

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**  
**Welcomes you to St Andrew's Church**  
**10 a.m. Sunday April 1 2018**  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**  
**EASTER CELEBRATON**



*May God bless, inspire and challenge you and give you  
peace.*

**Worship Leader:** Rev Mary Petersen      **Reader:** Jan Ewart  
**Director of Music:** Catherine Macdonald  
**Organist:** Paul Pollock      **Pianist:** Val Hall  
**Choir**

*If you are a visitor here, welcome, and please stay for morning tea.*

*We gather together as the people of God*

## **Welcome and notices**

### **Moments of silence to prepare ourselves for worship**

Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Introit:** HS 21 Companions, let us pray together v. 1

Companions let us pray together,  
in this place affirm our faith.  
Our God who made us is here among us;  
we stand together in God's grace.

*We are whanau, we are one,  
brothers, sister, of the Son.  
We are reaching for our freedom,  
the prize that Christ has won.*

The choir will sing while the Bible and the candle,  
representing the light of Christ among us, are carried into the church.  
Please remain seated but join in the singing.

### **Call to Worship**

Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The light which the world tried to extinguish, cannot be put out.  
Today the candle symbolises the light of Christ proclaiming the  
transforming power of God. As this light shines among us, 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 and new possibilities.  
**Christ is alive and living within us.**

Yet we are very aware 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 life.

In the pain of death, there is life.

**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.**

Alleluia.

**Praise God.**

**Sing:** CH 4 410 Jesus Christ is risen today

Jesus Christ is risen today,  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once, upon the Cross,  
suffer to redeem our loss.

*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
who endured the cross and grave,  
sinners to redeem and save.

*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*

But the anguish he endured  
our salvation has procured;  
now in heaven Christ is King,  
where the angels ever sing

*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*

Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love;  
praise him, all you heavenly host,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia!*

*We listen to and engage with the Word of God*

**Congregational story time:**      *What does Easter mean to you ?*  
TRANSFORMATION ?

## **Transformation of the Cross**

**Sing:**    HS 21   v. 2, 3 and 4

The broken Christ stands here among us,  
shares our suffering and our pain;  
in breaking bread we find empowerment  
to live in aroha again.

*We are whanau, we are one,  
brothers, sister, of the Son.  
We are reaching for our freedom,  
the prize that Christ has won.*

The risen Christ brings light and laughter,  
celebrates the life we share;  
the poured out wine of Christ's self-giving  
inspires us to reached out and care.

***Refrain***

Now let us sing to God who loves us  
and accepts us as we are;  
go out from here and live that message,  
proclaim our oneness near and far.

***Refrain***

**Reading:    LITANY ON THE LIFE OF JESUS**

Jesus came into this world as a baby,  
was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

**Jesus was God's special gift to the world.**

Jesus showed amazing knowledge of the scripture at an early age,  
And taught in the synagogues.

**Jesus was God's special gift to the world.**

Jesus became a carpenter, a builder, a teacher.  
Jesus was a son, a brother, a friend, a leader.

**Jesus was God's special gift to the world.**

Jesus journeyed into the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry.  
His ministry was about God's love, justice and healing.  
His ministry challenged the powerful and the proud.

**Jesus was God's special gift to the world.**

Jesus proved that nothing can separate us from God's love,  
not even death.

**Jesus was God's special gift to the world.**

We are called to live as transformed people,  
changed by the love of God.  
We are his risen life on earth.

**Thanks be to God for Jesus, God's special gift to the world.**

**Reading:** Acts 10: 34 – 43    *Peter's Speech*

**We Sing together an affirmation of our faith:**

SDA 526    God sent his son

God sent his son, - they called him Jesus;  
He came to love, - heal and forgive;  
He lived and died – to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

*Because he lives – I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives – all fear is gone;  
Because I know – he holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because he lives.*

**Reading:** from John 20 : 1 – 18

*Mary of Magdala sees Jesus ‘through the prism of her tears’*

**Sing:** WOV 674ii Alleluia: Jesus is Lord of all the earth

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
he is the King of creation.**

*Refrain :* Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

**Spread the good news to all the earth,  
Jesus has died and has risen.**

*Refrain:*

**We have been crucified with Christ;  
now we shall live for ever.**

*Refrain:*

**Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

*Donald Fishel Tune: Alleluia*

**Reflection: SEEING CLEARLY NOW ? EASTER MEANS ?**

- *What makes it hard for you to see clearly?  
tears? or responsibilities? or misunderstanding? or ... ?*
- *God is with us, so close ... and yet so far for some ?*
- *not an ending, a beginning : the risen Christ lives IN YOU*
- *God’s people are the living body of the risen Christ now  
Christ is alive! what does that mean to you?*

We respond to God

**Sing:** CH4 422

**Christ is alive! and the universe must celebrate,  
and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter 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.**

**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.**

**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,  
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.**

*Words: Shirley Murray Music: Jillian Bray*

**Prayers of the people**

-

*Lynnor Cooke*

**Offering** ... and dedication of the offering and ourselves

*We sing as the offering is brought forward, as part of our commitment prayer*

Praise God **CH4 809** ( to tune 807 Old 100<sup>th</sup>)

**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.**

*We pray together:*

**Loving God, who gives us new life, bless the gifts we bring.  
Inspire us, as we seek to live as your people,  
and help us to share your love in the world. Amen**

*We are in communion with God and each other*

**This is the Lord's Table. All are welcome here.**

**The choir sings:** HS 148 When at this table I receive a blessing

When at this table I receive a blessing,  
the broken bread, the wine of life for me,  
then let me share the peace with you, my neighbour,  
and let the Spirit set our spirits free.

If at this table I have need of healing,  
unbidden grief, relationship gone wrong,  
then let me know the hands of God enfolding,  
and let lament become believing song.

If at this table I forget the hungry,  
the dispossessed and warfare's spreading stain,  
then let this bread become the bread of judgement,  
this wine the sharp awareness of that pain.



If at this table I make dedication  
to give my life in serving what is good,  
then let my centre be where God invites me,  
and show the words of Jesus understood.

What faith I have, I bring to join this table,  
what hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true;  
with brothers, sisters, I will share the blessing,  
the feast where God is making all things new.

The peace of God be with you all.  
**Peace is here for all to share.**

*We share the peace of God with one another.*

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Come, ready to receive.

**We come to receive the Bread of Life.**

Come together, with thanks and hope.

**God's grace is our life and our joy.**

Here we bring bread and the juice of the grape,  
gifts of the earth, and signs of our human need.

**We bring who we are to this sacred place.**

We place these gifts of the earth  
and ourselves in the hands of Christ.

**May his spirit fill our hearts and shape our actions. Amen**



We come here to do what Jesus told his disciples to do:

**we remember, we thank God and we are enabled to go on  
in the power of God's Holy Spirit.**

We come to this table acknowledging that we have fallen short of God's  
standards for us.

We come in an attitude of confession.

**We are forgiven through the love of God.**

**God's love meets us here and takes away our fear.**

God breathes into us a new and faithful spirit.  
God offers us a new way of living and helps us to shape the world in love.  
**God is with us now to comfort, strengthen, challenge  
and guide us through the adventure of life.**  
We have the assurance that God is always with us.

**As we celebrate the love of God offered to us,  
may we also celebrate being God's people in this time and place.**  
We come to this table together but we also come as individuals.  
**Through the love we know in Christ, we can share love with others.**

We are a people formed in the image of God.  
We gather at this table as Christ's community.  
**Christ is risen. Alleluia.**  
Come from your lost hopes and forgotten dreams,  
Your fears and your grieving.  
**Christ is risen. Alleluia.**

As we gather here today we are grateful  
for all those who have taught us by word and example  
how to be followers of Jesus.  
They are a great cloud of witnesses around us.

*We say together the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Sharing communion is about celebrating Jesus.

In the symbolic imagery of spiritual food we receive encouragement, strength and assurance through the grace of God.

*Prayer of thanksgiving*

God of the table,  
We live the story once more  
Of that time and place when Jesus took bread  
And asked for your blessing upon it.  
Jesus talked of betrayal and promise.  
Of companionship and trust,  
Of breaking and sharing,  
And remembrance and renewal.

Gracious God, come to us in the broken bread – nourish us.

In the sharing of the cup be our joy  
and our courage for life ahead.

May we be fed by your love and set free by your power  
and may we go from this place refreshed and renewed by your spirit.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*This is my Body*                      - from words by Joy Cowley

*“Take and eat; this is my body.”*

Your body is broken as bread for us,  
That in our brokenness we may understand  
You are in all our crucifixions, big and small,  
And you lead us always to resurrection.

*“... this is my blood of the covenant,  
Which will be poured out for many  
For the forgiveness of sins.”*

Your disciples understood sacrifice.  
It was part of their traditional faith.  
But this was bigger than simple atonement.  
In your surrender to death you freed yourself  
from the restrictions of one human life  
to be available to all people.  
Wherever blood is shed,  
Wherever there is pain,  
Wherever there is grief,  
You are there, closer than a breath  
With the truth of life and death  
And a greater life to come.

*“... I shall not drink this fruit of the vine  
Until the day when I drink it with you  
New in the kingdom of my Father.”*

You drink the new wine of the kingdom.  
We drink the new wine of you  
And through you, the kingdom  
Rests in us, a world without horizons,  
A knowledge beyond words,  
All of it contained in love.

*“Take, eat - and remember.*

**The choir sings:** HS 90 Living Christ you call us here v. 2, 3 and 4

Living Christ, be present here,  
host your supper now;  
break the Word, shed the light,  
be now the Truth.

Living Christ, renew us here,  
meet us in this feast;  
broken bread, wine outpoured,  
be now the Life.

Living Christ, you walk with us,  
now anoint our lives;  
let us live self-less love,  
be now our Friend.

*Bill Bennett*

The Living Christ is with us now.

We take these symbols of bread and the cup  
and do what Jesus asked of his followers.  
We remember Jesus.

**We remember Christ's story.**  
**We celebrate his risen life among us.**

After eating the Passover meal with his friends,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God,  
and shared the bread with his disciples, saying:

*Take, eat – this is my body given for you.*  
*Each time you do this, remember me.*

In the same way Jesus took the cup

*A body was broken, a life poured out with the living hope of life,  
healing, justice and peace for all.*  
*This cup is the symbol of the new covenant between you and God.*

Jesus said:  
*Whenever you drink this, remember me.*

The God of grace welcomes us all to this table,  
this moment of communion with God and with each other.

**We who are many are one body for we all share the one bread.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be in Christ and Christ in us.**

[ Please remain in your seats and the elders will come to serve you.

Eat the bread when you receive it but please hold the cup so that  
we may drink together as a symbol of our unity in Christ.]

“Eat this bread, drink this cup”

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all evermore. **Amen.**

*After Communion we say together*

**For the power of Christ’s love in our lives,**

**For the promise of a world renewed,**

**We give our thanks and praise,**

**Most gracious God to you. Amen**

*We go blessed by the Spirit of God*

**Sing:** CH 4 419 Thine be the glory, risen conquering son

**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.**

*Refrain*

**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.**

*Refrain*

**Blessing:** Go to live as the risen body of Christ,  
overflowing with love, faith, hope and peace.  
**We go in the power of the Spirit of God.**  
Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**  
God bless you. **Amen**

