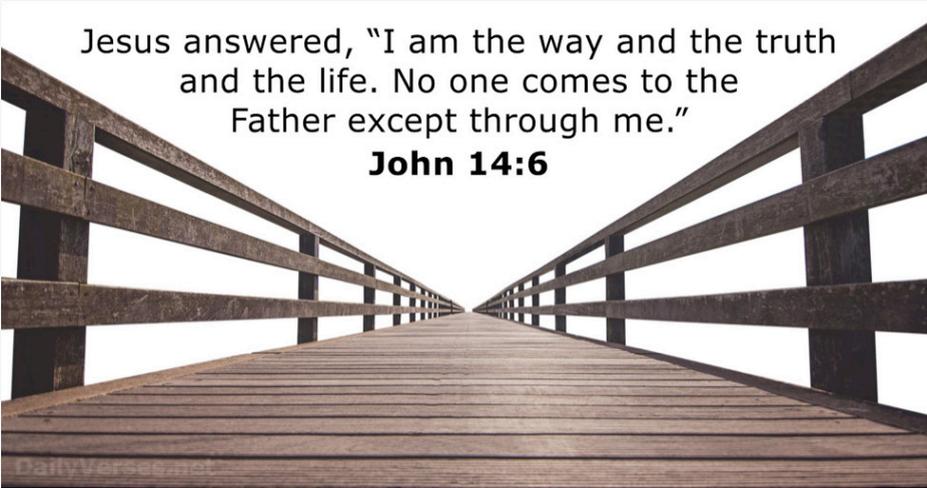


Anglican Parish of Gisborne
Anglican Parish of Gisborne
Easter 5A
May 10th 2020
A Service of the Word
in Easter



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth
and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through me."

John 14:6

*For use privately
or during the video as broadcast on
www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au*

*The Parish of Gisborne would like to acknowledge that we meet on Kulin Nation
country.*

*We pay our respects to Kulin Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that
respect to any First Nations people
who are present today.*

We acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.

The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.

Welcome

A warm welcome to our Parish We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship, alas for now, virtually and in prayers at home. We are committed to maintaining our worship together and acknowledge that our Lord reminds us that when two or three are gathered in his name, he is in the midst of us. Even though our gathering is virtual, our intent is corporate. Please feel free to download the video from the Parish website, www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au or Facebook/GisborneAnglican, or share this time of prayer with a loved one at home if appropriate.

In the introduction to his book *Why Go to Church?*, Timothy Radcliffe tells this story:

One Sunday a mother shook her son awake, telling him it was time to go to church. No effect. Ten minutes later she was back: 'Get out of bed immediately and go to church.' 'Mother, I don't want to. It's so boring. Why should I bother?' 'For two reasons: you know you must go to church on a Sunday, and secondly, you are the bishop of the diocese.'

Before restricted contact stopped us going to church, there were probably at least the occasional Saturday nights or Sunday mornings that we felt like that bishop. However maybe things are changing. The Guardian has been reported that a quarter of adults in the United Kingdom have accessed on online religious service since the lockdown there, and one in 20 has begun praying. The Church of England has expressed surprise at the numbers tuning in to their services. Perhaps they shouldn't have been surprised; it has often been said we live in an age where people are more spiritual but less inclined to commit to organised religion. In this time of uncertainty and despair people are looking to the faith of their childhood for succour.

What will this mean for churches once restrictions are lifted? Will attendances increase? Or will there still be the view expressed by John Wayne: 'I don't much like God when he is under a roof.' Whilst we may be eagerly anticipating the day when we can again meet as a physical community, we also should be planning to retain this new-found need for God by others through making our expressions of church as widely appealing and accessible as possible. This is the challenge for church leaders, and all of us.

May our Risen Lord support you, nurture you and inspire you in the week ahead. Your Assistant Curate

This Sunday: Easter 5A	Acts 7.55-60	Psalm 31.1-5,15-16
Secular Mother's Day	I Peter 2.1-10	John 14.1-14
Next Sunday: Easter 6A	Acts 17.22-31	Psalm 66.7-18
	I Peter 3.13-22	John 14.15-21

Bible references: NRSV bible.oremus.org

Social Isolation Policy

Please maintain all social distancing and isolation policies currently enforced by both the Commonwealth and State Authorities. We will return to a joyful Easter Celebration at a date to be determined, but wish to do so joyfully, together and well.

If you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Alison on 0418 394 201 or Rev'd Alan on 0407 316 843

The Greeting

The minister greets the people and says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

**Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:23-24

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
You have revealed yourself as the way to the Father.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
You have poured upon us the Spirit of truth:

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

As we prepare to hear God's Holy Words through the scriptures
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

After each reading

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Acts 7.55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. [NRSV]

Psalm 31.1-5, 17-18

Refrain: *Into your hands I commend my spirit.*

¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;

guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

⁴Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. [R]

¹⁷My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

¹⁸Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake. [R]

I Peter 2.1–10

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy. [NRSV]

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.’

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 14.1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. [NRSV]

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

Rev'd Alan Smith

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Hymn

Christ is the world's light, he and none
other; born in our darkness, he became
our brother
If we have seen him, we have seen the
Father
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life, he and none oth-
er; sold once for silver, murdered here,
our brother –
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the
Father:
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace,
he and none other; no one can serve him
and despise his brother.
Who else unites us, one in God the
Father?
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Fa-
ther; give God the glory, God in man my
brother:
Glory to God on high!

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through the Son who is close to us now and always.

This response is:

Jesus, Lord of life:

in your mercy, hear us.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for God's world:

for those who live in places ravaged by the Novel Corona virus;

for those who continue to live in places of war and conflict.

We give thanks for all whose lives manifest your spirit of care, peace and reconciliation; for national welfare agencies, for international aid workers, conservationists and all who work for a just and sustainable world.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for God's church:

in places where, like the early church, it struggles in the face of persecution;

in places where the church is faithless, divided and disobedient.

We give thanks for those who risk their lives so that others may hear the Good News, and for all who faithfully minister to your people – for our metropolitan, Philip, our regional bishop, Kate, and our vicar, Dennis.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our communities:

for our families, our friends and our parish family;

for all those who are working to sustain a sense of community in these difficult times of forced isolation.

We give thanks for those whose lives shine with the spirit of forgiveness and love; for food banks, and for all those who are providing necessities to the housebound and conducting welfare checks as part of their daily lives.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for mother figures everywhere;
for those who are struggling to combine their mothering with other demands on their times and energies;
for those caring for special needs dependents without the usual level of support due to social distancing.

We give thanks for upon mothers, foster mothers, and all who act with a mother's love and so show the spirit of God's deep gentleness and strong love for all of creation.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all in need:

for those who know loneliness, anxiety or grief – for Dennis, John, Stephen, Kim, Royce, Brad, and families;

for those who know pain or sickness and for all who face death.

We give thanks for those whose lives are filled with courage in the face of adversity and for those who bring your tenderness and consolation to others.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We give you thanks for faithful followers of every age:

for Stephen and all who have given their lives for Christ;

for Marion and all whose lives have drawn others to Christ.

We pray that we may be led in the way of Christ and open to his truth, that with all the saints we may be brought to that place of everlasting life, which Christ has prepared for us and all his people.

Lord, deepen our trust in your loving purposes for us all:

in your mercy, hear our prayer

We offer our prayers with thanks that you sent your Son to be our way, our truth and our life; and in confidence we say:

Loving God,

listen in your kindness

to the prayers of your Church,

that those who cry to you in their need may be sustained and consoled

with the abundance of your blessings.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of
God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness
and made us a light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

We depart in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

J S Bach, Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ
[The holy Christ is risen] BWV 628

Virtual Morning Tea Sunday 10.30 am

<http://bit.ly/GisAngVMT>

or simply PHONE in (video not needed) local call 7018 2005
and enter 4583766065 when prompted

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Thank you.

Fr Dennis is very appreciative of the love, support, flowers and other expressions of sympathy he has received. The death of one's mother is always difficult, and this Sunday it will be even more poignant being (secular) Mother's Day. Also, the constant news of people losing their lives to Covid-19 is a daily reminder for him. Nevertheless, Dennis is particularly buoyed by the many parishioners who viewed the service for Marion last Wednesday. He is on compassionate leave until Tuesday, and we ask that his privacy be respected.

Join EfM via **ZOOM**

The EfM (Exploring Faith Matters) Group of our parish would like to invite parishioners to join us as we consider the book "Fighting with the Bible – Why Scripture Divides Us and How It Can Bring Us Together" by Donn Morgan.

In times of conflict, the Bible is often used as a club to beat those whose opinions differ from one's own. We recoil from such usage, yet the Bible actually represents many diverse and conflicting points of view. It is like a library, full of books that speak to all sides of every question. Like Christians today, the communities and individuals who wrote the biblical texts often strongly disagree with each other. Ruth and Ezra, Isaiah and Ezekiel, Micah and Joel, Deuteronomy and Daniel, Mark and John... what would they say to each other? Do they have anything in common? Each of these voices is firmly committed to his or her specific view of "the truth," whether it reflects a particular place or community, a prophet, a style of worship, or an "understanding" of who is in and who is out. The author guides us in considering how we can do justice to this welter of disparate voices. What can the Bible teach us about living together? How can we use it as a powerful resource for understanding and for moving beyond conflict?

We will be discussing this book over 2 sessions – **Sunday May 24th** and **Sunday May 31st** from **3.00pm 'til 5.30pm** via Zoom.

We will give you the joining code and guide you through the process.

If you would like to join us, or read at home, the book can be purchased online through "Amazon", "Booktopia" or "Book Depository", priced from approximately \$7.00 - \$35.00. Delivery can take 3-4 weeks. It can also be purchased as an eBook for \$11.00 - \$14.00.



EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

Study notes have been provided to support the discussion and will be copied for those who would like them. Please let Debra or Alison know if you are planning on joining the group for this study. Looking forward to sharing this discussion with you.

Debra and Alison