

High Street Times

Special Edition

APRIL 2020

EASTER

HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH, FRANKSTON

MAUNDY THURSDAY
VIDEO (OR PHONE) SERVICE - 7:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
PHONE & VIDEO SERVICE - 10AM

EASTER SUNDAY
PHONE (OR VIDEO) SERVICE - 9AM

EASTER SUNDAY
VIDEO (OR PHONE) SERVICE
- 10:40AM



FOR MORE INFO: SEE PAGE 2
OR GO TO: WWW.FRANKSTONUNITING.ORG.AU

Special services during Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, 9 April, 7:30pm

Led by the Thursday night Bible study group.

If you are able, have some bread with you,
and a drink – some wine, juice, or whatever you have.

For video connection, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/926042521>

To join by phone for audio only,
phone (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID 926 042 521

Good Friday, 10 April, 10:00am

For video connection, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/926042521>

To join by phone for audio only,
phone (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID 926 042 521

(These are the same numbers as for Maundy Thursday)

Easter Sunday, 9am (Traditional)

This service is especially for phoning-in (audio not video)

Phone (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID 616 254 006

(These are the same numbers as for every Sunday morning 9am)

Easter Sunday, 10:40am (Contemporary)

For video connection, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/556610676>

To join by phone for audio only,
phone (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID 556 610 676

(These are the same numbers as for every Sunday morning 10.40am)

Don't forget that daylight savings ends on Sunday

From the minister

Welcome to this special edition of High Street Times. While we cannot meet together as a congregation, there are opportunities to pray and connect in other ways. In this edition of High Street Times are details about the Easter Services that you are invited to join, joining with congregational worship over the phone or by zoom. There are also some reflections for each of the days of Holy Week, through the gospel of Mark, that you may like to use personally. As we navigate these times, may Jesus' faithfulness, courage and love, give you strength, peace and hope, through the range of emotions of Easter and the journey that lies ahead.

God's peace, David

Hannah's Maternity Leave

Hannah will be on Maternity Leave from 14 April, just after Easter. We will keep her and her coming baby in prayer! Meg has started sharing the Youth and Children's role with her, and will be maintaining ministry with the Children and Youth while Hannah is on leave. It is not possible to keep up wider community outreach in some of the ways that we are planning for the future, so Meg's role will involve work towards involving the children in Sunday morning worship, and maintaining contact with the youth. Meg will be working approximately 4 hours per week.

Children's materials for Holy Week

There are some materials specifically aimed for children and families to engage with each of the days of Holy Week available on the website, under the RESOURCES tab.

Get on our Email list!!!

If you are on email, you can receive updates and links to the newssheet that way. Let Jacqui know if you would like to join. New and information is always available on the website. A great way of staying more connected!!

Daylight savings

...ends on Sunday morning (an extra hour of sleep!)

For our prayers...

Each month, High Street Times publishes the names of some of the people who are associated with our congregation, but who find it difficult or are not able to attend on Sunday mornings. At the moment, none of us can gather physically at the church, so we are praying for everyone!

Nevertheless we especially remember the following: Leon & Shiela Knoop, Barbara O'Malley, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Glad Thuraisingha, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Eileen McCarty, Molly Maughan.

Pray for Marlene's brother Fred and his wife Diane.

Pray Marilyn Downing's niece, Wendy.

Pray for Tom Marr, on the death of his son Stephen.

Pray for Millie's brother Bill and Dorothy, fighting the virus in Scotland.

Pray for Andrew, recovering from stroke in Queensland.

Pray for those who are recovering from the bushfires.

Pray for the VCC Emergencies Ministry.

Pray for the homeless and those providing support for all in need.

Pray for doctors and nurses; for those working in essential services and those who are unable to work; for those who are sick and those struggling with isolation.

There are further resources for prayer elsewhere in this edition of High Street Times.

Offerings

If you are not connected to regular direct debit, one-off or regular offerings can be made to the church at

FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH

BSB **063 133**

Account **00800128**

Description **OFFERING**

We are unable to collect cash at the present time. If you have envelopes set aside, you could set up an offering bowl in your home and keep the offerings there until the situation changes. Some people may need to vary their giving as we navigate this time.

Operation Larder

Larder is unable to operate at the present time. The Brekky Club is running, under careful conditions, as a take-away only service. Community Support Frankston is providing emergency relief; arrangements for being able to receive donations of food are still being made. More details will be provided when they are available.

Reflections for Holy Week

Sunday 5 April – Jesus enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Join one of the services (phone-in at 9am, or video-link at 10.40am)

Monday 6 April – Overturning the tables

Prepare Take a moment to be still. What can you hear around you?

Read Mark 11: 15-19

Reflect Jesus goes to a place of prayer, but there is no chance to be still. How would you have felt there?

Respond Is there a place in your home where you can pray without too much distraction?

Recall While we are not gathered in the church to pray, there are prayers being lifted from all over our community.

Pray Speak with God about the people who are on your heart.

Tuesday 7 April – Forgiveness

Prepare Say the Lord's prayer. What is the most important phrase for you today?

Read Mark 11: 25

Reflect Is there a particular form of grace that you seek from God today?

Respond Is God inviting you to phone someone to offer your grace and care, or to reach out for support?

Recall Be gentle with yourself, knowing that God is full of grace.

Pray Ask God for the grace that you need.

Wednesday 8 April – Generosity

- Prepare* Over the last fortnight, have there been actions of generosity that have struck you?
- Read* Mark 12: 41-44
- Reflect* Does this story draw out feelings of love and respect for this woman, or does it seem scandalous to you? If the woman could speak with you, what would you imagine that she might say?
- Respond* What kind of generous action am I able to take, today?
- Pray* Speak with God about your reactions to today's reflections.

Thursday 9 April – the Lord's Supper

- Prepare* Offer a prayer of grace like you might say before a meal.
- Read* Mark 14: 12-28
- Reflect* We are descending to the darkness of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion. Even here, Jesus shares a meal, the disciples sing, and Jesus promises that after he is raised up he will go before them to Galilee. Imagine that you are there at that meal. How do you feel? What could you imagine saying to Jesus there?
- Respond* Find some music to listen to, recalling the hymn that the disciples sang when they went out to the Mount of Olives; or phone someone and have a conversation about what Easter hymns or music you find most meaningful.
- Recall* There is a Maundy Thursday service tonight.
- Pray* Thank Jesus for his steadfast love, and pray for strength in the time of trial.

Friday 10 April – Good Friday

- Prepare* Find a cross (or make one). Clear a table, and place the cross on it, without any other decorations.
- Read* Mark 14:32 to 15:39
- Reflect* After all of the chaos of Jesus' arrest during the busy season of Passover, three things occur in the last hour – the darkness, Jesus' loud cry, and the tearing of the curtain in the temple from top to bottom. What do they mean to you?
- Respond* Notice the centurion's reaction. Hold silence for a minute.
- Pray* Pray to the God who knows our affliction, and is with us still.

Saturday 11 April – Holy Saturday

- Prepare* Read Psalm 130
- Read* Mark 15: 40-47
- Reflect* Is this particular Sabbath day a day of rest, a day of helplessness, a day of grief, or a day of tension? What do you feel in your body?
- Respond* Is there a neighbour of yours who may be feeling tension or grief today?
- Recall* *"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."*
- Pray* Pray for all who wait

Sunday 12 April – Easter Day

Prepare Light a candle, open a curtain, turn on a light!

Read Mark 16: 1-8

Reflect The disciples are confused, but a light of hope now shines in the darkness. Imagine the “young man, dressing in a white robe” is addressing you, saying: “Do not be alarmed...he has been raised...”

Respond Write, draw, say or sing an offering of praise to God

Recall Recall these words from the Nicene Creed:

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

In accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

Pray For grace and hope to be known in all the world

Prayers from the Uniting Church Assembly

The Uniting Church Assembly President and the Moderators of the Synods have written daily prayers for one another and for the life of the Australian community as we navigate the current situation. They can be found at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/component/k2/item/3150-prayers>

Sunday Prayer : Dr Deidre Palmer – President of the Uniting Church in Australia

Gracious and loving God,

You call us to love you with our whole being, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

At this time of upheaval and distress for nations and people across our world, may your love hold us together.

May your love be the lens through which we see each other and your world.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are present with us, as one who knows our suffering, bring comfort and peace to all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, work, connection and hope for the future.

May we embody your compassion – responding to the suffering of our neighbours, our families, our friends, and strangers with generosity.

Life-giving Spirit, you weave us together as the Body of Christ, strengthen our life together, even though we are physically separated. Nurture us in faith and discipleship, that we may bear witness through our living, to your abundant grace and liberating hope for all people, and the whole creation.

Through Christ our Life and Hope, we pray. Amen.

Monday Prayer : Rev Steve Francis, Moderator of the Synod of Western Australia

Holy and loving God, the Psalmist reminds us that "You are our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble".

Lord God we feel deeply that our world is in trouble with the spread of the coronavirus.

Eternal God we recognise a sense of fear and anxiety about the future.

We ask that we calmly place our faith in you and increase our love for our neighbour.

We believe you care deeply about all those who are affected by this pandemic.

In these troubling times teach us how to be agents of peace and carriers of compassion.

We pray for all who are on the front line of this battle; our medical teams, health professionals and their patients. Grant, we pray safety and healing.

We pray for our political leaders, national and state that you would give them wisdom and insight.

We pray for all who have lost loved ones to this virus, grant them comfort and courage.
We pray for all who have lost their jobs or their businesses, grant them the help they need.
We pray for all Australians that you will help us to replace fear with faith, despair with hope and hoarding with kindness.
Please bring out the best in us as we face the challenge of these days,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday Prayer : Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara, Northern Synod

Lord Almighty, our Rabbi

While we live in the midst of uncertainty because of the heavy struggles we face during this CoVID-19 pandemic,

You come and greet us in Your way.

Many prayers have been offered to You - together and individually. The Churches of God all over the world have put aside their differences to unite and call your name.

O God, have mercy upon us according to your loyal love.

Erase our transgressions according to Your great grace!

Do not cast us away from you, and do not take your Holy spirit from us!

We do not have the power to avoid what happens, and no power to obey, except with the help of God the Most High and the Most Great!

O' Saviour do not let us get lost. Guide us through this period of struggle.

For all governments in the world, give them the heart to understand when creating policies related to the economy, to security, and to the health and welfare of their peoples.

God also help the doctors and medical workers who are temporarily working hard to help all those who are sick. Instil in their hearts the heart of a compassionate servant who is ready to serve and give help to those in need.

Give them health and strength, and protect them and their families.

Finally, to all of us to respect and obey all appeals made by the government while faithfully and truly **trusting in the Lord God, whom we worship.**

Let us trust God is present as a helper and redeemer of His people.

He is always within reach.

He is never far away.

He is close.

He is with us.

He cares.

He heals.

He restores.

He redeems. Let it be thy will, forever. Amen

Wednesday Prayer : Rev David Baker, Moderator of the Synod of Queensland

Loving God, you are revealed in Jesus Christ, in whom you became one with us.

Remind us of Your solidarity with us in all the vagaries of our lives.

Strengthen our confidence in You so that we may act with wisdom and grace;

Assuage our fears, that we may be strength and hope for others.

We lift up to you all those responsible for decision-making regarding this pandemic.

Lead them by your Spirit.

We pray for those who are vulnerable and marginalised; for those whose lives have been profoundly disrupted; that through this crisis, our societies may especially care for them.

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of people they loved;

We pray for our time in isolation; may we truly love one another.

Above all we thank you for the rich heritage we enjoy in this country;

may we act as those who are aware of the future we are building for others. Amen.

Thursday Prayer : Rev Simon Hansford, Moderator of the Synod of NSW and the ACT

God of the wilderness,

In the muteness of isolation,

your Spirit whispers a gentle presence;

In the brokenness of separation,

your embrace is hope and life;

When all appears at be at risk -

our community, our life, our future,

you are present, bearing us to life again.

You are before us,

beside and behind us.

We trust in you.

All in Christ, we pray. Amen.

Friday Prayer : Rev Denise Liersch, Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

God of compassion, God-with-us,
be with us in these times of uncertainty.

Break into our lives,
rekindle our hope
and breathe love into our communities,
that we might find new ways
of supporting and upholding one another,
bearing witness to your inclusive love
of family, friend, neighbour and stranger alike.

May our love for those most vulnerable in our community
become a beacon of hope for all.

In faith, hope and love, in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Saturday Prayer : Mr Bronte Wilson, Moderator of the UCA Synod of South Australia

O God, you are our certainty in a time of uncertainty.

We find ourselves at home, feeling confused and anxious.

We watch the world shut down around us, bringing grief and fear.

We seek your comfort, and your peace.

In our separation, may we find connection, with you and with each other.

Remind us that even when we cannot gather, we are your people, the body of Christ together.

May we take up your call to be the church in your world, caring for the vulnerable, feeding the hungry, showing love and compassion and kindness to those around us.

To you be all glory, O God, we pray.

Amen