

Anglican Parish of Gisborne
Church of the Resurrection
Macedon

A Celebration of Life
and
Requiem Eucharist



Alan John Foster

Ascension Day
Thursday May 30th, 2019
2 pm

Presider: Rev'd Dennis Webster

Principle Concelebrants:

Rev'd Jim Pilmer

Rev'd Graeme Brennan

Gospeller: Rev'd Jeff Berger

Preacher: Rev'd Dr Jane Foulcher

Eulogist: Mr Ian Dallas

Minister of the Word: Mrs Debra Saffrey-Collins

Organist: Mrs Alison Kitching

Before the beginning of the service, or before the cortège departs, you are encouraged to place your sunflowers on Alan's coffin as a mark of respect.

The Gathering of the People

The bell rings. The people stand and sing the introit hymn as the ministers process.

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness
bright.**

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord; is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night;

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love
alone.**

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord...

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame;
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

Here I am Lord...

TIS 658

Daniel Schutte 1947-

During the singing of the hymn, one of the clergy will place a stole on Alan's coffin as a sign of his priestly ministry with us.

The Presider says the following greeting ...

Blessed be God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Annaliese, assisted by Kimberly, lights the Candle, a sign of Christ's risen presence with us, as we pray the prayer that Adèle and Alan prayed together each day:

**Gracious and loving God,
thank you for the sun that warms us,
thank you for the stars which guide us,
thank you for the moon which helps us dream.**

**Thank you for the air which fills us,
for the water which cleanses and sustains us.**

**We dance in the wind,
rejoice in the birds' songs,
enjoy the flowers' beauty and the sheltering trees.**

Thank you for the delight and privilege of living freely in this world.

**As we come together today,
may we know your presence, loving and blessing us,
within us and around us, always.**

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us ask his forgiveness,
for he is gentle and full of compassion.

You have revealed yourself as the way to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You have poured upon us the Spirit of truth:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You are the Shepherd of eternal life:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider pronounces the Absolution.

May Almighty God have mercy on you,
✠ forgive you your sins
and lead you into life everlasting.
In Jesus name. **Amen.**

The Presider then prays the Collect:

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Tributes
Ian Dallas
Adèle Foster

“Somewhere over the rainbow” by Israel Kamakawiwo ‘ole

The Ministry of the Word
First Lesson – Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Read by Chrissy Mackinnon

After the Lesson, the reader says

For the Word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

The people remain standing while Fr Jeff Berger proclaims the gospel, first saying

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 14,
beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14.1-6a

After the Gospel, the minister says

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily
The Rev'd Dr Jane Foulcher

A short time of reflection follows the homily as the following is played:

“Walking In The Air”
by Sara Macliver - Soprano and Guy Noble - Piano

The Prayers of the People

The people remain seated for the prayers.

The Presider says

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.

Debra Saffrey-Collins leads the prayers, saying,

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude with

**Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

All stand for the Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body on the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a greeting of peace.

The following hymn is sung while the table is prepared.

*Rose Dennis and John Head
will bring forward the gifts of the people*

The Offertory Hymn

**Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone?**

**No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.**

**I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?**

**Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.**

TIS 693
Deirdre Brown
1936—

The Presider leads the Offertory Prayer:

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**May all who are called to a place at your table
follow in the way that leads
to the unending feast of life.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing and the Presider says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
giver of life, and conqueror of death.

By his death on the cross,
your Son Jesus Christ offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
breaking the power of evil
and putting death to flight.

Through his resurrection from the dead
you have given us new birth into a living hope,
into an inheritance which is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading.

The joy of resurrection fills the universe,
and so we join with angels and archangels,
with Alan and all your faithful people,
evermore praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues...

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Concelebrants together:

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Concelebrant 1

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Concelebrant 2

✠ Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with Alan and all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord:

President and Concelebrants

with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Presider says

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

The Presider says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.



The dis - ci - ples — knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

The bread which we break, Alleluia!
is the communion of the body of Christ.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

We are one body, alleluia!
For though many, we share one bread.

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Come, this is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

All are welcome at his supper.

A selection of Alan's favourite music is played during communion.

A post-communion prayer is said, followed by:

Post Communion Hymn

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

TIS 161
Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-

During the hymn the coffin is censed by Fr Jim

The Desiderata

The people turn and face the font as the coffin is taken to the entrance of the Church. The Desiderata is read.

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

By Max Ehrmann © 1927

Acknowledgement of Alan's Baptism

Water is splashed onto the coffin from the font as Fr Graeme prays:

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we thank you that you received Alan by baptism
into the family of your Church on earth,
and granted him the gift of eternal life.
He ate with us the bread of life
and drank from the cup of salvation.
We thank you for all your goodness to Alan,
in Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Farewell

The Presider says

Let us entrust Alan to the mercy of God.

**Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life
in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Alan to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever. Amen.**

The Presider gives the Blessing.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**
Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon him.

*At the discretion and timing of the family, Alan will be escorted from the Church
as Where are you going? (Dave Matthews) is played.*

Donations in honour of the life of Alan
may be made to the Anglican Board of Mission Australia
using the envelopes available in the Narthex



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

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*Adèle, together with Alan's mother, Sylvia;
Peter and Dianne, Jacqui and Hayden;
Michael and Taya, Elliott and Oliver;
Bethany and Pierre;
Jeremy and Miki;
Kimberly and Stuart;
Annaliese, Aubrie-May and Hamish;
Chrissy and Richard*

*all thank you
for your prayerful and joyful presence at this celebration of Alan's life.*

*They invite you to join them for continued fellowship and refreshment in
the Narthex.*

Beannacht

On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance to balance you.

And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window
and the ghost of loss gets in to you,
may a flock of colours, indigo, red, green, and azure blue
come to awaken in you a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays in the curach of thought
and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak to mind your life.