

Worship Resource for Easter Sunday April 12

For those connecting through Zoom



This resource is for those who wish to join in with others who are Worshipping at Home through Zoom. A separate resource is available of those who wish to Worship at Home in their own time.

The service starts on page 3. First, let's get ready.

Preparing for Worship

Prepare your **meal** and your **space**. Each week during the Easter season (which runs right up to Pentecost) we'll share our worship time together over a meal or snack.

Gathering around a computer or screen can feel 'less than holy'. These spaces are usually for work time or relaxing time. So, in order to make this an intentionally sacred space, here are a few ideas:

- Gather at your kitchen or dining table, with a laptop or tablet if you can. This allows you to participate with one another with space for your food and for you to write and colour. If you are unable to gather at a larger table, use a smaller, dedicated surface.
- In the middle of your table, place a candle and matches, a pen/pencil, an empty plate and a glass. You will also need a piece of paper torn in half, a small stone for each person, and a simple cross. Place the cross down and cover it with the paper and the stone/s. (You may still have these on display from Good Friday's Worship at Home.)
- There is also a colouring in page. Print one of these out and have some colour pencils or textas ready. Throughout worship time, you will hear or read the word "heart" again and again. To focus on the heart of the matter, colour or doodle in a heart each time you hear the word "heart."
- During this time when we are not able to worship in our church building, you might like to keep this home worship space set up throughout this time to remind you of God's constant presence in our lives.
- Your meal could be your breakfast or a light snack with a cuppa or juice. If it is warm, keep it covered as we won't start eating until around 9.40am.

Connecting to Zoom

To join the online service using Zoom, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

You will either need a computer with a microphone, speakers and webcam or a smartphone or tablet. If you are using a smartphone or tablet, download the Zoom app.

If you haven't used Zoom before, you might like to have a practice run. Contact a family member or a friend in our church community and try it out!

We have attached a guide that you might find helpful too.

If you would like some help, Paul Driver has offered to help set you up. Call him before Sunday morning on 0428 161 918

Your Zoom invitation

Topic: Worship at home via Zoom - Easter

Time: Apr 12, 2020 09:15 AM Adelaide

To **Join the Zoom Meeting**, click on this link at 9.15am (so we are all ready to start at 9.30am):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/270304777?pwd=RGVxZUVhRkZkVjNQUkcxODR2VWtLZz09>

or enter this Meeting ID: 270 304 777

and this Password: 003765

Heart of the Matter – An Easter Season Series

*“Day by day, as they **spent much time together** in the temple, they **broke bread at home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and **having the goodwill** of all the people.”*
(Acts 2: 46-47a)

Through this Easter season, which will run right through to Pentecost, we will be following our spiritual ancestor's traditions as outlined in this scripture. We are creating a “temple” of worship in our hearts whether we can be physically together or not. By sharing in words and music and breathing and eating and moving together, we will stay connected. The earliest Christians worshiped in their homes before they had churches, and so will we, until we can meet again in our church building. Because at the “heart of the matter,” we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

The life and death of Jesus had one strong message: love one another. The heart of the matter was love. Time and again we hear Jesus offer the disciples a post-resurrection message of empowerment to give to the world what he had given to them. This Easter Season we will encourage one another to truly live out the heart of the matter.

Adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series by Dr. Marcia McFee



Worship

This service is adapted from resources provided by Dr Marcia McPhee and Rev Cheryl Wilson. Other sources are acknowledged within the text below.

9:15am Gathering

Gather at your table with your meal and all the elements needed for worship ready to go as we join together in Worship at Home. If you are joining in online, click the Zoom link and get ready to say Hi!

Don't light your candle yet!

9.30am Spend Time

Let's pay attention to the common rhythm that makes us one: our heartbeats.

Breathe in slowly. Breathe out slowly. Gently tap on your chest in the rhythm of your heartbeat.

Set the Scene

We'll watch a video: [Sunrise](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_kgdCGisso) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_kgdCGisso

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)

Alleluia! Christ is risen: Christ is risen indeed!

Remove the stone/s and the paper which are covering your cross.

Light your candle and place it in a safe place.

Break Bread

Let us pray:

Holy Life-Giver, we gather in your name, invited by Jesus, bound together with your Spirit, in union with each other. Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we might be your comfort to others. Bless this food and break open our hearts. Bless this drink and pour out your love. Amen...

Let's eat!

Reflection 1 (Nola)





“Worry Stone” invitation

In the account of the resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew, after the stone is rolled away from the tomb, the angel sits on the stone and gives the women this message, “Don’t be afraid.” Throughout the Season of Easter, we invite you to use a “worry stone,” which is a stone you carry about with you to rub when you are feeling anxious or worried. We encourage you to use your stone from this morning or find the one you took home at the beginning of Lent. Find some time this week to paint or draw a heart on it. It will remind you of this angel’s message which Jesus later repeats, “Do not be afraid!”.

Hold on to your stone now as we continue.

Reflection 2

Respond

On your torn piece of paper, draw a symbol of new life. It could be an egg, or a butterfly, or a cross.

Spend some time in prayer, doodling on your drawing while reflecting on the balance, in your life, between fear and joy, despair and hope, uncertainty and faith.

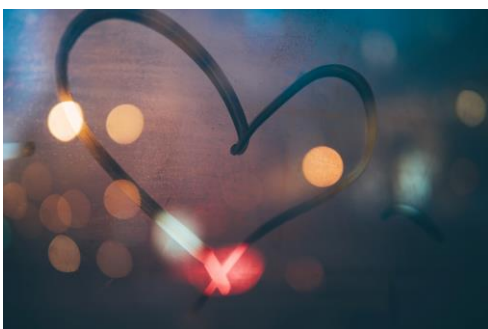
What hopes, dreams and great expectations do you have for our society and our church into the future? Where might there be new opportunities?

Confess

Pick up your stone again...

Feel its roughness:	<i>where are the rough edges in your life?</i>
Feel its weight:	<i>what is weighing you down?</i>
Feel its hardness:	<i>when have you been hard and unreceptive towards others?</i>
The stone came from the earth:	<i>in what ways have you failed to care for God’s creation?</i>
The stone was rolled away to reveal the empty tomb:	<i>what needs to be removed for you to come before God, empty and ready to be filled with God’s love?</i>

Gracious God, hear our prayers. We come before you confessing our roughness, our burdens. We acknowledge that we do not always care for your creation, and we know that there are many things you need to deal with in our lives. Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident through our words, our actions, and our lives. **Amen**



We know the promise of Easter, that new life comes from death, and new opportunities are found in the risen Christ.

Our sins are forgiven: **Thanks be to God!**

Empty Hands

.....the risen Christ is with us, and we affirm this in a Liturgy of empty hands.

That first Easter morning, the women found an empty tomb.

Alleluia! Christ is risen: Christ is risen indeed!

This Easter morning, the church building is empty.

Alleluia! Christ is risen: Christ is risen indeed!

This Easter morning, our plate and cup and hands are empty.

Alleluia! Christ is risen: Christ is risen indeed!

We are empty, open to receive what God has to give us.

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of love.

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of joy.

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of hope.

We hear the great story of our faith.....

...And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with the choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

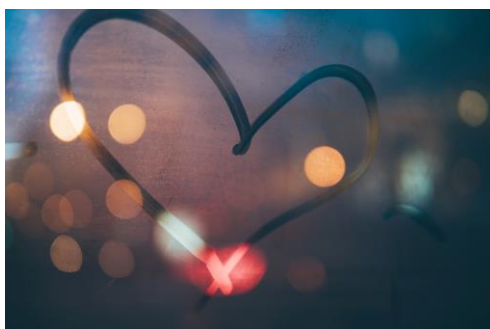
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

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.



This Easter morning, as we gather separately, we affirm the Spirit of Christ in our midst, wherever we are. Christ cannot be bound by a cross, a tomb, a church, or by our expectations.

Lift up the empty plate,

and give thanks that Christ is the bread of life, who satisfies the hungry heart.

Lift up the empty cup,

and give thanks that in Christ our cup overflows with abundant life. God gives us all good gifts.

Place the plate and cup on the table.

Think about those all over the world who also have no bread at this time.

Think about Jesus' love poured out over all of humanity, bringing justice and healing.

Consider again your own empty hands.

Think about how those hands might reach out with hospitality and compassion to those in need in your community.

Pray once again:

We are empty, open to receive what God has to give us

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of love.

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of joy.

Fill us, O Lord, with your spirit of hope.

In these empty vessels and in our empty hands, we celebrate the mystery and wonder of the empty tomb. In our hands and in our hearts, we leave space for resurrection, for new life, for new opportunities.

Adapted from Litany of Empty Hands © Amelia Koh-Butler, 2020.

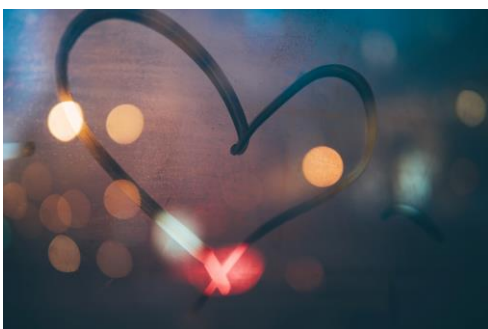
Alleluia! Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed!

Offering

All that we are, and all that we have is first a gift from God. Our offering to God is from the fullness of all we have received, from the depth of our hearts. You may wish to consider how you can use the gifts God has given to you at this time: gifts of kindness and compassion, gifts of skills and knowledge, gifts of money and time, gifts of love and connection. Let us give of our offering with grateful hearts.

Adapted from The Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts: "Tethered to God – Palm Sunday" from "Worship in Times of Isolation"



Praise God!

An affirmation:

We know Jesus is present among us...
even in this very home...
We will not let fear be louder than love...
but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls...
we will sing God's praise...
for we are Easter People...!
Let's choose to dance and whistle with joy!

The Lord of the Dance

Let's sing and whistle along with the Choir and Congregation of First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska
We'll watch a video together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xkk0YodJqH8>

Have Goodwill - Spread Joy

What message does the world need? Perhaps you will decide to create a way to let more and more people know the good news that Jesus is alive! After worship today, you might like to have a dance party through your neighbourhood!

Dress up in colourful clothes (the wackier the better to let loose!), grab some props (dancing ribbons, instruments), and choose a few songs you can move to. Have an adult drive slowly around the block with the music turned up, while your whole crew sings and dances to the music.
Or you could meet up with some friends on Zoom and dance together!

OR If you have not yet given out your Self-Isolation Kindness Calling card, now is a time to think about who you could give this to. You can print out more from our website:
<https://athelstonechurch.org.au/members-2/forms/>

Looking Ahead

Benediction

(based on Psalm 16)

As we close this time together, remember:

God is always with you. No matter what you face, no matter what trials or hardships come your way, God is right beside you, raising your very life from death, guiding and directing your path. So, acknowledge your fear and your worry and know it is as true and holy as any feeling, including joy and hope and love.

Take heart, my friends! This is the heart of the matter.

Let the people say, **Amen!**



Spreading Joy

For those of you who are on social media, please take a photo of your lit candle and post it online.

#churchconnected #churchscattered #churchgathered

Further Worship Ideas

Here are some more ways that you can connect with God's Word:

- Morialta Uniting Church have a weekly worship service on YouTube. Click here for more information: <http://www.morialtauca.org.au/virtual-church/>
- Tune in to LifeFM radio station 107.9 at 10am and hear Mod Bronte Wilson share a message of hope
- "A Sermon For Every Sunday" website has produced a worship service outline to use with others at home. Click here for a link to the resource. It also includes a link to sermons to listen to: <https://mailchi.mp/asermonforeverysunday/this-weeks-sermon-1744145?e=e9aed2be77>
- Songs of Praise – a TV show with inspiring hymns and songs, together with uplifting stories of faith from around the UK and beyond is available on ABC TV and ABC iView
- The Synod of South Australia has published a full list of online congregations and resources. <https://sa.uca.org.au/documents/resources-board/Being-the-Church-in-Ungathered-Times.pdf>
- The Assembly are live-streaming services: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/3158-livestreaming-on-assembly-platforms>

Take heart! Sampling many services, as Bishop Megan Traquair (Episcopal Diocese of Northern California) joyously proclaimed last week, is "like hearing Pentecost take place right here in March!" (World in Prayer)

Worship and other Creative Ideas for Children and Families

- Illustrated Ministry have these resources available for free: <https://illstrdm.in/Easter2020>
- Faith Family Trail At Home
Explore the events of the Easter story through a variety of activity stations. Each station has a theme, Bible passage, questions to chat about, and simple activity and prayer ideas. Using locations and items from around the home, your household can choose at least one activity in the lead up to or during Easter. This is a great opportunity to grow faith at home for people of all ages, particularly families with children under 12. Most of the ideas use multiple senses to engage with the Easter story. Go here to download your own copy: <https://sa.uca.org.au/documents/intergen-docs/resources/Print-Easter-Family-Faith-Trail-Book.pdf>
(Messy Church families will receive their own printed copy in the Messy Easter at Home pack.)
- The Worshipping with Children Ministry site has newly posted resources for Children's worship at home. <http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com/p/date-index.html>
- Have you gone for a bear hunt in the neighbourhood yet? Can you pray for the homes that you pass as you go?

