



Walkerville Uniting Church

THE GRAPEVINE APRIL 12TH, 2020



**Church sign for
Palm Sunday**



Holy Week Videos:

April 10

Good Friday

Lenten Study Part 7 –
"Father into your
hands I commend my
spirit"

April 12

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection.

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Easter 2020

There is nothing more important in human history than the resurrection of Jesus Christ and, long after the current crisis has faded, the Easter story will continue to be the most important moment in human history. As John Bowring's famous 19th century hymn has it:

*In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of
time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears
annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and
joy.*

Two Questions

There are two questions we will explore this Easter:

- 1) Why did Jesus have to die?, and
- 2) How was Jesus raised from the dead?

Here I will provide only a minimal introduction.

Why did Jesus have to die?

Imagine, if you can, that a geneticist is developing a potentially lifesaving vaccine that can counteract a highly contagious virus that has a 100% death rate. In order for a vaccine to be developed, antibodies from a survivor must be identified and replicated. So far no one has survived the disease. However, the geneticist has discovered that he has a unique genetic makeup bequeathed to him by his remote Pacific island family that he has reason to believe will grant him immunity from the disease. To test his theory the geneticist must risk his own life by letting himself be exposed to the virus in order to produce the necessary antibodies. Once he has been exposed to the

A community in Christ for all generations

disease, his survival will enable a vaccine to be produced that will preserve the lives of everybody who is vaccinated. This is a crude illustration, but something like that underpins the requirement of Jesus to become a human being and face the risk of mortality in order to save humanity.

How did Jesus rise from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus was not merely some kind of divine 'magic trick.' For the death and resurrection of Jesus to mean anything, the laws of creation had to be completed not defeated. The resurrection of Christ just appears to 'supernatural' to us because no one has ever gotten past the grave before. But just because something is universal does not make it true and just because death is universal it does not follow that death is normal. Just because broken humanity has become habituated by death does not mean that it is perfectly natural to die. The resurrection exposes us to a new normal and reveals death as sub-natural and eternal life, not supernatural, but perfectly natural.

All this we will have a chance to investigate this Easter. We live in a deadly world, but death does not have the last word. The first and last word in the world is Jesus Christ, who is the living embodiment of the Word of God.

In faith
David Kowalick



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

We are part of a global family who need each other more than ever. Our international partners are racing to adapt health and sanitation programs, using their networks to pass on vital health advice to their communities, preparing ways to help people find an income and supporting the poor and vulnerable in whatever ways they can.

Just as here in Australia, most of this support is happening from the isolation of their homes, but often with the additional challenges of limited healthcare, job security and internet connection; as well as a lack of reliable electricity and clean water. Many of our friends in places of poverty are caught between the safety of isolation and the need to work for food, despite the huge risks.

While we're not sure what this will mean for each project, your donations will support us to work with our partners to determine the best way forward for them and the best way to help vulnerable people in their communities to stay safe and thrive long term.

Please keep them in your prayers, as they are praying for us.

Staying in Touch

Hopefully you will have received phone calls from various members of our church over the last couple of weeks to check on how you are travelling. I would like to add to this by putting together a **printable newsletter and also a video newsletter** with all the incidental and interesting 'gossip' (I mean gossip here in the best sense) that has been going on in your life of late which you might want to share with other members of our church. You might have fallen pregnant for instance or had a new grandchild (which would be so much less troublesome than the previous possibility I would think). Perhaps you have painted a work of art, grown a record size zucchini or secured a knighthood? Maybe you have seen an inspirational movie or read an interesting anecdote and would like to share it with the rest of the church community? Whatever the case, if you would like to **send your news, photos, video clips, stories and general chit-chat** to me via ministerwalkervilleuca@outlook.com I will edit it all into a newsletter to be sent out by email.

In faith , David Kowalick

GOOD NEWS FOR CLINT

Thank you to everybody who has been praying for Clint and checking in with us over the past few months while Clint has been unemployed. We are very happy to share with you that as of this week, he is employed again!

It's nothing short of a miracle in this current pandemic! God is good.

He has a 3 month contract working full-time at CASS (Concessions and Support Services)... lots to learn and lots to be thankful for. We're thinking of you all, and praying for those of you who have lost income during this time.

MEMBER NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

Giving

Thank you for supporting the church at this time through your prayers and correspondence. Please consider also supporting the church financially while we aren't collecting regular offerings. We are experiencing a serious shortfall in income at the moment, so please give generously via e-give, or transfer directly from your account into the church's account: **UCINVEST BSB 704-095 Account No. 188610.**

What's happening this week

PRAYER GROUP 11.15am

Wednesday. Join a zoom prayer meeting with Rev David or simply pray at home at the same time.

Contact David Kowalick for details

PLAYGROUP is back online in Term 2 Thursday 30th April

Kylie will send resources to families and stay in touch via text message.



Updating contact details...

We are just double checking that we have all details correct for our database and the Buzz Book. You can complete the form online

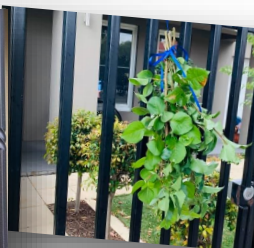
<https://forms.gle/fskjpPgoXvPRK8U9>

msg@5 family service - Exploring Easter

Oscar: "I enjoyed singing when nobody could hear me and the activities. I really hope my bulb grows."



The msg@5 craft and worship team put together some excellent crafts and it was presented beautifully in a special bag for each child delivered to their home. Everyone is really looking forward to seeing their bulbs grow!



Above – the D'Agostino Palm Sunday wreath

Left — Palm Sunday during lockdown in Spain - Sue and Bob's granddaughter and her cousins

Centre - From Helen: The wreath represents the world, the prince of Wales feathers for the tears of Christ draped over the cross with palm fronds. On Good Friday Helen will remove the palm and just have the tears and the cross. Sunday she will remove the cross and add greenery and white flowers on the wreath.

Palm Sunday Celebrations