#### GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

#### *Matawhero Church – Church Lane*

#### *St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:*

#### *176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

#### *31 March 2024* *Easter Sunday*



#### **Flowering the cross on Easter Sunday**

***We welcome all other visitors to our service this morning....***

***Please sign the Visitors’ Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church.***

***In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable.***

***BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response. Where there is an asterisk \* please stand.***

Prelude

**Welcome … notices … Introduction Ruth**

*Time of silence to prepare ourselves for worship*

**Introit:** *and entry of Bible.* He Lives!

**I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today  
I know that He is living, whatever men may say  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer  
And just the time I need Him He's always near**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way  
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart**

**Lighting of Easter Candle Ruth**

**Proclamation**

The light which the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out. Today we light the candles again, proclaiming the transforming power of God. As the light returns, we give thanks that God’s transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us. Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities. Christ is alive and living among us!

As we light the candles, we acknowledge that there is still pain and suffering in the world, but we place our trust in God and in the way shown by Jesus Christ. In the midst of darkness, there is light. In the pain of death, there is life. In the face of what appear to us to be overwhelming odds, God is at work in us and in the world, working for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant. Christ is risen; Christ is risen in us, for wherever we gather in his name, he is there.

*Light Christ Candle*

**All: Alleluia, Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed!**

**Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today CH4 410** vv1,2,4

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!**

**Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**

**Who did once, upon the Cross, Alleluia!**

**Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise, then, let us sing, Alleluia!**

**Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!**

**Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!**

**Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above Alleluia!**

**Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia**

**Praise to God in love made known, Alleluia!**

**Word, Creator. Spirit, One Alleluia**!

**Call to Worship: Lynnor**

Out of sight;

out of hearing;

beyond understanding

**a stone rolled**

While all the world turned away,

while the world slept,

while the world forgot,

**grave clothes fell**

Christ is alive,

**waiting for us to take notice.**

Christ dwells among us,

**waiting for us to respond.**

The life of Christ surrounds us:

**Christ is risen indeed**

**Prayer: Katherine Hawker - adapted**

Eyes exposed to the suffering of Christ in all humanity,

may we see your promise in the Empty Tomb.

**May we see beauty before us**

Ears throbbing as the wounds of hatred echo through time may we hear the love song of your Word

**May we hear beauty behind us.**

Lips burning from the bitter tang of rejection,

may we taste the sweetness of your decisive claim in our lives

**May we taste beauty above us**

Hands bloodied from lifting the Body broken,

may we touch the strength of the risen One.

**May we touch beauty below us.**

Opened fully to the experience of despair,

may we know the beauty of Resurrection

**May we experience beauty within us.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed**

Alleluia!

**Christ is risen!**

Alleluia??

**Mostly! Sometimes…**

God, who weaves extraordinary patterns into ordinary lives;

**Forgive us for smugness.**

**Forgive us for taking you and yours for granted.**

**Forgive us for failing to accept**

**both the cost and the joy of discipleship.**

***Silence***

Because Christ died for us, Christ is also risen for us!

**Hallelujah! Christ has risen, indeed!**

***In acknowledgement that we have received the Peace of Christ***

***let us offer to one another that same peace.***

***Please greet your neighbours with “the Peace of Christ be with you”.***

\***Hymn**  Thine be the Glory CH4 419

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,**

**endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won;**

**angels in bright raiment, rolled the stone away,**

**kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,***

***endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.***

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;**

**lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;**

**let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,**

**for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;**

**life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;**

**make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:**

**bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

**Lighting the Candle of *Hope*:**

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us hope **Trish**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** The First Day by BD Prewer **Trish**

**Hymn:** This joyful Eastertide CH4 415

**This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow.**

**Refrain:  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
not burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain:  
but Christ has now arisen, arisen,  
arisen, arisen.**

**Death's flood has lost its chill,  
since Jesus crossed the river:  
lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver. (Refrain)**

**Reading:** Isaiah 25: 6-9 **Jan**

**Lighting the candle of *Forgiveness:***

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us forgiveness **Bob**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** Mark 16: 1-8 (Lectionary) **Bob**

**Reading:** The Tomb by Joy Cowley from *Come and See* **Trish**

**Lighting the candle of *Faith:***

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us faith **Jan**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** *Easterings* by Joy Cowley from *Psalms Down-Under* **Jan**

**Hymn:** We are an Easter People AA146

**We are an Easter people,**

**ours is an Easter faith,**

**The yeast is rising in our hearts,**

**Our wine has vintage taste.**

***Refrain Christ is risen, Christ is risen, risen in our lives.***

**We are an Easter people,**

**Ours is an Easter faith,**

**Our tears are freed to flow and heal**

**Our shattered hopes and hearts.**

*Refrain*

**We are an Easter people,**

**Ours is an Easter faith,**

**Our fears have died, we rise to dream,**

**To love, to dance, to live.**

*Refrain*

**Lighting the candle of *Peace:***

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us peace **Lynnor**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** *God of the unexpected* by Joy Cowley from *Psalms for the Road* **Lynnor**

**Hymn:** Now the green blade rises CH4 417

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.  
  
In the grave they laid Him, Love Whom we had slain,  
Thinking that He’d never wake to life again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.  
  
Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.  
  
When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,  
By Your touch You call us back to life again;  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.**

**Lighting the candle of *Love:***

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us love **Bob**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** *He is risen* by Joy Cowley from *Come and See* **Bob**

**Hymn:** Christ is alive **CH4 422**

**1 Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,  
and the stars and the suns shout on this joyful Day!  
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate  
in a great alleluia, a great alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.**

**2 Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering  
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,  
here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,  
and we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.**

**3 Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity  
to the music of God, God who has set us free!  
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;  
with a great alleluia, a great alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.**

**Lighting the candle of *Joy:***

Reader: The Risen Christ brings us joy **Pat**

**All:** **Alleluia, Christ is risen**

**Reading:** *Easter Sunday* by Joy Cowley from *Psalms Down-Under* **Pat**

**Hymn:** Great ring of light **AA 57**

**Great ring of light, true circle with no ending;**

**clear beam so bright, whose purpose knows no bending;**

**O Word of God, in darkness always shining out.**

**A man who cried upon a cross at Calvary;**

**for him who died an empty tomb, a mystery;**

**O risen Christ, all pain and loss transcending.**

**Immortal fire of love forever yearning;**

**flame of desire for our salvation burning;**

**Spirit divine, our friend and present comforter.**

**The light shines still, the eternal Word has spoken;**

**on Calvary’s hill the power of death is broken;**

**and I receive the life, the joy, the loving.**

**Prayers of the People**

Bidding: and in your mercy

**Response: hear our prayer.**

**Presentation of Offering and flower-covered cross**

\*Doxology CH4 809

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;**

**praise God the Word, who came to earth;**

**praise God the Spirit, holy flame:**

**all glory, honour to God’s name**

\*Dedication

You may remain standing for

**Communion Hymn:** The Day of resurrection CH4 413 vv1,3

1. **The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;**

**the passover of gladness, the passover of God!**

**From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,**

**our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.**

1. **Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth her song begin;**

**let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;**

**let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,**

**for Christ the Lord hath risen, our Joy that hath no end.**

**The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper Version B**

*You are invited to come forward to one of the Communion Stations*

*to receive the read of Life and the Cup of Salvation*

*For Christ is with us Alleluia.*

**\*Hymn:** Joyful, Joyful, PCC 410 vv1, 3

**Joyful, joyful we adore you,**

**God of glory, Lord of love.**

**Hearts unfold like flower before you,**

**opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;**

**drive the dark of doubt away;**

**giver of immortal gladness,**

**fill us with the light of day.**

**You are giving and forgiving,**

**ever blessing, ever blessed,**

**well-spring of the joy of living,**

**ocean depth of happy rest.**

**God Creator, Christ our Saviour,**

**all are yours who live in love.**

**Teach us how to love our neighbour;**

**lift us to your joy above.**

\*Commission and Benediction

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,

whom death could not contain,

who lives to disturb and hearl us,

bless you with power to go forth

and proclaim the gospel.

**Amen.**

**We go in peace to love and serve the Christ**

Amen. Go with God

**We go out into the world**

**lighting candles of Hope,**

**of Forgiveness, of Faith, of Peace,**

**of Joy and of Love.**

**We go out in the power of the risen Christ.**

\*Three-fold **Amen**

**Ministers*: All the people* Organist:** *Paul Pollock*

**Readers** in order of appearance: *Ruth McLennan, Lynnor Cooke, Trish Groves, Jan Ewart, Bob Bos, Pat Flockhart.*

**You are warmly invited to join us in the lounge for morning tea.**

**Note:** The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you miss noticing this, you may place a retiring offering in the offering boxes at the door as you leave.

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**Mindful Prayer topics:** March 24th & 31st 2024 – Remembering Christ's suffering and sacrifice for us. Global tensions; the Homeless; the Bereft. GPP and Parish Council. Ourselves. “Lord, give us the strength to do what is right - may others see you through us”

.Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email [m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz)

Christian Blind Mission accepts used stamps. Send directly to them or Val Hall. (Leprosy Mission no longer accepts stamps)

**Please remember** donations for the Love basket when shopping. All offerings gratefully received.

Val Hall and Pat Flockhart are offering Home Communion, and they need an Elder to be present. Any Elders willing to assist, please phone or email Val Hall.

For all Pastoral care needs please contact one of the committee members:

Jenny Lawton  868 4268; Ruth McLennan 021 02704867; Jan Gordon 0211836008 Annette Ormiston 0275535028 Barbara Larsen 863-9009

With blessings from the Pastoral Committee

**DIARY**

**SUNDAY 31 EASTER DAY Music Service and Communion**

**10.00am St Andrew’s**

**Matawhero - No service**

**APRIL**

Monday 19.00am Walking Group

Tuesday 2 10.00am Open Door **All welcome**

Wednesday 39.45am mainly music

Friday 5 1.00pm Choir Practice

**SUNDAY 7 EASTER 2 Hymn-along**

**10.00am St Andrew’s**

**Matawhero - No service**

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| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 31 March  Easter Day  Music service  Communion Flowering of Cross | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  Various readers | **Don McC** Sarah McC, ~~Cathy Porter~~ | N/A | S: Hans  V: Linda  C: Hans |
| 7 April Easter 2  Hymn-along | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  tbc | **~~Don McC~~** ~~Sarah McC, Cathy Porter~~ | ~~N/A~~ | ~~S: Hans~~  ~~V: Linda~~  ~~C: Hans~~ |

***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

***St Andrew’s Church and Matawhero Historic Church:***

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Thursday***

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