



# Werribee Uniting Church

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and we gather.

27 April 2025: Easter 2

## A continuing resurrection

The Church's story of Jesus and the resurrection was created in a world where gods were believed to live in temples, where the world itself was believed to be flat, with a heaven above the earth and place for the dead beneath the earth. It was a world that struggled with all sorts of unexplained and unexplainable events such as vast storms and other natural disasters. In many ways it was a frightening world.

So, when it came to retelling the story of Jesus and explaining what he was on about, the Church's first scholars and leaders did so from the mindset of first and second century people. That's when they lived, that was their understanding of the world they lived in. There were many of these scholars and leaders, including the gospel writers, who were highly intelligent and sophisticated thinkers, but they still lived in a world and had a way of thinking and understanding that belonged to their age, just like the languages they spoke and the vocabulary that was available to them at the time.

"The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there", L. P. Hartley once wrote in *The Go-Between*, and while we might have a little understanding of how people of Jesus' time thought, it is not possible to use their mindset today. It just doesn't ring true for us—unless we are prepared to suspend our reason, to take no notice of what has been discovered about the world in which we live, and to divorce our minds from our beliefs.

Unfortunately, the Church has tended to confine thinking and believing about Jesus and the resurrection in the mindset of the first and second centuries! There's still lots of people today prepared to accept that mindset. We might call them literalists, those people who believe that the bible's stories are all descriptions of real events—such as the creation of the world in seven days.

I believe we have been misled into thinking that there is only one way of understanding who Jesus was and is, and what the meaning of the resurrection was and is, the one literalist way.

So let's open the gospels in today's world. If we understand what the gospels really are—carefully crafted message about the ministry and witness of Jesus, whom we have called the Christ—then we can stop wondering and worrying about what is supposed to have happened 2,000 years ago, and instead concentrate on the message that the gospels present to us now.

And the message is very clear—that resurrection is not a once-only event that occurred 2,000 years ago, but a critically important wake-up call to followers of Jesus to

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

27 April: Rev. Ian Pearse

4 May: Rev. Bruce Watson

**For Pastoral Care:** Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184 or Margaret Bull: 0417 500 961.

### Bible readings

**This week:** Acts 5:27–32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4–8; John 20:19–31

**Next week:** Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 9.30am Bible Study

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group; 5.30pm Health & Fitness; 5.30pm Choral Practice (chapel)

**Saturday:** 7.30am Samoan Health & Fitness

### Rosters 27 April (& 4 May)

**Greetings:** Margaret Dent (TBA)

**Audiovisual:** Noel Savory (Christian Ropeti-Kilifi)

**Morning Tea:** Elaine Belcber & Julie Rees (Lauina Levave)

**Flowers:** Church (Node Madu)

**Music:** Angela Murnane (Asanka Ariyapperuma)

**Prayers:** Emily Metusela (Ashok Sherwal)

**Reader:** Julie Rees (Emily Metusela)

### Werribee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

### Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email [office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or 0427 812 606.

### Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

### To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

[bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### Samoan service

3rd Sunday, 4pm, in the Church: All welcome.

recognise that *it is in their lives that Christ is resurrected—again and again.*

“He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Mary that he is going ahead of you to Galilee...”

We are Christ-bearers. Christ is resurrected in us. If not in us, then there is no resurrection, and Christ’s witness and message of the kingdom of God is lost. Don’t look back at the story of a resurrection 2,000 years ago, but see that it is Christ who has gone ahead of us—into the Ukraine and the war with Russia, into South Sudan, into the enormous inequality between the rich and the poor in the world, and not just in Australia—that Christ is resurrected in Christians everywhere, and God’s kingdom comes alive.

That is the true miracle, that the witness and message of Jesus, the *active love that Jesus was*, the kingdom of God as he called it, is become alive in his followers today and every day. That is the true miracle, that this resurrection is not, definitely not, confined to a dusty tomb near Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, that Christ is indeed alive today and every day!

Praise be to God who works this miracle even in us.  
(Editor)

## Church Council Report

The Church Council met on Wednesday 16 April and would like to inform the congregation of the following:

- The baptisms of Pilimilose, Paula and Witana Taufahema will take place on Sunday 27 April during morning worship lead by Rev. Ian Pearse. The Taufahema family have been worshipping with us since transferring their membership from the UCA Trinity Congregation Dandenong in March 2024.
- The date selected for the church fete for 2025 is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Information about the fete arrangements/planning will be advised by the end of May.
- Church Council approved the request from the Social Justice Task Group for the banner from Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN) to be displayed at the entrance to the property for a period of 20 days.
- The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) has almost completed the profile of the congregation. A completed profile enables us to keep moving through the process of seeking a new minister.
- The property committee is looking at the leasing of the manse at Filippin Court, Werribee plus organising inspections of the switchboard and the fire hoses.

(Margaret Bull, Church Council Secretary)

## Relay for Life

Our Relay for Life team has 21 members! 🥳

Ages 2 through to wise and mature. 🥳  
There’s still room for more!

### What is the Relay for Life?

Relay For Life is the largest fundraising event for cancer in the world. Celebrated by more than 4 million people in over 20 countries, this inspirational event empowers and unites local communities to make strides toward our ultimate vision — *a cancer free future.*

Teams of people dedicate their time to walking laps for a set period of time. The Wyndham event runs for 10 hours (12 midday until 10pm at night). Teams commit to having at least one team member on the track at all times; passing a ‘baton’ to each other as walkers leave the track at the end of their walking time.

You are never alone on the track! Lots of people to talk to, walk with and there’s entertainment on the sidelines.

Each team has a comfortable site they set up with shelter and chairs (camping style) so there is always room for those who can’t walk but wish to cheer on the team as they pass.

Lots of fundraising events and food sales on the day all help with creating a fun family friendly festival feel to the day.

You can commit to as little or as much time as you want on the day; all time is valued.

You can also make donations to show your support to our walkers; all money will be received heartfelt thanks.

Sign up this week or make a donation to our team to support them as we celebrate, remember, fight back together.

**Date:** Saturday 3 May

**Time** 12pm-10pm

**Where:** Werribee Athletics Track

If you need any further information, please contact Lauren Duckworth (Withers) [glduckworth2@gmail.com](mailto:glduckworth2@gmail.com).

Donations and sign ups can be done through the link below:

<https://www.relayforlife.org.au/fundraisers/werribeeunitingchurch>

