

ONLINE SERVICE

Sunday 12 April 2020

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Easter Greetings

Whitehorse Pastors Network

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9
Christine Bradbeer

Young at Heart

The Getty Family at home for Easter

Sermon

Jesus resurrection, then ours
1 Corinthians 15:1

Prayers of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



Easter Greetings from the Whitehorse Pastors
Network

<https://www.facebook.com/blackburnpresbyterian/>



NOTICES

12 April 2020

Wednesday 15 April

1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time

Sunday 19 April

11 am Sermon on the Mount



(resumed) Streaming online
during the COVID-19 crisis.

To join us online...

Go to blackburnpc.org.au and click the Facebook button
at the top of that page.

For your prayers this week:

Congregational member: Grace Chia



also

Rob & Teresa minister with Pioneers.

They are with a Church planting team (APWM).

MEMBERS who wish to continue their freewill
offerings may use the banking details at the bottom
of this page or post to our Treasurer. Vic Ansell,
59 Queen St Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555.

GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLACKBURN

12 April 2020



GOOD FRIDAY

Notes

Coronavirus and his crown of thorns.

What can rescue the human family from the predicament of our mortality?

Many of us could die.



We all get our turn.



There have been 'strange times' before. My friend Bill lived through the Spanish flu as a 2 yo. Charles H Spurgeon exhausted himself as a 19 yo visiting the sick and dying in 1850's London. Martin Luther had wise advice for those with civic responsibility in 1527 when bubonic plague decimated Europe.

Much earlier the Hebrew prophets yearned for rescue so that there might be human flourishing. They envisioned the good life in the most exquisite terms. And called for deliverance from the plagues of their day. But their poetry also had dark and foreboding elements. A deliverer would come, but not as they expected.

We see this throughout the Old Testament. From Genesis 3:15 the crushing of the serpent would damage the deliverer. In Psalm 22 we have the cry of an abandoned man, despised, mocked and pierced. The image is graphic. Read it yourself.

Zechariah 13 has an image of every family mourning alone for the 'one who was pierced'. In Isaiah 53 we have the image of a suffering servant come to deliver the human family but despised and rejected. Dying for us that we might be forgiven. As Eugene Peterson asks (Isaiah 53:1) Q. "Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this?" A. Nobody.

From around the year 200 we have graffiti showing a crucified man with the head of a donkey. The text mocks, "Alexamenos" who "worships his god".



Yet the human condition is so bad that we need a god who knows pain and grief. No other god does, only *Jesus of the Scars*. We love the crucified One. But he first loved us. Be unafraid to worship him.

EASTER SUNDAY

Notes

Jesus resurrection, then ours.

On Thursday morning I had a breakfast meeting with sixteen other church leaders from the City of Whitehorse. It was by zoom of course. We were discussing how to minister the love of Christ to our own congregations, now unable to congregate, and help and care for the isolated and vulnerable in our City of Whitehorse. At the close we sent greetings to each other's churches. It was a beautiful moment of unity.

1. The Message is about Jesus

Our concern is to share the Message which Mary Magdalene brought to the first disciples. They were in isolation, hiding and afraid of the authorities. She brought news, almost unbelievable news; the Lord is risen!

in those days the testimony of a woman didn't count. It had to be verified by men. Peter and John raced to the tomb. It was empty. Then appearances happened to men also. St Paul lists them in the Bible passage Christine read. These were the legally accredited witnesses. He mentions no women.

In Whitehorse we have created a charity, Whitehorse Churches Care so that we can all play a part in serving our municipality.

2. The Saver who couldn't save himself

That was the derisory call of the mockers at his crucifixion. They didn't realise that in fulfilling the ancient prophecies he would not save himself if he was to save others! But save us from what?

In lockdown this week I watched the 1961 'romantic comedy' *Breakfast at Tiffany's* for the first time. Note: 1. The line: "No matter where you run, you always run into yourself". 2. the cheapest object becomes the most treasured. Our pursuit of false gods (such as wealth) will never satisfy our deepest needs. We need to be saved from our sinful selves. The Servant of the Lord gave his life that sinful people might be forgiven.

Jesus would not save himself, because he was set on saving others.

3. Name above All Names

The message of the women, duly verified, was the start of a transition to a whole new world. The king crowned with thorns, by death and resurrection, brought his kingdom to earth. It is here now.

Why should people show love and care toward others? The Bible calls us to love God and love your neighbour. If we have the Spirit of Jesus this is what we will do!

Friends, let me go over the Message with you one final time—this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand and by which your life has been saved. (I'm assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you're in this for good and holding fast.)

The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to me.

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 *The Message*

It's great seeing people finding innovative ways to do this during lockdown.

Jesus was raised to the highest place by the Father. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend. St Paul talks about this writing to the Roman colony at Philippi (Philippians 2:1-11).

4. Trust yourself to Him

You may have doubts about the faith. You may find the resurrection difficult to believe? Take heart! The passage we're considering today was written by someone who persecuted the Church of God.

One of the greatest defenders of Christianity in the last 100 years was once an atheist, CS Lewis. Risk reading the New Testament and let the Holy Spirit work in your life.

Some of you have been disciples of Jesus for a long time. This Easter remember the foundations of your life of faith. As Isaiah says, look to the rock from which you were quarried.

You have the glory of the risen Christ awaiting you.. Eye has not seen nor ear heard neither has it entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for those that love him.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, may God enable us all to trust ourselves to him today.