

Preaching

9am Rev Richard Wallace

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

Issue #14



WELCOME TO AUC!

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

CONTACT US

Church Office

47790060

PO Box 195 Aitkenvale QLD
4814

aitkenvaleuc@bigpond.com
aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au
Facebook:
Aitkenvale Uniting Church

Please pray for:

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

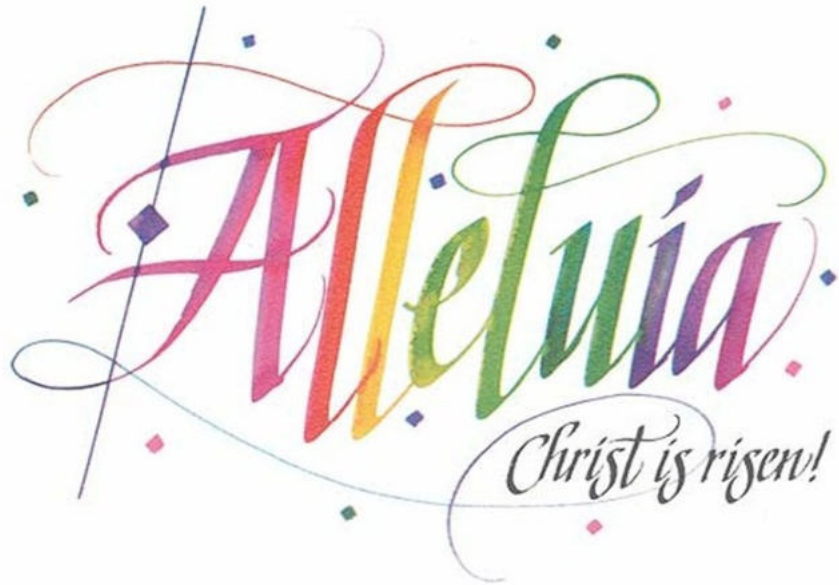
Our elders and members of
the Church Council as they
make decisions affecting the
life of our church.

Nominations for and election
of elders and members of
Church Council

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.



Christ is Risen!

Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord". John 20:18a

How startling is the Easter greeting, "Christ is risen!", a sense which is then intensified by the response of the faithful, "He is risen indeed." First of all, it is an expression of joy. Jesus, beloved of the grieving disciples, was restored to their presence. He was with them again. That meant so much. They were not alone. For us today it is still a cry of joy. We too are not alone, God is with us, the living Christ walks with us; and we rejoice.

Second, it is a defiant cry. Jesus had deliberately gone to the centre of Jewish and Roman authority in Jerusalem. He had infuriated the religious leaders with his different approach to the ancient law, and his claim that he embodied God's reign among them aggravated their annoyance. So, he went and presented himself to them. Power does what power is, and they arrested, tried and executed him. But that was not the end of it. Love and grace were raised by God, defying the haters and death. Today we sustain the defiance, with modernity squeezing God out of humanity, we witness to and extend the love of the living Christ for all.

Continued over page

Third, it's a cry that opens hope to the world. There are possibilities not yet realized; peace and justice are possible. Despite the threats to our environment, despite the hostilities among the countries that spur on war, there is hope in the cry, "Christ is Risen."

The gospels have different stories about the appearances of Jesus. But there is a single common voice, "He is Risen!" God has raised the crucified Jesus. Noting the variety of Easter stories Loader notes, "Easter is a moment of celebration in which faith bursts the normal bounds of report and memory." ([Easter Day: 20 April John 20:1-18](#) viewed 15/04)

In all of the gospels it is the women who first witness the resurrection, and take the news to the others. Either Mary Magdalene as in John's record, or Mary and the other Mary, or a group of women. The women are there in the time between death and resurrection. This narrative is a wonderful story that is personal and moving. Before first light Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, and found the stone rolled away. She immediately returned to tell Peter, and we assume John ("the one whom Jesus loved"). They ran to the tomb. Younger John arrives first but respectfully waits for the leader before entering empty tomb. There they found the burial linen.

Mary lingers, weeping in grief, and peers into the tomb. Her response to the angels shows that all she can think about is the disappearance of Jesus' body. Then she turns and mistakes the risen Jesus is the gardener. Again she pleads to know where she can find the body. It is only when the risen One calls her name, "Mary", that she knows Jesus is risen.

Three brief reflections from this Mary narrative. One, when she looked in the tomb, the resting place of the dead, she was looking in the wrong place. Jesus was in the world behind her, in the garden. So, we too, need to be alert to the wherever the risen Christ might encounter us. And, like Mary, we may find him in unexpected places. Two, Mary was overcome by grief as she wondered, and looked. Life throws distractions in our path. Our anxieties, concerns and grief may misdirect us. Take a deep breath, or two, and relax. But, third, our encounter is personal. Jesus called Mary by name and immediately she knew. It was him. He had found her. We may not hear our name called, but our faith surges in moments of personal insight as we encounter the risen One. Allow time for that to happen.

So we celebrate and rejoice, "Christ is risen! Hallelujah.

Grace and peace, Richard

Orana's April meeting

It was a fun time at Orana's April meeting when we tapped into our creative sides with a Paint and Tea Party event. Here are some photos and some of the results of our painting!



Sunday Service 20th April 2025 Live Streaming:

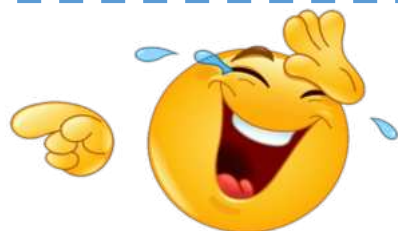
We welcome and thank **Rev Richard Wallace** for bringing the message to us today. Welcome to our service here and to those at home. To participate in worship, please click on the link below and sit back and wait for the service to start.

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

- † Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.
- † The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.



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.

Nomination forms for Church Council memberships

Nomination forms for elders and members of Church Council are now available in the foyer. Please give careful and prayerful consideration to whether you are willing to make yourself available for nomination; or whether you believe you have discerned a person you believe has the necessary gifts and wish to nominate.

The closing date for nominations is 4 May 2025.

CIRCLES OF CARE: - Morning Tea and Information session

It was so good to share the circles with you last week. Feel free to let us know if you would prefer a change.

If you have said yes to being a Host or a Host Support, Wendy and I invite you to an information session and morning tea at the church so we can set the circles in motion.

Venue: Aitkenvale Uniting Church - breezeway

Date: Thursday 24th April

Time: 10:00 am

Please be assured that the role of Host or Support is not a weighty one, nor a time-consuming task. We will show you how simple it is and help you to get started.

Kate, Wendy, Fred

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 15 April 2025

Week \$1,630.22

Budgeted Offerings—\$62,320

Offerings year to date—\$ 65,715.75

Difference plus—\$3,395.75

Donations Car park—\$14,881

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 27th April 2025

9am Service

Preacher	Rev Matthew Stuart
Reader	Ruth M
Greeters	Royce D
Offering	Ian D & Peter P
Livestream	Carmel S
Data	Reg D
Organ	Don A
Morning Tea	Beth & Mel H

Lectionary Readings

Acts 5:27-32, Ps 118:14-29
Rev 1:4-18, Jn 20:19-31 or Ps 150

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.)

