



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation

Easter Day & Holy Communion Service!

Sunday 5th April 2026 @ 10 a.m.

Joy Comes Alive, Jesus is Risen!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: Alleluia! Alleluia!! (*Choir to lead*)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Norah Duncan IV

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ is ri - sen! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
He is ri - sen in - deed!

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

ALL: *And also with you!*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 118:19–24*)

Open wide the way to renewed life that all may enter and give thanks to God.

Our prayers have been answered, and God has become our salvation.

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is Love's doing; it is awesome in our eyes. This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

A SPECIAL EASTER DAY LITANY

ONE: Hope is back.

TWO: ***Future is back.***

ONE: Promise is back.

TWO: ***Grace is back.***

ONE: Love is back.

TWO: ***Light is back.***

ONE: Renewal is back.

TWO: ***Song is back.***

ONE: Our friend is back.

TWO: ***Compassion is back.***

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: ***Hallelujah!***

TWO: ***Life is here.***

ONE: Truth is here.

TWO: ***Resurrection is here.***

ONE: Alleluias are here.

TWO: ***Rebirth is here.***

ONE: Love is here.

TWO: ***Grace is here.***

ONE: Possibility is here.

TWO: ***Promise is here.***

ONE: Jesus is here.
TWO: *Christ is risen!*
ALL: *Hallelujah!*

ONE: Life is now.
TWO: *Renewal is now.*
ONE: God is now.
TWO: *Love is now.*
ONE: Celebration is now.
TWO: *Faith is now.*
ONE: Belief is now.
TWO: *Recreation is now.*
ONE: Friendship is now.
TWO: *Thanksgiving is now.*
ONE: Sharing is now.
TWO: *Future is now.*
ONE: Jesus is now.
TWO: *Christ is risen!*
ALL: *Hallelujah!*

OPENING PRAYER

... We come to praise you with all of our whole bodies. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN/SONG: TIS 370 - Christ the Lord is risen today!

Christ the Lord is risen today: *Hallelujah!*

Sons of men and angels say: *Hallelujah!*

Raise your joys and triumphs high: *Hallelujah!*

Sing ye, heav'ns, and earth reply: *Hallelujah!*

Love's redeeming work is done; *Hallelujah!*

fought the fight, the vict'ry won; *Hallelujah!*

Jesus' agony is o'er: *Hallelujah!*

Darkness veils the earth no more, *Hallelujah!*

Lives again our glorious king; *Hallelujah!*
where, O death, is now thy sting? *Hallelujah!*
Once he died our souls to save; *Hallelujah!*
where's thy victory, O grave? *Hallelujah!*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

God knows our hurts and frustrations. God understands every sorrow and loss and still invites us to find hope in things above, like forgiveness, grace and love. Set your mind on these things, and God will never be hidden from you.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

SONG: TiS 720 – Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

(repeat ...)

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Reader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: ***"A light to our path."***

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jeremiah 31:1-6 (NRSVUE)

The Joyful Return of the Exiles

31 ¹At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

² Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³ the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

Words: NIV; Music: Evan Duggan



This is the day that the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad in it.



This is the day that the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

Response

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

Response

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of righteousness.

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

Response

I shall not die, but I shall live; and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I might enter through them.

Response

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Response

MATTHEW 28:1-10 (NRSVUE)

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 ¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Reader: “This is the Gospel of the Lord.”

ALL: ***“Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!”***

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *Joy Comes Alive, Jesus is Risen!*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

(Your offerings for the mission and ministry of God through Ballarat Central Uniting Church will be gratefully received during the hymn. Please remain seated until the last verse.)

HYMN: TiS 376 – I know that my Redeemer lives!

I know that my Redeemer lives —
what joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives, to bless me with his love:
he lives, to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives, my mansion to prepare;
he lives, to lead me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name;
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;
what joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(Followed by the Lord's Prayer in version and language of your choice)

HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

Please share the sign of peace!

HYMN/SONG: TIS 511 – Let us break bread together!

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

*As we travel through this land, all God's children hand in hand,
Lord, fill all our living with your life.*

Let us drink wine together with the Lord!

Let us drink wine together with the Lord!

*As we travel through this land, all God's children hand in hand,
Lord, fill all our living with your life.*

Let us all work together for the Lord!

Let us all work together for the Lord!

*As we travel through this land, all God's children hand in hand,
Lord, fill all our living with your life.*

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SETTING OF THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

... Great God of resurrection, bringing life from death, light from shadows,
adventures from question, authenticity from lies, we sing with all the angels:

TIS 756

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.***

... Let us therefore declare the witness of our faith:

TIS 756

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Gather us, who share this feast, into the kingdom of your glory that with all your people in every time and place we praise and worship you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, heavenly Father, now and always.

Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ is the bread of Resurrection,

Alleluia.

Christ is the cup of Eternal Life,

Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD TIS 756

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,
here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.
Though afflicted by brokenness and division,
here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.
Though daily we touch our limits,
here we have received the fullness of your grace.
Send us forth, O God,
in faith, in hope, and in love of the Resurrected Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN/SONG: I serve a Risen Saviour!

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, Whatever people may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!

In all the world around me, I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair;
I know that He is leading, Through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing, Will come at last.
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, Lift up your voice and sing,
Eternal hallelujahs, To Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, The Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, So good and kind.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!*

Alfred Henry Ackley 1887 - 1960

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BLESSING

Beyond death is abundant life.

We will live it.

Beyond the shadows of hatred and isolation is the light that draws us into community.

We will follow it.

Beyond the stone-covered tomb is a dance called resurrection.

We will move with it.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Live in the resurrected Spirit of Christ.

And now may the Christ who has risen, the God who sets free, and the Spirit who rolls stones, be with us and go with us all into this world.

Amen.

DISMISSAL SONG: Alleluia, alleluia! (Choir to lead)

Norah Duncan IV

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ is ri - sen! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
He - is ri - sen in - deed!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu’inauvai; **Elders** – Nancy O’Loughlin, Adri Stickland, Jen Mitchell, Anita Hinton; **Readers** – Greta Christie, Margo Cunningham, Bron James; **Prayer** – Rod Devenish; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Rod Devenish, Susan Pierotti; **Door Stewards** – Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Bron James, Lesley Lyons, Jan Dimond, Mary Hollick.

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For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**