



# Alstonville Anglicans

Third Sunday of Easter 26th April 2020

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land, on which we worship, work and meet, the Bundjalung people. We recognise the significant role the past and future Elders play in the life of the region. We are mindful that within and without the beautiful sandstone church, the Land always was and always will be Bundjalung Land.

## Up coming

- ANZAC Day Saturday 25th April @ 5.30am
- Sunday 26th April @ 8am
- Sunday 26th April Messy Church @ 4pm
- 26th April Sunday@6 Conversation

**All live streamed on Facebook: Alstonville Anglicans!!**

## ANZAC Day



Saturday 25th April, 5.30am, outside the church, Rev Desiree and Rev Geoff will commemorate ANZAC Day. Rev Desiree will play the 'Lament' on the bagpipes. Rev Geoff will recite 'The Ode' and the flag will be lowered.

### Live streamed on Facebook

You will find instructions on our website for making a milk bottle lantern. Pop in a tea light and join with us and the Community in lighting up the dawn on ANZAC day. If you are able, please take a selfie and email them to Anne at [ma@anglicans.live](mailto:ma@anglicans.live).



## Liturgy Sunday @ 8am live streamed

*We acknowledge and pay respect to  
the traditional custodians of the land,  
on which we worship, work and meet,  
the Bundjalung people.*

*We recognize the significant role  
the past and future Elders  
play in the life of the region.*

*We continue to ask their forgiveness.*

### Opening Song

TiS 382 Now the Green Blade Rises

**1** Now the green blade rises,  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth  
many days has lain;  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:

*Love has come again  
like wheat that springs up green.*

**2** In the grave they laid Him,  
love who had been slain,  
thinking that He never  
would awake again,  
laid in the earth  
like grain that sleeps unseen:

*Love has come again  
like wheat that springs up green.*

3 Up he sprang at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
he who for the three days  
in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead  
my living Lord is seen:

*Love has come again  
like wheat that springs up green.*

4 When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us  
back to life again,  
fields of our hearts  
that dead and bare have been:

*Love has come again  
like wheat that springs up green.*

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## **Introduction**

I greet you from the other side  
Of sorrow and despair  
**With a love so vast and shattered  
It will reach you everywhere**

And I sing this for the captain  
Whose ship has not been built  
**For the mother in confusion  
Her cradle still unfilled**

For the heart with no companion  
**For the soul without a king**

I greet you from the other side  
Of sorrow and despair  
**With a love so vast and shattered**  
**It will reach you everywhere**

*from "Heart with no Companion" (from Various Positions by Cohen)*

## Gradual Song

**We Walk His Way (Ewe, Thina)**

(Ewe, Thina)

Sizowa nyathela amadimoni

(Ewe, Thina)

Unarmed, he faces forces of demons and death (Sizowa nyathela amadimoni)

He breaks the bonds of hell dying on the cross

We Walk His Way

The tree freedom blooms by his empty grave

We Walk His Way

(Ewe, Thina)

We Walk His Way: Shorter Songs for Worship ©2008 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Artist: John I. Bell Choir: Wild Goose Collective Composer: John I. Bell  
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## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests

and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Sermon

## Prayers of the People

(from Leonard Cohen "Not Knowing Where to Go," *Book of Mercy*)

Let us pray.

Not knowing where to go,  
**I go to you.**

Not knowing where to turn,  
**I turn to you.**

Not knowing what to hold,  
**I bind myself to you.**

Having lost my way,  
**I make my way to you.**

Having soiled my heart,  
**I lift my heart to you.**

Having wasted my days,  
**I bring the heap to you.**

Blocked by every thought,  
**I fly on the wisp of remembrance.**

Defeated by silence,  
**Here is a place where the silence is more subtle.**

*[A time of silence]*

Adapted from Dr Brian Walsh <http://empireremixed.com/>

We pray for all medical personal in their care for others.  
We pray for essential workers in their service to us. Breathe  
your peace on them.

Silence

**"May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all."**

We pray for friends and family. We pray for our church family too. Breath your peace on them.

Silence

**"May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all."**

Finally we pray for ourselves.

**"May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all."**

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

My Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself  
wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
**Amen.**

Soul of Christ, **sanctify me.**  
Body of Christ, **save me.**  
Blood of Christ, **inebriate me.**  
Water from the side of Christ, **wash me.**  
Passion of Christ, **strengthen me.**  
O good Jesus, **hear me.**  
Within your wounds, **hide me.**  
Let me never be separated from you.  
From the malignant enemy, **defend me.**  
In the hour of my death, **call me,**  
And bid me come to you,  
That with your saints **I may praise you**  
**Forever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

## Final Song

Come, people of the risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!



Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,  
Men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing,  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age;  
'Our God is all in all'.

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# Sunday@6 Liturgy Theme: Doubt

Talk: Facebook Live 6pm

Discussion: Zoom 6.20pm

Reading: John 20

Talk (Facebook Live)

Worship (Zoom)

## Prayers

"May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all."

## Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, the spirit of timeless wisdom,

Your kindness melts my hard, cold soul.

Handsome lover, selfless giver,

Your beauty fills my dull, sad eyes.

I am yours, you made me.

I am yours, you called me,

I am yours, you saved me,

I am yours, you loved me,

Hold me to you so I am never lost.

Give me death, give me life,

Give me sickness, give me health,

Give me honour, give me shame,

Give me weakness, give me strength.

I will have whatever you give,

That I might be with you.

*(After Teresa of Avila)*

## Questions:

1. What are some of your doubts?
2. What is the opposite of doubt?
3. My talk will invite us to embrace doubt as the raw material of faith.
4. I will offer the following equation: The more faith, the more doubt. What is your reaction to this teaching?

## Closing Prayer

God of all care and compassion  
you take us through deep waters  
but never abandon us in the storm;  
we walk in the dark  
but you never leave us without your light.  
Be with us in the night of our anxiety  
and in the day of our assertions  
that we may keep faith with each other  
as you forever keep your faith with us,  
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

It is a relief to know that the disciples are given the gift of God's presence while behind locked doors, while it is evening and while fear of the Jews is the atmosphere. There is no ordered-ness about their lives; there is no deep manifestation of faith, just darkness, fear and locked doors. Jesus appears within their place of fear and breathes on them the holy spirit and commissions them as apostles. This is a far cry from the requirements for ministry outlined in 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus.

One might be tempted to screen write this - "and the disciples filled with the presence of God became a source of God's presence for others. They live happily ever after as Easter people living in the present God's promised future with confident, faithful lives"... No. The pattern repeats itself.

**Unless I put my hand in his side...** The disciples are again in and upstairs room, the doors are still locked, and there is faith and doubt. Doubt incidentally is often in the same room as faith, the more faith the more doubt. Doubt is not the absence of faith but a process of growing from one stage of faith to another.

I am curious about the transition in the second episode where the disciples have again locked the doors and Jesus appears again in the midst again offering peace. The transition as I see it is this: Thomas doubts, Jesus appears in the midst of that doubt, Jesus offers peace, Thomas touches the wounds and then Thomas says the most powerful thing an Easter person can ever say - a confession of faith - My Lord and my God.

And maybe this is our journey: Working with doubt as the raw material of faith, receiving the peace of Jesus and then touching his wounds our relationship grows. Remember that the wounds are about the story of the cross. Faith doesn't annihilate the pain and suffering. Jesus suffering is transformed, but not transmitted.



## From the Wardens

Dear Parishioners

Thank you everyone for your prayers for our church family and for everyone affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. These are very trying times, and as yet we don't know when we will be able to gather in worship and fellowship with one another in our church. In the meantime, we are making every effort to ensure that we connect with one another either by phone or online. This is challenging us all in different ways. We are very fortunate that Revd Desiree has been able to video and stream our Sunday services. Our Easter services have been a real blessing. And, in fact our online ministry is reaching people far and wide. A very big thank you to Desiree for ensuring we still have opportunity to worship and receive the Word.

You will have read in the Kaleidoscope newsletter that we are offering 4 options for your continued financial support. We truly appreciate your efforts in taking up the newer electronic options. This ensures that we are able to continue to serve you and uphold our mission of sharing the good life through our various ministries. We again provide you with the various options for maintaining your giving.

### **OPTION 1: Use Direct Debit facilities through the Parish Provider program.**

This is organised through our Grafton Diocese office who then provides funds back into our Alstonville account. **This is our preferred choice. It also provides anonymity as we do not receive a record of who is giving what.**

#### **Steps to use this option :**

(1a) Please read the attached brochure, and complete all the information.

(1b) Post it to the AFGD, PO Box 4 Grafton NSW 2460

OR

**OPTION 2:** Use EFT

(Electronic Funds Transfer) from your bank account direct into our church account.

Steps to use this option:

(2a) on your home computer, you simply log into your bank account, and can set up a regular deduction

system, so that a set amount is transferred into our bank account

- Alstonville Anglicans - BSB **705077** Account No. **32931**

(2b) indicate the amount you wish to give each time

(2c) indicate the start date for the first amount, eg Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

(2d) indicate how often you wish this deduction to occur, eg weekly/fortnightly/monthly

(2e) importantly, in the Reference section, PLEASE enter the word '**Offertory**'.

OR

**OPTION 3:** Drawer a cheque to

Alstonville Anglicans for your weekly/fortnightly/monthly giving amount and

post to Alstonville Anglicans, PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477.

OR

**OPTION 4:** Continue to use the weekly giving

envelopes, AND then place them in our locked letterbox (8 The Avenue), **BEFORE 12 noon on the 1st Friday each month.**

Your continuing support (financially and in prayer) is a major step in enabling our Church to continue.

The Wardens

Did you know...

## Sew Helpful Craft Group

Lorraine Beattie from Alstonville Anglicans has been sending out a group email each week to keep in contact with the Sew helpful group. Attached are photos of projects that have been flying back and forth.



Pinky and the Brain: A pink beanie knitted by Carol Vidal.

Stone Henge: Jenny Handley is turning a rubble pile of rocks into a fern and shade garden: A place we can visit one day hopefully and sit in peace and quietness.



Bonnie Bonnets: by Lorraine Beattie is preparing in the hope we will have a fete down the track.



## Messy Church Easter Packs

Our Messy Church families had Easter gift packs delivered to them. The packs included a craft activity, Easter treats and an invitation to celebrate the mystery of Easter via our website link.

Our first live streamed Messy Church event is scheduled for 4pm Sunday 26th April. Being together in isolation!





## Online Statistics

We are able to monitor the reactions to our online videos and posts. During this time of online church our statistics have skyrocketed!! The Maundy Thursday service attracted 2600 reactions. The other Easter services had more than 350 hits each. Our Facebook posts usually attract reactions from 30–50 people now these posts are consistently being seen by over 100 people per post. The changes to Ministry enforced on us are clearly filling a need within our community. Well done Rev Desiree.



## Article Northern Star Monday 13th April We appeared on the front page!



### Bulletins

We have teams of volunteers delivering bulletins to those who do not have access to emails. Parishioners have been very appreciative and we are grateful for the time our volunteers are devoting to keeping the Parish connected. For parishioner who have the technology the bulletins are being emailed each week.

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman priest@anglicans.live	0402 764 969
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson The Reverend Geoff Vidal Life Groups Chaplain	0411 394 213 0447 645 456
	The Reverend Greg Ezzy	0412 660 742
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
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e-mail:	office@anglicans.live	
website:	anglicans.live	

**The Anglican Op Shop** 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel: 6628 8777**

We give thanks to God for all people making offertories to the vision of God's Kingdom here on earth. If you would like to contribute electronically to the Parish Provider these are the details: **BSB: 705 077 / Acc: 32931**

