

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 10 May 2026

Easter 6 A

Greetings and Welcome

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed.

Today, we hear Paul speak of a God already near, not bound to temples, yet calling all people to turn and live. The psalmist blesses God who hears and sustains life. Peter speaks of hope that endures through suffering, grounded in Christ's victory. Jesus promises the Spirit, who will abide with us, so we may live in love and not be left alone.

So, come. Let us praise the Lord our God, who calls all people to turn and live, and who has made from one every nation of humanity. Christ is our hope that reaches beyond our limits, and the Spirit teaches us to love as we have been loved. So, let us step into that widening life by crossing boundaries, and say good morning in the languages that bind us together and to this land.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

Balka wittaberri!

בֹּקֶר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

Goeie dag!

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Buongiorno! (Italian)

Buongiorno! (Italian)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Zou San! (Cantonese)

Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Parev! (Armenian)

Parev! (Armenian)

G'day! (Australian)

G'day! (Australian)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We gather together today as one people to acknowledge God, who holds us in creation; our love for Christ, whom we seek to follow; and our dependence on the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage to be who we are called to be.

As we light this candle, may we be aware that the light of Christ shines for us, and in us, and from us. It is the light of Christ that reveals the way.

Acknowledgement of Country

As we gather in this joyful Easter season to worship God, let us take a moment to acknowledge the land and all the resources that God has graciously made available for us:

For this Land

We give thanks!

For the First People who cared for this land

We give thanks!

For all nations and people who live on this land

We give thanks!

We honour the custodians
of sacred stories,
of dreamings
and the connections
with the deep earth.

*May we work together
for the restoration
of the Land
and Her Peoples.*

Call to Worship

Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.

Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.

Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.

Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.

*We will tell of the joy and of the love,
of the peace and of the hope which is ours.*

Praise Hymn

Love Divine

Like a mother who brings us to life,

God blesses us with life.

Like a mother who loves us,

God blesses us with love.

We serve, pray and praise

the God who shows us perfect love, divine love.

Let us stand and sing Love Divine.

Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

Psalm 66 says, "But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me."

Let us pray:

God of creation,

when it doesn't seem

to do any good,

we dare to be your people,

to love those the world

would have us reject;

to be just in the face

of every reason to mistreat;

to be unafraid

of whatever awaits us.

Jesus our Saviour,
when all the odds seem
stacked against us,
we dare to live as
your siblings, your family,
serving others
with our hands and hearts;
sharing in the burdens
of our world;
refusing to leave justice
orphaned with no hope.

Spirit of companionship,
when the wind seems to be
knocked out of us by the blows of life,
we dare to breathe
joy upon those
caught in the net of hopelessness;
peace into all
the broken places around us;
wonder for all those
who have lost sight of you.

In you, we dare to live and breathe and be,
God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen!

Praise Time:

*When we confess our sins and surrender all to Jesus,
God will fill us with love, and
God will bless us with mercy.
All to Jesus I surrender,
Let us stand and sing I Surrender All.*

I Surrender All

Prayer of Confession

What is our hope? Simply put, God does not give up on us. With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One who will not cast aside our words or our hearts. Let us pray:

God of all knowledge,
we admit that from plastic cards to websites, from handheld devices to stock options, we are surrounded by a variety of gods who demand our worship. We can all too easily believe that work is our life, that wealth is the reason for our being, and that success is the very air we breathe.

God of Mercy,
forgive us. You are not found in a computer chip, but in the child who holds our hand. You are not a chatbot note, but the Word that can transform our very lives. You are not a disembodied, constantly recalculating voice, but the One who calls us to life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Despite everything we do, God loves us.
This grace is why we can dare to hope.

Your sins are forgiven;

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The Lord gives us strength;
The Lord blesses us with peace;
The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements/Notices

Mother's Day

This is from 2025. If you are using other gifts, change the text accordingly.

This morning, we offer a simple gift—parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. These are not just herbs for flavour but symbols of care: comfort, strength, remembrance, and courage. We give them to the mothers among us and to all who mother others as a reminder that in God's garden, your presence brings life, seasoning the world with love.

A Blessing for Mothers

God of deep love,
 we thank you for the mums,
 for the ones whose hugs hold worlds together,
 whose patience stretches beyond reason,
 and whose love can't be measured, only received.
 May we glimpse your hand in theirs, guiding, steadying, blessing.
 We pray for the mothers running low
 on sleep, on time, on kindness for themselves.
 Pour out your love where theirs feels thin.
 Bless the mothers among us, new and seasoned, worn and wondering,
 with strength for today and tenderness for the road ahead.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.

Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, [Prayers](#).

Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.

God of love,
 we come to you,

to the One who holds us close,
through Christ who gathers us like a mother hen,
and in the Spirit who hovers like a midwife over creation.
As a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your Church.

God of harmony and grace,
in the symphony of life,
we recognise the dissonance,
when violence sings off-key.

Teach us to listen with compassion
to those whose voices falter
and guide them to find the melody of love.

May our actions be a gentle melody,
leading others to sing in tune
and restoring harmony to the song of life.

In your grace, may all voices find their place
and violence be transformed into harmony.

God of mission and movement,
You call us not to sit still but to step out:
to serve, to give, to love, and to proclaim.
Bless the activities of our congregation.
Bless us when we are present to someone in need.
May our efforts bear fruit, not for our glory but for Yours,
that in all we do, Your grace may be known.

God of healing,
we thank you for the hope, comfort, and strength you provide in our
vulnerability. Be with all who suffer, offering your Spirit as a presence of

comfort and healing. May they find peace and support in relationships and communities of safety and trust.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and remember:

— A moment of silence. Mention names —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

May your Spirit be a comforting and healing presence in their lives.

May they find peace and nurture within relationships and communities of safety and trust.

Open our eyes and give us wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

God of creation,
 when the world unravels, hold us steady in your care.
 When we are lost, guide us with your wisdom.
 When we are hard-hearted, soften us with your mercy.
 When fear takes over, lead us in justice and peace.
 And when we try to go it alone,
 remind us to lean on your grace.
 In all things, help us rejoice in your goodness,
 for in you, there is new life.
 Gathered into one by that new life, and trusting in the grace that holds us
 together, we pray as Christ has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song:

I Love to Tell the Story(v 1,7,4)

*The Saviour of all people has brought his peace to you.
 Now go and tell the story, for others need it too.
 To every land and nation ring out the gospel call;*

*proclaim that Christ is risen and grants his peace to all.
Let us stand and sing I Love to Tell the Story.*

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us say the prayer of illumination together.

*Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.
We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.
Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.*

Amen.

Scripture

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

Acts 17:22-31

The First reading is from the book of Acts, chapter seventeen, verses twenty-two to thirty-one. Listen now for the word of God.

- 17:22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,
“Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- 17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- 17:26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

- 17:27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- 17:28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’
- 17:29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- 17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

1 Peter 3:13-22

The Epistle Reading is from the first epistle of Peter, chapter three, verses thirteen to twenty-two. Listen now for the word of God.

- 3:13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
- 3:14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,
- 3:15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;
- 3:16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.
- 3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.
- 3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
- 3:19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

- 3:20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
- 3:21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

John 14:15-21

The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter fourteen, verses fifteen to twenty-one. Listen now to the Word of God

- 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.
- 14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
- 14:18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
- 14:19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
- 14:20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
- 14:21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Story

Sermon:

Hymn:

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed

Let us affirm our faith.

Prayer for Offering

God of the underprivileged,
abandoned by hope, forsaken by others, abused by those who said they loved them — there are homeless people all around us. May the gifts we offer be a home, a family, a rest, a respite for them and all the others around us.

Amen.

Communion Song

One Bread, One Body

In front of the Areopagus, Paul says, "From one ancestor he made all people to inhabit the whole earth, ... For 'In him we live and move and have our being.'" Despite our differences, we are drawn into a shared life and sustained together in God. At this table, that unity becomes visible and tangible. One Bread, One Body. Let us stand and sing.

Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, repent of their sin, and seek peace with one another. Here, the One not bound by temples draws near, sustaining us with life. Come, for in Christ we are made one, filled with hope, and given the Spirit to abide in love.

Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant, poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God who knows us be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the One who will not leave you stranded.

We offer ourselves to God who is always with us.

Bless God, all you who love the Lord.

We sing praises to the One who loves us.

God of wonder,
you gathered that orphan, chaos,

into your heart,
 and with a simple Word created a family:
 with horses munching meadow grasses;
 birds gliding gently on summer winds;
 snails, snakes, and tree-climbing Koalas.
 Gathering up handfuls of dirt, you shaped us,
 and with a simple breath, gave us life
 so we might be with you in wonder,
 but we crawled out of our strollers
 and toddled off after temptation.
 You did not panic, but sent prophets
 to come to us and show us the way,
 but the smoke of our offerings to sin
 kept us from seeing them.
 Refusing to leave us as orphans,
 you sent your Child to us
 to reveal your true Self.

With those who praise you every day,
 with those who have lost all hope,
 we would bring our songs to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God our joy.
All creation pays its vows to you.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is our salvation.
Hosanna in the highest!

As your Spirit of truth comes in these moments
 to transform the bread and the cup
 and those gathered around the Table,
 you show us how much you love us.
 As we are strengthened by the broken Bread,
 send us
 to plant hope in all the places

where pessimism has taken root;
to help love stand on the corners
where hate's gangs hang out.
As you nourish us with the Cup,
empower us
to take peace into the
warzones on human hearts;
to bring healing to
all the broken ones around us.

And when we gather around that Table of love,
with our sisters and brothers, our enemies and friends
seated side by side, as we pass grace to one another,
we will join in forever singing your praises,
as we celebrate your being in us as we are in you,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;
Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

We thank You, God, our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we receive Your Son, true Bread of Heaven. You have drawn us near, fed us with

life, and filled us with hope. By Your Spirit, teach us to abide in love and bear witness in all we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn After Communion:

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart

Psalm 66 says, "Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me." Christ has fed us at his table, and we give thanks with a grateful heart. Let us stand and sing.

Blessing

Go now into the world.

Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.

Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.

Keep your conscience clear

as you live the commandments in love.

And may God greet your prayers with constant love;

May Christ Jesus give you life through his own life;

And may the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, always.

Amen.

Blessing Song

For You Deep Stillness