



St Andrew's Welcomes You

ON THE ROAD...

The Resurrection stories of this Easter season are stories of great joy. But they were set against the backdrop of fear, pain, suffering, confusion and grief following Jesus' cruel death on the cross.

Today we journey with Jesus' disciples, on the road to Emmaus. In their grief and confusion, they encounter a stranger. The only person, it seems, who does not know what has happened in Jerusalem in these days.

The stranger walks with them, listens to them and opens the scriptures for them. In his presence, their hearts burn within them and as he breaks bread with them, their eyes are opened to the presence not of a stranger, but of the Risen Christ. In these days of fear, pain, suffering, confusion and grief, around the world, I wonder about the unexpected companions you have encountered on the journey.

Perhaps neighbours you did not previously know, or familiar companions you have come to know in a different way? Have your eyes or your hearts been opened in surprising or unexpected ways.

I wonder if you have caught glimpses of the Risen Christ, on your daily walks, in the kindness of strangers, in the words of scripture, the sounds of music or of nature, in new ways of praying, in new insights within yourself or within your bubble?

Once again we are reminded, on the road to Emmaus, as in every journey of our life's, that no matter how challenging the pathway, we never ever travel alone.

The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross



26TH APRIL 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hymn

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

Psalm 116:1-4,12-19

I love you, O Lord
because you heard my voice:
when I made my supplication,
because you turned your ear to me:
when I called upon your name.

The cords of death entangled me,
and the grip of Sheol laid hold on me:
distress and anguish descended upon me.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "deliver me O Lord, I beseech you."

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 God's people.**

Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of a faithful servant.

**Lord I am your servant, the child of
your maidservant:**

You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer 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 God's people,**

In the courts of the Lord's house:
in your midst O Jerusalem.

**Whakamoetitia, a Ihowa. O praise the
Lord.**

Readings:

Acts 2:14a,36-41

1 Peter 1:17-23 / Luke 24:13-35

Anthem

Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal
Word and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever. Amen

Sentence of the Day

"Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them. Their eyes were
opened, and they recognized him."

Luke 24: 30-31

Collect of the Day

Enduring Love, in the life and death of
Jesus, we experience your promise of new
birth and abundant life. When we are lost,
unable to identify you clearly, walk with
us on our road of life. Though our eyes be
sightless, warm our hearts so that we can
recognise your presence, an imperishable
treasure. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

Loving God,
we thank you for your presence with us
on this confusing and difficult journey.
We pray for all those who suffer,
those who have died
and those who feel isolated.
Empower those who work
to care for and protect others.
Empower all who stay home
to save lives.
Stay with us Jesus.

Open our eyes to see you.

We bring to you those who we do not
recognize, the stranger, the traveller,
the asylum seeker, the refugee.
Stay with us Jesus.

Open our eyes to know you.

We bring to you those
who made sacrifices
for the benefit of others,
those who fought
and suffered in conflict,
and those who pay a high price in this
time of isolation.
Stay with us Jesus.

Open our hearts to love you.

Risen and revealing God, you walked
with us for a long time before we knew
who you truly were.

We talked about this world as if we were
the ones who saw it clearly. Now that we
more fully recognise your continued
presence with us, give us eyes to see the
beauty that surrounds us, as well as the
problems we have too long ignored.

And may our hearts then burn with your
illuminating and catalysing fire that we
might see the world that you envision.

We pray for ourselves:

We bring to you our hopes that have
been disappointed, the sadness we find
hard to name or to let go.

Stay with us Jesus.

Open our hearts to your healing presence.

We bring to you the long and lonely
roads we have trodden, the times we
have walked away bemused.

Stay with us Jesus.

Open our hearts to your healing presence.

We bring to you the times we have been
too busy to listen, to people who we
have missed.

Stay with us Jesus.

Open our hearts to your healing presence.

These things we pray in the name of the
Risen Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing

God of every encounter,
open our eyes
to your presence among us,
in the meeting of strangers,
in the sharing of scriptures,
in the gift of hospitality,
in the breaking of bread.
Bless us
with eyes to recognise you,
with hearts to burn within us
and with confidence
to share your resurrection life.
Amen.

Hymn

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour, with the Father reigns.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love and praise.

Emmaus

On that day of rain, I walked with you
seeing but not seeing You in wet trees,
hearing but not hearing You
in the symphony of water sounds
played by a flooded stream.

You were everywhere and yet closer
than the sanctuary of my umbrella,
closer than the misted breath.

I didn't need to ask who You were
for my heart burned with recognition.

Feeling that I would lose You,
I cried, " Oh Lord come home with me!"

You smiled through the dancing rain,
the puddles, the grey fence posts,
and You whispered,

" Ah! I am already there." *Joy Cowley*

SOME THOUGHTS FROM BISHOP JOHN BLUCK IN A TIME OF TRIAL

3. There is still a centre

If you've been around for a while you will probably have already experienced the bottom dropping out of your world. The death of a loved one, the loss of something you loved, job redundancy, life threatening illness, marriage breakup, the list goes on. But few of us post war people have faced the bottom dropping out of the whole world; where you wake up one morning to see all the old certainties about economy, global trade and travel, sports and entertainment, social interaction disappear, with no guarantees of them returning, ever, and certainly not in their old forms.

We have to find ways of dealing with that shock together, even though we aren't allowed to have contact with each other, outside our social or family bubble.

Until we can and talk again, physically rather than digitally, there are some reassurances to hold on to. In the midst of all that uncertainty, the sun rises each morning as beautifully as ever, the waves break on the beach (if you're lucky enough to have access), the autumn days are crisper and the autumn leaves lovelier than ever.

That utter dependability and eternal simplicity of the natural world surrounds us and waits for us to savour and enjoy. And if you take the time each day to let all of that wash over you, the wider chaos is a little more bearable.

**God of simple things, you meet us in
All around us that is still
Beautiful, reliable, constant
And even where the bottom falls out
The centre still holds**

Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday

Psalm 119:17-24 / Acts 6:8-15 / John 6:22-29

Holy Spirit, when we feel confused or threatened by change, come to us as you came to Stephen, filling us with grace and strength. Sustain our faith and courage, that we may recognise the presence of Jesus, your Bread of Life, both within ourselves and within each other. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Tuesday

Psalm 31:1-5,16 / Acts 7:51 – 8:1a / John 6:30-35

Sustaining God, you provide us with daily 'bread' in Jesus. Challenge us afresh whenever we are stiff-necked, opposing you, denying your prophets, seeking more signs and wonders, yet failing to recognise your presence and nourishment among us. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Wednesday

Psalm 66:1-6 / Acts 8:1b-8 / John 6:35-40

Faithful One, even when we feel persecuted or scattered, you never leave us. In the midst of turmoil you offer peace; in the midst of hunger for a new way, you send Jesus, as Living Bread. Give us renewed trust and hope that we may inherit your promise of everlasting life. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thursday

Psalm 66:7-8,14-end / Acts 8:26-end / John 6:44-51

God, you are like a baker woman making nourishing bread for those she loves. As we share your generosity, rise up within us so that we hear your words to 'get up, go, hear and learn'. Send us to speak your living word, sharing hope and community with those we meet on the journey. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Friday

Psalm 117 / Acts 9:1-20 / John 6:52-59

Nurturing God, even though we have Jesus, your Bread of Life, in our midst, we, like Saul, breathe 'threats and persecution' in our day. Release us from all that which binds us. Remove the scales from our eyes, so that we may see clearly the Jesus way to you. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Saturday

Psalm 116:10-15 / Acts 9:31-42 / John 6:60-69

Challenging God, you have gifted us with Jesus, your love in our midst. Nonetheless, we find his teachings and way of life demanding. In spite of that, you send us out in Jesus' name to do your work. Raise up that which is dead within us, so that we may become your love and justice in the world. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

REPORT FROM THE VESTRY MEETING , TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2020

· The vestry met for the second time through the magic of Zoom. All of the members of the vestry are well but are looking forward to when we can worship and be in community together again.

· The Diocese has given some guidelines as to what the various levels look like for church communities. Details are on the next page, (page 7).

· Margaret Tracey presented her final report as she stepped down as parish treasurer (Thanks again Margaret). We welcomed Stephen Hamilton into this role.

· Stewardship Campaign 2020

The response from parishioners to the 2020 Stewardship Campaign has been really positive and has resulted in increased level of giving. As a vestry, we would like to thank you for your generosity as you have considered how you can financially support St Andrews.

· The Strawberry Fair is our big fundraiser of the year. While the hope is that we can continue to run this in November, a great deal is uncertain at this time. We began to explore other ways we might be able to run this event, such as, a range of smaller events, delaying it until Autumn. We will continue to discuss this as we monitor the situation over the coming months.

· Obviously, the last month has been a little different for us as a church. Who would have thought that we would have had our Holy Week and Easter services via the internet and not been able to gather together as a community during the most important week of the church calendar? As a vestry, we would like to thank everyone for their positivity in adapting to our new way of doing things.

· We also want to thank Sarah for all that she has done to make this all possible. We know that it hasn't been easy but we are really grateful for all that you have done to help us through this time.

As we remain to be in lockdown, please continue to pray for others in our St Andrew's whanau, as we continue to pray for you. Recorded by Rebecca Berry Eden.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, EPSOM

EVENSONG

TO COMMEMORATE ANZAC DAY

An interactive service involving readings, prayers and pre-recorded choral music

5PM

MONDAY 27TH APRIL 2020

VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID# 853-6552-7821



COVID-19 MOVING TO LEVEL 3

New Zealand will move out of COVID-19 Alert Level 4 at 11.59pm on Monday April 27. We will be at Alert Level 3 until at least May 11, 2020 when Cabinet will review this decision. We have received helpful guidelines from the Bishop regarding what this means for us as a church.

ALERT LEVEL 3

Everyone is encouraged to remain at home as much as possible.

Services, social gatherings and meetings will continue via Zoom.

The parish office will remain physically closed.

Karen and Sarah continue working from home, but are available to assist you in anyway you might need via phone, video call or email.

Pastoral care will continue by phone and video call.

Funerals of up to 10 people can be held in the church or at a funeral home/chapel. These will involve strict physical distancing and hygiene requirements.

ALERT LEVEL 2

We await further guidance from the Government regarding the guidelines for life under Alert Level 2.

We will operate within Government guidelines regarding safe practice.

On May 12 Vestry will explore how and when we can return to public worship in a safe and sustainable way.

It looks likely that we will be able to reopen our buildings and to gather in groups up to 100 indoors with strict physical distancing, contact tracing and hygiene requirements at Alert Level 2.

Those over 70 and those with underlying health conditions will probably not be able to attend public gatherings.

Our life together MAY include offering a combination of in person and zoom services, smaller services to allow for physical distancing or morning prayer services in the church rather than Eucharist. It is unlikely to include the choir to begin with.

ZOOM INTO PARISH LIFE—COME AND JOIN US VIA TELEPHONE OR COMPUTER

We are gathering during this time via the electronic meeting space Zoom. We are aware that this is very new for most and we are here to help. Brian Tracey has more detailed instructions if you would like assistance setting this up. It is not as hard as it sounds.

Phone Brian 021 661 573 or email: StAndrews_IT@datatran.co.nz If you need assistance.

We hope you will take advantage of using this programme as it will give us the opportunity to join together in prayer and friendship during this challenging time. ***You can even dial in from a landline.*** The following on line services are available for you to join during the week.

Sunday 9.30am Worship - Meeting ID # 664-003-107

Tuesday 11am Coffee morning - Meeting ID # 260-873-490

Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer - Meeting ID # 260-154-652

Please note these meeting ID's will stay the same for these regular weekly meetings. A new meeting ID will be sent for any meetings that are additional to these regular ones.

Evensong Monday 27th April 5pm - Meeting ID # 853-6552-7821

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Mailing Address: 100 St Andrews Road, Epsom, 1023

Parish Office: Karen Ross (09) 638 8264

office@standrewsepsom.org.nz

Tuesday to Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm

www.standrewsepsom.org.nz

Vicar: The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

Vicarage (09) 623 2290 Mobile 021 921 080

vicar@standrewsepsom.org.nz Please note Monday is Sarah's day off.

Deacon Assistant: The Reverend Julian Morris (09) 638 8264

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lucy Best (09) 520 0093 Mobile 021 350 480

Zoom Services during Level 4 Lockdown: Sundays 9:30am and Wednesday Prayers 10am

If you would like to give via Automatic Payment or Direct Credit

The Parish bank account is: 06 0103 0780441 00



PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The following is a prayer that we prayed as we started our Vestry meeting on Tuesday. We hope that you can pray it with us.

For the Christian Community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect
our own safety:
we are people who protect
our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

*Barbara Glasson,
President of the
Methodist Conference*



ANZAC 2020

Who would have thought, last year in April
This year would be so strange and still;
No wreaths to lay, no marches,
bands to play;
For the twenty-fifth of April, ANZAC Day,
Just bubbles enclosed in houses around
As we all stand silent on home ground;
Bound to one another with only our fear
Poppies on windows and maybe a bear.

Reflection is good even if we're alone
Of those soldiers who fought so far from home
We'll hold close that freedom
where we belong
And in our hearts
we'll lift that laughter and song
That we know will come
when this battle is won
When the virus has left us;
many heroes unsung
Have given us hope to which we have clung;
It's been a long haul but not all in vain;
The ANZAC spirit will always remain.

Diana Burslem

