the mark of that fire. Even now the despairing lament “it would only have taken one fire truck” is heard among African Americans.

After the death of George Floyd, some artists in the African American community came up with an idea. They made a proposal to the City Council, which gave its unanimous approval. So, several artists brought rollers, brushes, and buckets of paint over to the area, where they were joined by white artists and ordinary citizens, black and white, and they painted a large “Black Lives Matter” mural down the centre of the Street. That was in June, last year.

Several weeks later, in the dead of the night, a pickup truck stopped in the middle of the deserted street and began burning rubber up-and down the new painting, defacing the art with cruel tire marks. The “Black Lives Matter” artwork was despoiled. When the police investigated, they discovered that a security camera on one of the stores had recorded the truck in action. It turned out to be a distinctive-looking pickup, and the driver was soon identified—a 21-year-old white man, a local who, Trump-like, hated all this agitation by black people.

The main artist was contacted by the City Council, told of the destruction, and invited to repair the painting. She thought it over and replied that she had a different idea, maybe a better one. She invited the young man who defaced the art to have a conversation with her. Can you sense the whisper?

Shocked and embarrassed that his deed of hate done under the cover of night was now public knowledge, he reluctantly agreed to meet with her. She told him she wanted him to know what it was like growing up black in Cambridge, and she asked him what it was like growing up white in town. They talked, exchanged experiences, and got to know each other. The artist explained to the young man what the phrase “Black Lives Matter” means to black folk. At one point, the young man broke down and said, “I am so sorry. What can I do?”

The following Sunday afternoon, the young man and his parents stood on the footpath next to the painting. They were joined by the artist plus about forty other town folk, black and white. The young man stepped forward and made a public apology for what he had done. Then he took a paintbrush and joined the artist in the middle of the street. Instead of painting over the damage, the artist had another vision. At the top of each tire tread, the artist and the young man painted the blooms of beautiful flowers. The marks of the tires were now the stems of roses.

Can you sense the whisper?

Now this hasn't healed a racial divide nor made a huge dent in racism. Even as the young man and the artist worked together to paint the flowers, the mocking sounds of other young men gunning the engines of their pickups and burning rubber could be heard in the surrounding streets, and some African American parents at the Sunday event wondered out loud whether the next time their sons get in trouble with the law, the same zeal for reconciliation rather than punishment would prevail.

To look for such rays of resurrection light amid the gloom is surely part of what we call faith. To trust these glimpses more than the darkness as the harbinger of the fullness of Christ's

reign is surely part of what we mean by hope. Leonard Cohen – there is a crack in everything. That is how the light gets in. When there seems nothing but fear and death and brutality and terror and uncertainty and confusion, the reign of God can break in. Easter reminds us that we never know where life is going to come from next, so don't become too attached to yesterday, because today Christ is alive, bringing what humankind most needs. Mark is whispering to us – Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Listen for the whisper. It's all around us.

Tom Long story told in [Easter 21.indd \(wncpresby.org\)](http://wncpresby.org)

Hymn

1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

(tune: Noel Nouvelet) CH4 417 - John Macleod Campbell Crum

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
thinking that never he would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: *Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead the risen One is seen: *Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for others and the Lord's Prayer

Anglican prayer book

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.

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia
whakawaia;

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te korōria, Āke āke āke. Āmine.

Hymn

1 Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

2 Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

(tune: Hyfrydol [CH4 445]) CH4 430 - John L Bell & Graham Maule

3 Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Benediction

Music for our leaving "*Sun Dance*" Bob Chilcott

played by Grace Togneri

If you are new to Knox or visiting please make yourself known to the minister or the person at the door. Everyone is invited to morning tea after worship, in our Gathering Area. An email is sent each week about Knox activities. If you would like to receive it, please speak with the person at the door. Some hard copies are available in the foyer.

7pm - no service

Serving today

Minister - Kerry Enright (0274675542)
Associate Minister - Jordan Redding
Organist and Choir Director - Karen Knudson
Reader - Neil Grant
Prayer for others - Peter Wishart
Welcoming team - David Richardson's team
Counting team - Howard Smith's team

In relation to your monetary offering, you may:

- *Make regular automatic payments (which are tax deductible) - contact Helen Thew at plannedgiving@knoxchurch.net*
- *Give online to the Church's bank account at 03 0903 0016425 00 - our charity number for tax rebate purposes is #CC52318*
- *Give before the service, into the offering boxes at the back of the church*

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