



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Easter 2 – Sunday 12th April 2026

@10:00 a.m.

***“Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe!”***

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: P&W 32 - He is Lord!

He is Lord, He is Lord,

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow every tongue confess,

that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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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

Voice 1: As people of light,

All: *we come together.*

Voice 1: As people of the journey,

All: *we come to seek.*

Voice 1: As people of the resurrection,

All: *we come to worship.*

Voice 2: As people of the faith,

All: *we come together.*

Voice 2: As people of the good news,

All: *we come to seek.*

Voice 2: As people of the resurrection,

All: *we come to worship.*

Voice 3: As people of the mystery,

All: *we come together.*

Voice 3: As people to the gospel,

All: *we come to seek.*

Voice 3: As people of the resurrection,

All: *we come to worship.*

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 390 – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Spread the good news o’er all the earth. Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

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PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

... *Let us confess our sin:*

Leader: Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and action. You have given us love,

All: *but we have returned apathy;*

Leader: you have provided us with neighbours,

All: *yet we have become self-centred;*

Leader: you have given us a world to enjoy,

All: *but we have spoiled our home.*

Leader: Forgive us for the wrong things we have done, and for the good things we have failed to do.

All: *Give us time to change, with the desire and the will to do so. Amen.*

Words of Affirmation

Leader: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven'.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN – Early Word

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:

ACTS 2:14a, 22–32 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,
²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

PSALM 16

Metrical Version

Words: Joel Stamoollis; Tune: Nettleton

God, preserve me, you're my refuge.

"LORD, you are my Lord," I say.

All my good comes from you only;

I delight in all your saints.

Those who run after another find their sorrows multiplied.

I will not pour out their offerings;

their false worship I defy.

LORD, you are my chosen portion;

LORD, you hold my lot for me:

boundary lines in pleasant places,

it is beautiful indeed.

Bless the LORD who gives me counsel,
in the night instructing me.

With the LORD ever before me,
never shaken will I be.

Therefore, gladness fills my being,
and my flesh will dwell in hope.
For you'll not leave me to Sheol;
you'll preserve your Holy One.
You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is joy.
At your right hand there are pleasures,
true delight forevermore.

JOHN 20:19-31 (NRSVUE)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to

believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: "This is the Gospel of the Lord."

ALL: "*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!*"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *Rev Peter Mather*

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!"

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: The Source 3 No. 1131 – In Christ alone!

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
for ev'ry sin, on him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION *(Followed by 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!***

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN/SONG: TiS 351 – Lift high the Cross!

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, people, follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
draw all to you, let all the nations see.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on the cross adore their Saviour King.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

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WORD OF MISSION

Leader: As we go out into the world,

All: **peace be within and among us.**

Leader: As we go and live the good news,

All: **peace be within and among us.**

Leader: As we follow the path of Jesus,

All: **peace be within and among us.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 755 – You shall go out with joy!

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth in singing.

There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands, *(clap, clap)*

and the trees of the field shall clap their hands, *(clap, clap)*

and the trees of the field shall clap their hands *(clap, clap)*

and you'll go out with joy.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Rev Peter Mather; **Elder** – Maureen Vallance; **Readers** – Heather Gilbert, Nina Netherway, Emily Shearer-Cox; **Prayer** – Chris Kynoch; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Shirley Vanderbom, Merriel Le Marshall; **Door Stewards** – Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Faye Withers, Jan Tozer, Bev Hutchinson, Charlotte Withers.

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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:

www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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