



Preaching

9am Rev Richard Wallace

Is 50:4-9a

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

Phil 2:5-11

Lk 19:28-40

WELCOME TO AUC!

Please join us for refreshments
in the breezeway after the
service.

CONTACT US

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Aitkenvale Uniting Church

Please pray for:

Leaders at Assembly, Synod
and Presbytery for wisdom
and discernment in making
decisions affecting the wider
church.

Our elders and members of
the Church Council as they
make decisions affecting the
life of our church.

Many of our number who are
in need of healing, comfort
and strength of heart.

The youth of our city.

An end to the hostilities in
Ukraine and the Middle East;
and an end to the Israel-
 Hamas conflict; and that a
just peace ends the Ukraine-
Russian conflict.

God-Strength

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Luk 19:38a

One day, as a nine-year-old primary school pupil wandering in the school yard I came across an unexpected, and to me, sight. Near the edge of a cement slab there was a piece that was lifted up. I bent down for a good look and it was a mushroom. Yes, a mushroom, a white capped mushroom had pushed right through from underneath.

I knew my mushrooms. My older brother and I, basket and kitchen knife in hand, would wander across paddocks and down grassy verges in country South Australia each autumn and spring looking for mushrooms. It was a happy day to take half a basket home. Mushrooms on buttery toast were a delicacy for us. In good seasons we set up a roadside stall and sold them, two shillings for a brown paper bag full.

Well, I was amazed and wonderstruck finding this fragile earthy product monsterring up the cement. You had to look after them, no fast running or bouncing around lest they break up and get smashed. So easy to crush in your hand and yet, a wonderful strength in its growth. This memory came back this week and, as you do, I googled “mushroom breaks through concrete”, and there was a post on *Reddit* where someone had a photo of a mushroom pushing up through an asphalt path in a local path [I can't show you because of copyright law]. Well, I did find a scientific explanation for this phenomenon, but for me it was still mysterious and filled me with awe.

And so, we come to the gospel story. Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time. Now the excitement and anxiety of the people intensified. Jesus and his followers were heading for a showdown with the authorities; the Jewish religious authorities and ultimately the Roman civil authorities.

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This account comprises a powerful declaration. Jesus doesn't stand up and preach, but the very action itself tells us again the nature of God's reign. There was no armed revolt, as the Maccabees had commanded two hundred years previously; but we might imagine a such an uprising where the leader on his charger rallied the followers. He holds his sword high and calls for a fight, and his troopers wave their weapons in fury, hungry for the battle.

No, Jesus goes forward riding a sluggish beast of burden. There are excited people shouting loudly, but not for war. They are waving their arms, their hands do not hold weapons, but palm fronds. For those who wanted Jesus to lead a revolt against Roman invaders, it seemed ludicrous, laughable. But Jesus rides on. The people proclaim him "King". But Jesus did not look like most kings of the world. There is his humility and vulnerability and yet a real strength that does not avoid the confrontation. This is God-strength, love pursuing peace with justice to the end. So, the mushroom is a metaphor, the fragile thing, pushing through with unexpected and unrelenting strength. And this is us.

Grace and peace, Richard

Keeping our property tidy

A big thankyou to Frank, Paul, Ian, Graham, Tony, Don and Julie, Jayson and Carmen for keeping our grounds under control.

If any one would like to join our team, please let Peter Phillips know (0438795448). Not everyone can be available each time.

Many thanks again.

Peter Phillips

CIRCLES OF CARE – the Discipleship Stream thanks the congregation for its co-operation in signing up to Circles of Care. The placement of names in circles is complete and the information is now available at the church. Please check which circle you are in and who your neighbours are. Hosts and Support persons are invited to an information sharing morning tea as follows:

Pastoral Care Circles information sharing:

Aitkenvale Uniting church

Thursday 24th April, at 10.00am

This is an open invitation and anyone who wants to know is welcome to attend. RSVP to Kate Dix or Wendy Cohen by Monday 21st April.

Sunday Service 13th April 2025 Live Streaming:

We welcome and thank **Rev Richard Wallace** for bringing the message to us today. Welcome to our service here and to those at home. To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_yuTGxZEXsdQPd3XEQbtA/live

If you miss it, or would like to share it with someone, the recordings are on our website.

Church bulletin bloopers

† Men's prayer breakfast. No charge, but your damnation will be gratefully accepted.

† Great news! Doctors have performed a CAT scan on Pastor McLaren's head and report that they have found nothing.



Entry to and exit from the carparks

As was included in the summary of the recent Church Council Meeting included in last week's *Outreach*, it was noted that all traffic into the carpark must be via the Anne Street entrance and that all traffic exiting the carpark must be via Wotton Street.

This is not some arbitrary rule but a requirement of Townsville City Council.

Service times during Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 17 April 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Good Friday 8.00am

Easter Sunday 9.00am

Easter Sunday, the third day after Christ's crucifixion, is arguably the most important day in the Christian calendar. For Christians it is when we celebrate Christ's resurrection when God raised Jesus from the dead.

Early on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus's disciples visited the tomb and the world was changed forever. They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus's body had gone. Jesus was seen later that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many people.

Easter Sunday should be our greatest day of celebration in the Church.

CREST BAGS CO-ORDINATOR VACANCY

For many years Jayne Jackson has been the co-ordinator for the Crest bags which are distributed by Uniting Care. CREST stands for Community Re-entry Services Team. We are looking for someone to take over from Jayne the organisation of the Crest bags. Members of our congregation have generously donated items for inclusion in the bags. The Crest Bags Co-ordinator needs to remind the congregation of the need for donation of appropriate items, place the items into the bags and give them to Open Minds (Hermit Park).

Bill and Vi's jam and chutney for sale

Bill and Vi's jam and chutney are for sale again.

A jar only costs \$5. If you wish to buy a jar, they will be located in the foyer.

Large jars cost \$10

All money raised goes to the Distress Fund which helps those in need.



Offerings to date 8 April 2025

Week \$1,419.22

Budgeted Offerings \$60,800

Offerings year to date \$ 64,085.03

Difference plus \$3,285.03

Donations Car park \$14,861

Other Donations \$2,320.00

AUC Bank Details:

Bank: ANZ

BSB: 014-010

Account Number:

General Acc - 287295271

Distress Fund Acc - 287295327

Account Name: UCA Aitkenvale

Reference: Offering, Donation, (no need to include your name or any other details)



Rosters & Readings for 20th April 2025

9am Service

Preacher	Rev Richard Wallace
Reader	Liz J
Greeters	Lola C
Offering	Royce D & Ian D
Livestream	Carmen C & Grace F
Data	Carmen C
Organ	Carmel S
Morning Tea	Peter & Lyn P

Lectionary Readings

'Acts 10:34-43 or Is 65:17-25
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Cor 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43, Jn 20:1-18 or Lk 24:1-12

AUC Prayer Network.

(aucprayer@bigpond.com)

If you wish to have a prayer request circulated across the AUC Prayer Network, or would like to be included in the prayer network notices, please email your request to our direct email address: aucprayer@bigpond.com, or phone Kate on: 0429 609 509.

(Important: requests for prayer on behalf of others requires their personal permission. This is due to confidentiality requirements and government legislation. Please ask first.)

