**“*Witnessing the Resurrection*.” A Liturgy for Easter Sunday.**

**Sunday 17thsApril 2022**

**Mornington Methodist Church Preacher & Celebrant:** Rev David Poultney

**Before we begin** *God will repair what has been shattered, but not by mending it with something else. Rather, out of the old, and very same material as its origin, God will impart to it an appearance of beauty pleasing to God’s own self* Hilary of Poitiers

**SETTING THE SCENE** *It Was on the Sunday* Iona Community *It was on the Sunday that he pulled the corn. They arrived with flowers shuffling through the dawn as the dawn snuffed out the last candles of the night. Their faces betrayed their belief that yesterday would always be better than tomorrow, despite what he said . He would not say it again, so why bother believing him on that score? And the flowers , they too were silent witnesses to disbelief. Like the grass, they were cut to be dried to death, cut off from the bulb, the root, the source of life. He was the flower they cherished, the flower now perished whose fate the lilies of the field would re-enact. So when they passed the crouched figure at the edge of the road, they thought little of him, scarcely seeing his form through their tears . Had they looked even a little, they would have seen a man letting grain fall through his fingers dropping to the earth to die and yet to rise again. It was on the Sunday that he pulled the corn.*

**WELCOME** Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou God be with you **Ki a koe anō hoki And with you also** Hold hands people of God in love **Bind our hearts together in God’s grace**

**LIGHTING THE EASTER CANDLE** Adaptedfrom the Exultet, an ancient proclamation chanted when the Easter light is kindled May Christ the Morning Star which never sets, find the flame of love still burning within us: Christ who came back from the dead, Christ who sheds his peaceful light on the world, Christ who lives and reigns for ever **Amen**

**HYMN AA 7** Because *you* live O Christ Shirley Murray

Because you live, O Christ,

the garden of the world has come to flower,

the darkness of the tomb

is flooded with your resurrection power.

*The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!*

*O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,*

*has risen, has risen, has risen!*

Because you live, O Christ,

the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,

our cages of despair

no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

*Refrain*

Because you live, O Christ,

the rainbow of your peace will span creation,

the colors of your love

will draw all humankind to adoration.

*Refrain*

**MEDITATIVE READING** *Easter in the South* M.K. Joseph *Inverted on the other side of the earth Easter and Lent, its harbinger take new meaning, are not the wheeling festival of birth and death, but ripe and round in autumn’s waning Northern spring miraculous with feeble fists of shoots and budding leaf the stone from the frozen sepulchered heart of the earth, the embalmed hair pours in gusts, bird call and shock of wind cry, Christ is risen. Our Easter comes pontifically in purple and gold with grape on vine and corn in field, the wine and bread feeding the hollow mouth, warming the body filled a last the sacrament of flesh and blood.*

**PRAYER** Abrev Anastasia Somerville-Wong You O God are ripples of laughter in the air, the swaying of ducks on a lake, the teeming whirlpool eyes of another whose depths you alone can scale. **You are the voice that reaches unclaimed peaks, the thundering falls of water, and the countless suns and stars above, stealing the night and crowning the day.** You are the courage to trek the wilds and ride thebrooding seas, to launch high into sky and space knowing you arealso there. For your love is sure to rise and warm the soils of earth, following each on their way around every twist and turn. **You are the one who straightens the gale bent reed and raises the head of the mocked and the scorned, who grasps the pieces of a broken heart and holds them in place until they beat again.** You, O God are a spread of flowers on the forest floor, the sapling and the ancient tree, the hearth and the wilderness.For all you are, **we thank you,** for all you are, **we sing your glory,** for all you are, **we give our lives with gladness.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**  **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your will be done on earth as it is 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**

**AN EASTER PRAYER** Adap from a prayer by Walter Brueggemann. Easter us, salve wounds, break injustice, bring peace, guarantee neighbour. Easter us, in joy and strength. **Be our God, be your true self, Lord of life,** **turn our life towards your life,** **and away from the tomb of our isolation.** **Hear our rejoicing this day, Hallelujah, Amen**

**REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM** adap Jim Cotter

*Easter is intimately associated with baptism and we often recommit ourselves to the promises made by us, or for us, in baptism at Easter*

Living Creator God, bless this water and bless us who seek renewal in remembering our baptism. **We ask a blessing in the name of the Giver of Life.** **We ask a blessing in the name of the Bearer of Pain.** **We ask a blessing in the name of the Maker of Love.** ... Here is the water that springs up in barren ground To our unexpected joy. **Here is the water that flows for the healing of the nations.** **Let us take to ourselves again our baptism in water,** **in the name of the Creator, the Life Giver,**  **Father Mother of us all,** **in the name of the Redeemer, the Pain-Bearer, the Son;** **in the name of the Sanctifier, the Love Maker, the Holy Spirit**

**HYMN WOV 261** Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Negro Spiritual (v1, 4-6 only.)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble; were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose from the tomb?

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

**A REFLECTION**

**A RESOLUTION** Thic Nhat Hanh Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion— towards ourselves and towards all living beings. **May all living beings realize that they are brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.** May we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to each other. May we live in a way which will not deprive other beings of air water, food, shelter, or the chance to live. **With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the sufferings that are going on around us, let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth Amen**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS**

**HYMN WOV 277** The Day of Resurrection John of Damascus tr, John Mason Neale

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath 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 list'ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

**THE OFFERTORY** Francis Macnab God, the source of all goodness, help us to bring some gladness to others; God the source of the best harmony, help us build harmony in the face of division, **God the source of the expansive spirit,** **so expand and enlarge our spirits** **to be carriers of goodness and harmony and generosity. Amen**

**BLESSING BREAD AND WINE** When Jesus took bread and wine,ordinary and everyday things, he gave them new meaning. **In these simple things, in the ordinary and the everyday may we encounter the Sacred, and may all our sharing be a sacrament**

**THE EUCHARISITC PRAYER** Adapted from a prayer by Janet Morley O Eternal Wisdom. we praise you and give you thanks because the beauty of death could not contain you. You broke forth from the comfort of the grave, before you the stone was moved and the tomb of our world was opened wide. For on this day you were raised in power and revealed yourself to women as a beloved stranger, offering for the rituals of the dead the terror of new life and of desire fulfilled. Therefore with the woman who gave you birth, The women who befriended you and fed you, who argued with you and touched you, the woman who anointed you for death, the women who first met you risen from the dead, and with the women and men who have loved you in every place and age we praise you saying; **Holy, holy, holy,** **Resurrection God,** **all is made radiant by you.** **Blessed is the One who comes in your name,** **Hosanna in the highest.** Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our grief and is known again in the breaking of bread; who on the night he was handed over took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said; “This is my body, which is for you, do this to remember me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying; “This cup is for the New Covenant, it is for my blood, for life and energy given in the risk of love. Do this whenever you drink it to remember me.” Come now, disturbing Spirit of God, breathe on these bodily things and upon us, May our lives enflesh. make real and present the story we gather around. **Open our graves, unbind our eyes, and name us here;**  **touch and heal all that has been buried in us,** **that we need not cling to our pain,but may go forth with power**  **to release resurrection into the world. Amen.**

**BREAKING BREAD** Michael Morwood. We break this bread, bread inviting us to grasp what the eye cannot see: **God with us in the journey of life;** **God with us in our everyday,** **God with us in our living and our loving.** We drink this wine, wine reminding us of promises to love, **of love generously shared,** **of Jesus who loved so totally and our call** **to love as courageously as Jesus loved.**

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** We who have shared the bread of communityand the cup of our common dreamsleave this table challenged to be the body of Christ,loving, redeeming, making things whole,challenging to newness.May this come to be  **Amen**

**HYMN** Glorious hope is ours today lyrics Scott Kearns & Gretta Vosper, tune byCharles Wesley

Glorious hope is ours today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, you heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work lives on, Alleluia! On our lips its joyful song, Alleluia! Though we’ve lived in darkest night, Alleluia! In that darkness we find light, Allleluia!

Soar we now where love has flown, Alleluia! Carry forth the truth we’ve known, Alleluia! Made in love, with love we rise, Alleluia! Ours the hope, the joy, the skies, Alleluia!

**BLESSING WORDS** Jill Harris. Whatever the origins of love we know it is our only hope. It lies at the heart of Easter which shows us how to live. So let us each day make love our song. Let it work its transforming power in us. We cannot do this alone – and that is love’s first lesson **Amen**

**THE GRACE Kia tau ki a tatou katoa, te atawhai o to tatou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti, Me te aroha o te Atua, me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu. Ake, ake, ake Amine**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all Amen**