

11th April, 2021 9:00am Traditional Worship

Face-to-face at the church, as well as on phones and zoom:

Phone: (03) 7018 2005 Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 Password: 3199

Or go to the website zoom.us and choose "Join meeting" with the details above

Welcome

Acknowledgment of Country

Call to Worship

We sing TiS 92: Sing to God, with joy and gladness

Chorus:

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover
that to worship God is good.*

3. God, with clouds, the sky has curtained
thus ensuring rain shall fall;
earth, responding, grows to order
food for creatures great and small.

Chorus

1. God unites his scattered people,
gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits,
tending every wound and scar.

Chorus

4. God's discernment never favours
strength or speed to lift or move;
God delights in those who fear him,
trusting in his steadfast love.

Chorus

2. Such is God's great power and wisdom
none can calculate or tell;
keen is God to ground the wicked
and with humble folk to dwell.

Chorus

A Responsive Easter Prayer

God of the crucified and risen Jesus,

what a joy it is to be on the Easter side of Good Friday.

We rejoice that we can experience you in everyday moments of life:

**in the touch of a hand, a smile, a word of encouragement,
a listening ear, a meal shared.**

As we gather in community, may we, like the disciples of old,
hear your greeting "Peace be with you"

and recognise that as we travel with you we are embraced in peace.

As you breathe on us and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit,"

may your word of forgiveness enable us to be forgiving.

As we look to the wounded and resurrected Jesus,

may we rejoice in and live fully from our own woundedness;

and, like Thomas, be honest in our struggle to live faithfully;

allowing doubt and uncertainty to be doorways into trusting you.

We thank you for this new beginning,

that Easter dawns each new day;

that you lead us in the dance of life
that you live in us as we live in you.
God of the crucified and risen Jesus,
we praise and glorify your name. Amen.

Declaration of God's grace

When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
² **It is like the precious oil on the head,**
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³ **It is like the dew of Hermon,**
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Bible reading: John 20:19-31

Antiphon TiS 649: These things did Thomas count as real

1. These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
the grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

2. The vision of his sceptic mind
was keen enough to make him blind
to any unexpected act
too large for his small world of fact.

3. His reasoned certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,
until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.

4. May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
whose raw, imprinted palms reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

Homily 1

TiS 242: I danced in the morning

1. I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth:

Chorus

*Dance then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;
and I'll lead you all where ever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on:

Chorus

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die:

Chorus

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on:

Chorus

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you as you live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he:

Chorus

Homily 2

We sing: When Thomas Heard from Jesus

1. When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.

2. When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

3. When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.

4. What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;

He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.

5. That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

Notices and sharing

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

We sing TiS 691: Faith will not grow from words alone

1. Faith will not grow from words alone,
from proofs provided, scripture known;
our faith must feel its way about,
and live with question-marks and doubt.

2. The pattern Jesus showed, we share:
life comes through death, hope through
despair.
God is made known in brokenness,
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.

3. The church still tells how Jesus came
through death to glorious life again
the strangest story! Yet, maybe,
our faith will thrive on mystery.

4. Faith takes the little that we know,
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!
Love and take courage, come what may;
Christ will be with us on the way.

The Sending Forth

Go, in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

May God, who births life from the womb
of the tomb, go with us;
the wounded and risen Christ lead us to life;
and the Spirit's breath enable us for forgiving relationships.
Amen! Alleluia! Amen!