

# Order of Service - Easter Day

## April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Greeting

Christ is Risen

**He is Risen Indeed!**

### Music

- *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *Because He Lives* [Because He lives I can face tomorrow - YouTube](#)

### Acknowledgement of Country

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked  
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their stewardship  
of this land throughout the ages.

We honour their history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit to work  
for reconciliation between all people, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

Lighting the Candles: Jesus said: 'I Am the Light of the World'.

### Call to Worship

This is the news:

**Jesus is risen!**

This is the moment

**Jesus is alive!**

This is the gospel

**Jesus is with us!**

We thought the story was finished.

We thought the hope had ended.

We thought that when the tomb was sealed,  
that was it.

But this is it:

**the story has just begun;**

**the hope is newly born;**

**the tomb is empty,**

**and one word says it all:**

**Alleluia!**

**Jesus is risen!**

We thought that when they crucified you,

death had defeated life,

and that was it.

But this is it:

**Love is stronger than death,  
and one word says it all:  
Alleluia!  
Jesus is risen!**

(Part of prayer written by Roddy Hamilton and posted on **Mucky Paws**. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>)

*Song: Jesus Christ is Risen Today* [The Easter Hymn Project: Jesus Christ is Risen Today - Pluckemin Choir and Somerset Hills Harmony - YouTube](#)

### *Opening Prayer*

When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.

**Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.**

The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.  
We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

**We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.**

**Amen.**

*(Prayer by Michaela Youngson, found at Prayers for Lent and Easter ([methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk)))*

### *Bible Reading - Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSVA)*

**28** After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And 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. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he<sup>[a]</sup> lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead,<sup>[b]</sup> and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' **8** So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

### *Passing the Peace*

Christ is Risen

**He is Risen Indeed!**

### [Bible Reading: Acts 10:34-43 \(NRSVA\)](#)

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

### [Children's Talk: Joy](#)

[Song: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah](#) [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

### [Reflection: The Other Mary Goes Back to Galilee](#)

#### [Prayer for Iran](#)

*God of resurrection,*

*On this day when we celebrate the fact that death and violence and humiliation will never have the last word we pray for Iran.*

*We pray for all accused unjustly - be with them.*

*We pray for those who experience violence - be with them.*

*We pray for all who grieve losses - loss of loved ones, loss of freedom, loss of peace - be with them.*

*We pray for all who are humiliated - be with them.*

*Shine you light and life into their lives. Amen.*

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2023)*

#### [Prayers for the church and world:](#)

Remembering:

- Those known to us struggling with their health.
- For those who wait to hear about their visas.
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict in the world
- **Baptist Mission Australia:** work and workers in Mozambique and Thailand
- **Baptist World Aid:** This Easter, praise God for the death and resurrection of Jesus, and celebrate that a better world is coming.

*Silence - in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain* (p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

## Prayers for our community and world

God of immeasurable love,  
We pray now for your world:

For those who feel they have been scapegoated

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those whose voices are unheard or ignored

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those who have locked themselves away in fear

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those living the consequences of betrayal and denial

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those who find themselves in the midst of war or famine

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those who doubt and live in the shadows

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those who feel broken by the world and life

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those who are unsure of what to do next

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

For those in imprisoned or detained

**May they find strength in the good news of Easter.**

Help us bring your word of life to all who need comfort and peace.

**And may we find strength in the good news of Easter.**

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2023)*

## 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Song: Worthy is the Lamb [Worthy Is The Lamb - Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir - YouTube](#)

## Offering & Prayer

God of all the world,

Accept our gifts and offerings we bring now.

May they and our lives be a symbol of your great love – For God so loved the world that he gave his Son so all who believe might live life in all its fullness. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2023)*

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church.

**Footscray Baptist Church**

**BSB: 083 437**

**Account No: 515383063**

## News & Notices

- **Happy Easter to all!**

- **New Persian flag** -you will notice in the hall there is a new Persian flag, thanks to Those who added it on Friday.
- **Reflective Prayer** – due to the public holiday, there is no reflective prayer this week.
- **140<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – save the date **May 28<sup>th</sup>**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Guest Preacher will be Rev Chris Barnden who is our area minister and also the grandson of Rev Wright who served at this church twice.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Pastor's leave** – I will be on leave from Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> – Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Myanmar Sunday** – the BUV has set aside April 30<sup>th</sup> for churches to focus on Myanmar.
- **Food Donations** (non-perishable items – rice, pasta, beans, lentils, oil etc) for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church.
- **Food for the homeless** (baked beans, snacks, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned tuna, spaghetti etc) can be left in the tub in the office.

*Song: Your's be the glory* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI>

### *Benediction*

When it takes hold, resurrection doesn't let go,  
 it shakes the dead awake,  
 it shakes the darkness from the light,  
 it shakes the silence from our throats  
 and it wrestles death from all that is dying.

Let us go out into the world  
 and in the upheaval of resurrection  
 seek out the life.

(By Roddy Hamilton and posted on **Mucky Paws**. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>)

*Song: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

*Go in Peace*