



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

10 April 2022

Palm Sunday

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Philippians 2: 5-11, Luke 19: 28-40

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *Hear the word of the Lord*

Response: *Thanks be to God*



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all	. 8am
three	. 9.30am
worship	
services	. 6.45pm

8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie and
Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood and
Clive Pearson

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8



6.45pm—Worship

Led by Nicola Lawless and
Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 11 APRIL

7.30pm—Holy week reflections
online via Zoom

TUESDAY 12 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
7.30pm—Holy week reflections
online via Zoom

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am—Women's Fellowship
in the upstairs hall
7.30pm—Holy week reflections
online via Zoom

THURSDAY 14 APRIL



9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Maundy Thursday
service

FRIDAY 15 APRIL Public Holiday



9am—Good Friday service
7.30pm—Good Friday service

SATURDAY 16 APRIL

No Scheduled
Activities



EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL



8am—Worship
9.30am—Worship
KUCA in recess for school holidays
6.45pm—Worship

MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024
Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB Part Time
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG Part Time
Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

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PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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Palm branches, parades, placards.

It is rather difficult to imagine how effective a Palm Sunday-type procession would go in contemporary Sydney. Our cities are so much larger, so much more complex than first century Jerusalem. It is difficult to estimate the population of ancient cities. The scholarly opinion is maybe somewhere between 20,000 and 100,000 (at most). Its cultural diversity would no match for many cities in today's world. It was the chief city in an occupied land. Its primary architectural attraction was the Temple which served as the focus for its faith in the God of Israel. It was a walled city – the present walls date back to the time of the Ottoman sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent: in the time of Jesus there were 8 gates; the prophet Ezekiel had predicted that sometime in the future there would be 12 – that number would correspond with the 12 tribes of Israel.

Sydney may be surrounded by national parks and waterways but it is not a walled city: its mode of transportation is not primarily by foot or horse. It is hard to imagine a comparable march into the city of Sydney along the M2 – or would be the M1 or the M4 or 7? That is not to say that Sydney does not have parades, processions and protest marches. Every year there is an Anzac Day parade; in recent years we have become familiar with climate marches and freedom marches occasioned by the pandemic. They feature in the news cycle for a moment and then they are gone.

How well the Palm Sunday rallies in the CBD address they everyday life of Sydney's citizens is a moot point. There are so many rival attractions on offer. It would seem as if such parades are more of value for those who participate: they are like a kind of exercise in being a pilgrim preparing for Holy Week.

All four gospel record Jesus' 'triumphant' entry into Jerusalem: whether that is the right adjective is open to debate. The standard triumphal entry known to Romans and a conquered land would be for the leading military and political figure to ride into the city on the back of a warhorse, at the head of legions. It would have a much closer affinity in our day to those May Day

parades in some countries where the might of military arsenal is on display. This entry is hardly triumphant in that sense at all. Coming into the city – into Jerusalem, 'the city of peace' – on the back of a donkey is 'the prince of peace': it is a way of humility and it represents an alternative, a different way, from the geopolitics of the day.

Paul's letter to the Philippians captures that way of humility. It is now thought that the passage set aside for this week (Philippians 2:5-11) is an ancient hymn: it may well be the oldest Christian hymn to which we now have access. It has been subject to much discussion and extensive commentary. Paul has included this hymn into his epistle, presumably using familiar words to that small community, to remind them of how they are to live and to do so in a manner 'worthy of the gospel'. Of particular interest is the line which has to do with being found in human form, he humbled himself. On the cross Jesus will be humiliated; his birth in a manger (according to Luke) is humbling. Now his entry into Jerusalem is a sign of humility. It is hard to know how well humility travels in contemporary Sydney: we like to point to our achievements, successes, proclaim our wins.

And yet humility is the distinctive Christian virtue. In the ancient world no male of standing would like to give the impression of any inferiority; he would be proud of his achievements and those who enjoyed his patronage would know to whom their good future is indebted. Perhaps we should refer to Jesus' humble (rather than triumphant) entry into Jerusalem.

Yours in Christ,

Clive

One of the most haunting of Palm Sunday contemporary hymns is 'Travelling the road to freedom' by John Bell and Graham Maule.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUEZP0P95-M>



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Eulalie Herat

Barbara Fiedler

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

10 – 16 April

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

On-line Holy Week Services

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, and
Wednesday 13th April

@7:30 pm.

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

These services will last between 20 and 30 minutes. They include prayers, some music (including meditative seasonal chants from the Taizé community in France as well as a selection of works of art. There will be a short reflection of between 5 and 7 minutes on the theme set aside for the night.

Please see In Focus for more details

Being prepared for next week's worship:

Easter Sunday: 8.00 am: "He is not here, he is risen". - Luke 24:1-12

9:30 am: "An Idle Tale". - Luke 24:1-12

6:45 pm. "Were our hearts not burning within us?" - Luke 24:13-35.

The first three gospels share much in common in their description of the passion narrative and the cross. With regards the resurrection it is a different matter. Each (plus John) includes episodes peculiar to its own version of the gospel. Our three services for Easter Day pick up different features of Luke's account of the resurrection to be found in Luke 24. The longest section in Luke is dedicated to the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and their encounter with the risen stranger who breaks bread with them.

The resurrection is an essential part of the Christian confession. The apostle Paul declared that if there was no resurrection, then 'our faith is in vain'. It is sometimes said the hymns or the particular text to do with resurrection you might select (if you were asked to preach) becomes the key to your understanding of the faith. What would you choose and why?

One of the lines that stands out for me in Luke's account is how news of the resurrection seems like an 'idle tale' to the first disciples. It must seem like that to many people in our society today. The crucifixion is perhaps easier to comprehend. Witness to the resurrection

depends upon a series of appearances, the transformation in the lives of frightened disciples and the beginnings of the church.

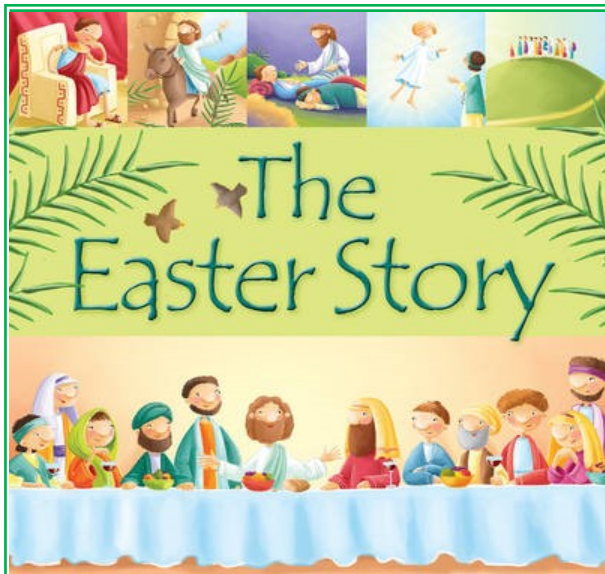
Of course, there is no actual account of the moment, the process of resurrection. It has never been conveyed in art or music. For that reason the song / hymn composed by Colin Gibson below is rather fitting.

1 He came singing love
and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our
song;
you and I be the singers.

2 He came singing faith
and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
we must make it our
song;
you and I be the singers.

3 He came singing hope
and he lived singing
hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
we must make it our
song;
you and I be the singers.

4 He came singing peace
and he lived singing
peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
we must make it our
song;
you and I be the singers



Easter Slide show

As part of our Easter worship services, we are looking to create a slideshow with some images that show the various aspects of the Easter story. We are looking to include as many images as we can and would love your help.

We are looking for images that depict each individual part of the Easter story. It doesn't have to be a literal recreation, feel free to get creative.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Daniel via email:

daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au



*Thank you from the
Rev Bill Crews Foundation*

Thank you so much for your kind donation of a congregation food drive. Gifts such as yours helps keep our operational costs down and enables my team to put more resources into our frontline services such as the Loaves & fishes free restaurant, health care, and crisis support for our guests.



Volunteers needed!

St. Matthew's play
group

The St. Matthew's play group would like to start back soon and we would appreciate having some volunteers to help oversee the running of the group. If there is anybody who would like to volunteer within this group or require more information, please contact Marijke Prinsloo. The play group has been a great asset to the wider community and we would like to see it grow again!

Currently we are looking at a Thursday group that will run between 9:30 - 11:30.

Email: marijkeprinsloo@gmail.com

Mobile: 042364477

Dirk's New Role

Hi everyone,

I hope you are journeying well.

I wanted to share some news with you - I started in a new role last week at Uniting. I have joined the Uniting Recovery Service PCI team as a counsellor for two days a week. As I look back on my ministry journey, I see how the strands of theology/spirituality and counselling/psychology were intertwined from the start. I am grateful that the culmination of these 25+ years has resulted in this new adventure.

Thank you for your support, thoughts and prayers.

Warmly,

Dirk

ST. MATTHEW'S BAULKHAM HILLS CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AS AT 1 DECEMBER 2021.

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Barbara Gibb
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Terry Oliver
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Alastair Burn
<u>ELDERS Chairperson:</u>	Helen Olley
<u>ELDERS Secretary:</u>	Melissa Gibson-Darling
<u>Co-Opted members:</u>	David Neideck

Karen Vandenberg (Staff HR Liaison/support)

To Contact CC Executive: please email Barbara - barbara.gibb@bigpond.com