

The Third Sunday of Easter

Waiapu Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

Ante-Communion: 10.00 am, 26 April 2020



The Journey to Emmaus

Informal welcome as we gather

Bishop Andrew: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Ko te rā tēnei i hangā e Ihowā.

(This is the day which the Lord has made.)

Kia hari, kia koa tātou.

(Let us rejoice and be glad in it.)

SENTENCE *for Easter 3:*

Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the Scriptures to us? *Luke 24:32*

INTROIT: *Tattersall household* – “This is the day” (Anon.)

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Philip Pridmore* (congregational responses in **bold type**)

Easter is not an event that has occurred
it's an adventure that has begun

**not a place that we have visited
but a path on which we journey.**

a story not complete, but unfolding,
still teeming with the promise of new life

**not just for you and me
but for all people, in all places.**

a cosmic crisis: a turning point of time

**we continue the journey
we re-enter the story
to explore our questions
to uncover our doubts
to face our sorrow**

We walk the path of two who travelled a dusty road
wrapped in confusion and despair
two who shared the company of a stranger

**voicing their pain
airing their fears
and in the listening
heard words of hope and promise
and in the eating received the bread of life**

Risen Christ, walk with us this day
be our companion and guide

**be our teacher and friend
be our host and servant**

Open our eyes and reveal your presence to us.

Come, let us worship.

Excerpt from a call to worship by Craig Mitchell & the Iona Community

HYMN: *Up from the earth*

Up from the earth, and surging like a wave,
rise up, O Christ! your God defies the grave.

Up from the earth
push blade and leaf and stem.
they rise for Christ,
and we shall rise with them!

Up from the cross a billion voices strain,
cry for a hand to lift them from their pain.

Up from the cross
but scarred in limbs and side,
a wounded church
brings healing far and wide!

Up from the night Christ, Morning Star awakes.

O what a light upon earth's darkness breaks!

Up from the night
Christ sows his life like wheat,
and death itself lies fallow at his feet!

Up from the tomb of all the past conceals!

See how our God a brighter day reveals.

Up from the tomb!
Though death had bound us tight,
like Lazarus, we stumble into light!

Cry to the cross where tyrants work their dread!

Shout to the tombs

where parents mourn their dead!

Sing to the earth, for God all newness gives!

Alleluia! Christ Liberator lives!

Rory Cooney, 1987 Tune: WOODLANDS (Sing Glory #418)

SONG OF PRAISE: *Philip Pridmore* (congregational responses in **bold type**)

Christ is the good shepherd
who knows and cares for every one of the sheep
in different folds.

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile;
in Christ there is no discrimination
of gender, class or race.

In Christ the poor are blessed,
the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.

Alleluia!

**God of justice and compassion,
you give us a work to do
and a baptism of suffering and resurrection.
From you comes power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received
so that we, and all who love your world,
may live in harmony and trust.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE:

Bishop Andrew: We come seeking forgiveness
for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

(Silence)

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.**

**Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

Bishop Andrew:

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.

The Bishop and people say

**We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.**

**Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.**

COLLECT FOR EASTER 3: *Philip Pridmore (congregational responses in **bold type**)*

Let us pray for the grace to recognise the Christ who companions us:

Jesus, we believe your message;

all we learn of you in the Scriptures is truth.

You break the bread, we recognise you,

you are the fire that burns within us;

use us to illuminate the shadows of this suffering world.

Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

READING: *Acts 2:14a, 36-41 The Rev'd Dorothy Brooker*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

HYMN: *Christ is alive, let Christians sing*

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.

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

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives where even hope has died.

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.

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.

Brian Wren, 1969, revised 1995 tune: TRURO

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 13-35 *Philip Pridmore*

Praise and glory to God

Alleluia follows, sung twice

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff contains three measures of music, each with a vocal line and the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,'. The second staff contains a single measure with a long note and the lyrics 'Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia.'

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - - - le - - - - lu - - - - ia.

REFLECTION AND BREAKOUT DISCUSSION: *Dean Ian Render*

“Our faith in the God of revelation cannot be lived and understood abstractly, in some atemporal* fashion. It can only be lived through the warp and woof of the events that make up history.” *Jean-Marc Ela*

**unrelated to time or history*

ANTHEM: *Tattersall household – “Ave Marie” (Lindley)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *prepared by Br. Graham-Michael for today’s service*

Lord of all creation, **hear our prayer.**

As the long period of lockdown phase four comes to a close and we revert to phase three, let us give thanks for all the goodness there has been these past long weeks. (*pause*)

We continue to pray for doctors, nurses, front-line responders, and also the medical researchers desperate to find the cures for this pandemic, giving thanks for their dedication and loving kindness.

Lord of all creation, **hear our prayer.**

Our hearts reach out to all who suffer at this time, in sickness of body, mind, or spirit, for all who are alone at this time - for all who mourn, especially those unable to attend the funeral of a loved one. Holy Spirit, the Comforter, be with us all as we struggle in our own small bubbles of faith, and hope and love.

Lord of all creation, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those of the ANZAC forces who gave their lives for freedom ... [PAUSE] ... and for those whose lives have been lost in this devastating sickness that knows no boundaries. God of peace, as we mourn, continue to breath into us the truths and the fruits of the Resurrection this Eastertide and beyond.
Son of God, walk with us, hold us, stay with us.

Lord of all creation, **hear our prayer.**

This prayer of Thomas Merton probably sums up how many of us are feeling right now:

My God, part of me has no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadows of this time. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen.

The Thomas Merton prayer has been very slightly paraphrased

HYMN: A stranger met by chance

1: A stranger met by chance, a spoken word
that sparks connections, throws a searching light,
makes sense of the confusing and absurd,
invites our hope, turns blindness into sight:
no stranger this, nor chance, but Christ the Lord
who walks with us on our Emmaus road.

2: Companions at the table, faithful friends
who share our dreams and comfort us in pain,
the hospitality that love extends
to those who stumble, try and fail again:
both then and now, discern the Lord's design
to be revealed to us through bread and wine.

3: This sudden joy, this blazing of the heart,
the passion to proclaim the truth we know,
a world to heal, the need to make a start,
the barricades of death to overthrow:
we go, and as we run to raise the shout,
the hidden Christ still smiles, and sends us out.

Marnie Barrell (by kind permission) Tune: UNDE ET MEMORES

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *The Rev'd Dorothy Brooker and congregation*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice
be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

an interpretation by Jim Cotter

SENDING FORTH & BLESSING

Bishop Andrew and congregation:

**Today we have walked and talked
along the Emmaus road.
May Christ walk with us this week,
Addressing us in our current challenges,
Giving us grace to open the doors of our hearts,
Allowing us to meet the extraordinary
in the ordinary.**

Bishop Andrew:

May you be blessed with God's living hope,
Christ's constant love
and the Holy Spirit's strength and energy
today and always.

Amen.

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FREE CONVERSATION

In breakout groups for those who would like to remain

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