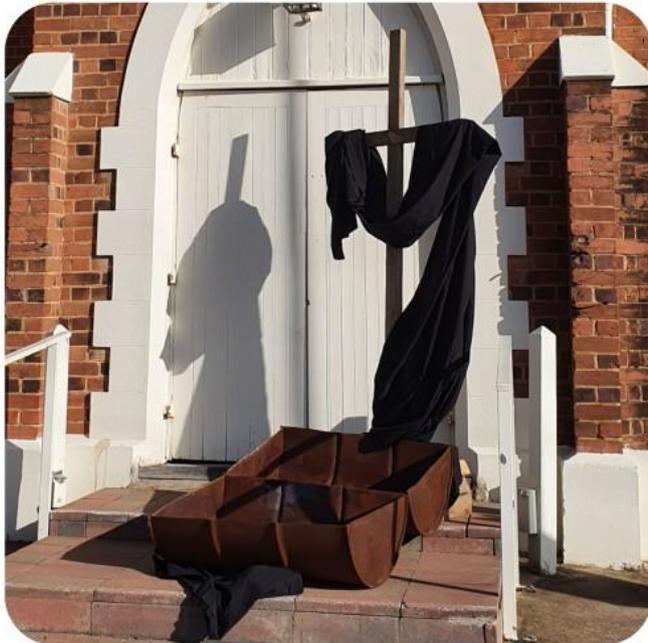
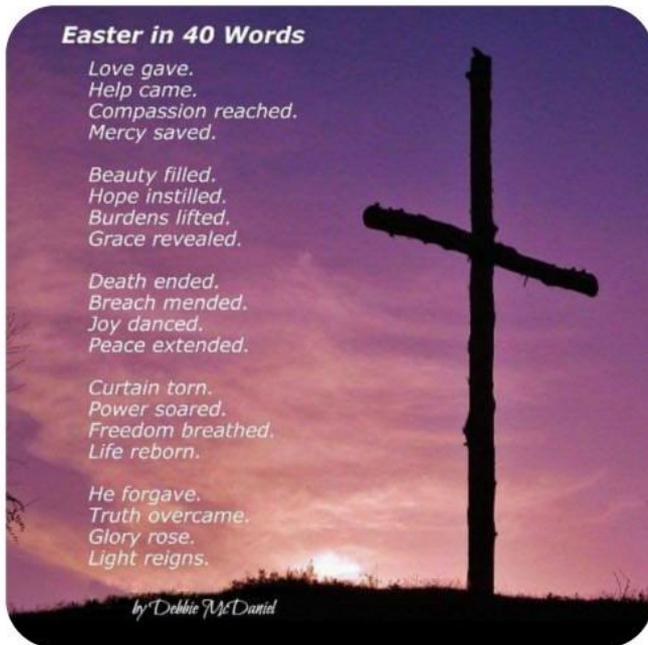


Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Third Sunday of Easter
26th April 2020



Easter at Christ Church

[Image Collage c/o Fiona Holland]

Hello everyone!

I found this article during the week - which I thought had some interesting things to reflect on. As the pandemic keeps us from visiting our sanctuaries, L. Roger Owens a professor of Christian spirituality considers a notion from Abraham Joshua Heschel: "*Sabbaths are our great cathedrals.*"

He writes (Tuesday, April 14, 2020): A few weeks ago, I tried to skip church. The two older kids had been up late several nights in a row because of the high school musical and cast parties, the youngest because she thinks she should stay up late when they do. And that weekend, we would "spring forward," losing another hour of sleep. "I'm invoking the once-a-decade skip church policy," I said. "You three don't have to go in the morning." I decided I would skip as well. I'd heard rumours of people sleeping in on Sunday mornings and lounging in their pyjamas while sipping coffee and reading The New York Times. *What the heck, I thought. I'll give it a try.*

My wife left early for the church where she works. (It's too far to be our whole family's church home.) I slept in a little longer. I enjoyed a couple of hours of quiet. By 9:30 a.m., I'd finished my oatmeal and was listening to NPR when I thought, *If I hurry, I can shower and make it to worship by 10.* One thing led to another, and before I knew it, I was pulling into the church parking lot.

How could you fail at skipping church? I thought as I entered.

As it turned out, that was the last Sunday I could have gone to church; it was the Sunday before "social distancing" became a household phrase and cancellation announcements swept through Facebook. Now I couldn't go to church if I wanted to. And I do want to. I want to stare out of the clear windows in the sanctuary and watch the crows harass a hawk as the pastor delivers his sermon. I want to talk with my friend Larry after worship about missing NCAA basketball. I want to tell the kids that, no, they can't have another doughnut during the social hour.

But now, none of us can be in our sacred spaces. During a moment of grieving this loss, I remembered a line from the Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel's spiritual classic "The Sabbath": "*Sabbaths are our great cathedrals.*" The Sabbath, he suggests, is a cathedral in time. Heschel reminds readers in a culture obsessed with the acquisition of things and the control of spaces that attending to the holy in time can order our lives toward the divine. "*There is a realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be,*" Heschel writes, "*not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord.*"

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When we are bereft of our sacred spaces, we are perhaps especially able to receive an unbidden gift: the chance to rediscover the holiness of time. Might we also be sharing resources for people to practice marking time in holy ways right where they are? If we do this, we might be surprised to find that when we finally gather again, our faithfulness to meeting God in time has opened a new depth of awareness to God's presence among us, a new sensitivity to what is holy. The Christian tradition offers many opportunities to practice meeting God in holy time: observing feast days, attending to liturgical seasons, practicing fixed-hour prayer, saying grace before meals -- all ways of meeting and opening to the divine that are determined more by *when* we are than by *where* we are. And, of course, there's the Sabbath, which Christians observe not on the seventh day, the day God rested from creation, but on the day after the seventh, what early Christians thought of as the "eighth day," the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of God's new creation. *"Spiritual life begins to decay,"* Heschel writes, *"when we fail to sense the grandeur of what is eternal in time."*

As so that's what our family did a few days ago, on the fourth Sunday of Lent. We marked holy time together. I shook the oldest teenager awake at 10:30 a.m. "Family worship in 30 minutes," I said ... I sensed that grandeur as we, without leaving our family room or changing out of our pyjamas, stepped into a cathedral in time and met the God who meets us in holy hours as well as holy places.



If I'm honest with you, I'm finding this week more difficult than any since the pandemic began ... I don't really know why. This is not a cry for 'pity or sympathy' but rather an acknowledgement that there are going to be ups and downs as we learn to adjust and try and make sense of all that is around us. I did think I would have more time for 'stuff' - but it doesn't seem to have materialized for me yet.

The flock of birds in the tree outside my back door remain full of voice - and seem to have much to share with each other as the day unfolds. Bonnie and Clyde seem to remain oblivious to the worries of the world, and I am greeted every morning with that hopeful cry - "You are going to feed us today - aren't you ... yes? You are! Good!" Creation itself - seems to be breathing a 'sigh of great relief' on land, in the air and under the waters of the earth - this is good news for our planet!

There is much that is good about this enforced rest and change of pace. It is a different 'Eucharistic feast' each week - in the 'great cathedral of the Sabbath.' There is much to be thankful for! May we continue to walk in faith, in hope, and in love. With every blessing to you, and those you love; this day and always.

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Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

Easter Season Quiz I:

1. How many times does Jesus say, "Peace be with you" in the Gospels?
2. How many fish were caught in John 21:1-14?
3. How many times does the phrase, "Do not be afraid" appear in the Bible?
4. Who am I?
 - I lived in the city of Thyatira.
 - I dealt in purple cloth.
 - St Paul met me when he travelled through my region?
 - I was baptised with my household.
 - I am believed to be considered the first convert to Christianity.
 - I can be found in the second book of Luke. *[Answers next week]*

EASTER 3 youTube from Rev:

"A Journey of Wonder"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYsOfZ4UroU>



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; our neighbour, our family and friends; those in our aged-care facilities; those facing grief; those facing unemployment.

Community: Front-line health care workers; those feeling anxious; those feeling trapped and claustrophobic; all cleaners; those who feel unsafe at home; those who have served and continue to serve in our Defence Force.

Years Mind: June Robinson, Isabel Milner, Gladys Martin

If you would like Diocesan May Intercession Prayer booklet – please let Rev know!

Looking after yourself in these strange times:

Keep things in perspective

This situation is temporary, and is for the benefit of the common good.

Take care of your body

Try to eat well, sleep soundly and exercise. If you become unwell – take time to rest and recover.

Check your screen time

Engage with media that helps you feel connected and positive.

Look after your head ... and your heart

Be kind to yourself. Try and do something you enjoy every day.

Reach out to others

Support and kindness go a long way. Talk, listen and offer help when you can.

Use this time

Do some things you've always wanted to do. No matter how small the task – savour a sense of accomplishment.

Ask for help

You are not alone!

National Coronavirus Helpline

Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telephone: [1800 020 080](tel:1800020080)

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading : Acts 2:14a, 2:36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 116:1-4, 11-18

Response: *To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise*

1. I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him. **(R)**

2. The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow. **(R)**
3. Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'
How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me? **(R)**
4. I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people. **(R)**
5. Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant, your servant
and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds. **(R)**
6. I will offer you a sacrifice of
thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it

was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' And this is the word that was preached to you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Lord Jesus, make your plain to us, make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia

Gospel:

Luke 24:13-35

***A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke***

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they

were kept from recognising him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' 'What things?' he asked. 'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.' He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened

and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them,

assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Collect: Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On the Road to Emmaus

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
 Luke 24:31a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:13-35 (NIV).



W X Q T T I Z H E G H W Z O R
 V O D H L I F G J S E C R O E
 Q P E A Y N I Q I H Y Q T G U
 C E P N A B J L X D E I A T X
 T N Y K D R O I E E S L Y U H
 J E I S E O Z K F I L C K G R
 I D S V F A L L V I G R R J X
 B P K T T A H T V K U U S K E
 D E R W W B R E A D N C U F I
 U S L O C L E O P A S I F V E
 O T D I P H F V S C M F F I A
 W T I M E H I C J I O I E C D
 J M S M C V E Y K J S E R Z G
 E M M A U S E T Y L E D P C O
 J V K V I D K H J E S U S R Z

WALKED	JESUS	SUFFER	CRUCIFIED
MOSES	BREAD	BELIEVE	VISITOR
THANKS	FOOLISH	PROPHET	EYES
CLEOPAS	OPENED	VILLAGE	EMMAUS

It Takes Time

It takes time to bake a loaf of bread,
to grind, to knead, to wait ...
time for friends to break and share their lives.

It takes time to craft in wood,
to strip, to wound, to bleed ...
time for the original to be released from the
prison of our fear.

It takes time for us to build
and fortify our lives,
time for the steel of the Divine to slay our pride.

It takes time to be alone,
to become one's intimate friend,
time in the dry for the hidden stream to fill
the empty well.

It takes time to wait in silence
for the coming of the spring,
time for a bud to swell on winter's dreams.

It takes time to let your life be turned around,
to accept a vision's death,
time in the void to see with different eyes.

It takes time to still within
and merge with life,
time in the wild to let a river slow you down.

It takes time to tend a crop of grain,
to plough, to sow, to wonder ...
time for love to ripen and be harvested.

Noel Davis