



# Werrabee 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.

## 5 April 2026: Easter Sunday

### Youth celebration of Palm Sunday



Our congregation was thrilled to be part of the Palm Sunday service that was led very capably by our youth last week. It was a very meaningful service, with encouraging songs, meaningful prayers and readings, an inspiring reflection and a heartfelt skit. It was so good to see all the youth involved, each contributing according to their talents. We were so happy to see the future of our church in your enthusiasm and willingness to lead us in worship. We want to acknowledge how pleased we are that you are part of our church. Thank you, so much young people for your involvement, and sharing of your faith with us which encourages the rest of us in our faith. (Sandra Savory)



## ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. This was Sandra Savory's final meeting as our congregation chairperson. We thank Sandra for all that she has done to encourage us and lead us through the challenges of the last three years. Deb Cochran has been elected to take on this role and I have been elected to continue as congregation secretary. (Bev Lambie)

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

Easter Sunday 9.30am HC Rev. Bruce Watson  
12 April Mr Raymond Surujal

**For Pastoral Care:** Please contact Raymond Surujal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184

### Bible readings

**This week:** Acts 10:34–43; Jeremiah 31:1–6; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–18

**Next week:** Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

### What's on this week

- Monday:** No playgroup this week or next
- Tuesday:** No bible study this week or next
- Wednesday:** 9.30am Property Group;  
7.30pm Social Issues Group
- Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group;  
5.45pm Choral Practice
- Friday:** 6.30pm Youth Group

### Rosters 5 April (12 April)

- Greetings:** Elizabeth Barnes (Tulua Seulupe)
- Audiovisual:** Chelsea & Faith (Noel Savory)
- Morning Tea:** Lauina Levave (Fale Aiga & Margaret Gook)
- Music:** Wendy Barnes (Gina Lee)
- Prayers:** Judy Khor (Tulua Seulupe)
- Reader:** Bev Lambie (Judy Khor)

### Werrabee 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, 12pm, in the Church: All welcome.

## You Can Help!

Every Thursday without fail we receive this Newsletter. Elizabeth Barnes and Robert Renton spend a lot of time producing it but they need our help to get the information correct.

If you have an article, an important date or an event to advertise please get it to Robert Renton **no later than midday on Tuesday**. This is important. Robert needs all the parts to be able to juggle it into the space available. Then it needs to be proofread and sent to the office on Wednesday for distribution on Thursday.

We can also assist Liz by filling in rosters as quickly as possible so she has that information to give to Robert. Then, if you need to arrange a swap, please let Liz know immediately so Robert's list can be updated.

Thank you, Robert and Liz we do appreciate, all you do to enable us to have this weekly Newsletter.

(Bev Lambie)

## From "The Westerly" for April

(The Westerly is a monthly newsletter from the combined Presbyteries of Western Victoria and Port Phillip West.)

### Groundbreaking News (Source: Roots UK)

Matthew's account of the first Easter Sunday morning is very dramatic. An earthquake, a dazzling angel and guards falling to the ground like dead men. Matthew is a skilled writer, and his account clearly aims to grab the hearers' attention. How much of what he describes actually happened is a matter of great scholarly debate. Whether Matthew's descriptions are literal or metaphorical, what he does make clear is that something truly groundbreaking happened that morning. Jesus, who was crucified, dead and buried, is alive. That is the message of the angel. Like the petrified guards and the wondering women, we might not know exactly how the resurrection happened, but we can know the glorious truth that Jesus is risen.

In recent history, several notable earthquakes have devastated communities, causing many fatalities and much damage. Earthquakes are the result of energy building up in the Earth's crust until it is released as a shockwave that shakes the ground and damages buildings. In pre-scientific days, earthquakes were attributed to gods, because they were so mysterious and powerful. Jesus lived in an earthquake zone, but Matthew's point is more theological rather than merely geological. Jesus' death and resurrection were groundbreaking; they allowed the breakthrough of God's new world. This is meant to be creative rather than destructive. How does your church demonstrate this?

Two women, disciples of Jesus, visit his tomb and find it empty. We will think about how life can surprise us, but also how God always whispers in our ears, 'Don't be afraid' as the bewildered women heard through an angel when they had faithfully gone to the tomb early on Sunday morning. They are sent by an angel to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus is raised. As they run, they meet Jesus himself who repeats the angel's message that he is

risen. The women are the first witnesses to the resurrection.

Are you more likely to believe a woman than a man?

What does your answer say about your bias towards one sex or the other?

How much is a person's credibility also affected by their education, social status, appearance, race, accent?

How much does it depend on the plausibility or otherwise of their story?

In Jesus' day the evidence of Jewish women wasn't accepted in law courts because of their low social status and lack of formal education. How significant, then, that in the Gospels women are the primary witnesses to the remarkable resurrection of Jesus.

This is an opportunity to enter into the drama of the first Easter Day and recognise the presence of Jesus in the midst of events that shake us.

## Round table gatherings to promote Climate Justice in the Uniting Church

During 2026 the Assembly Net Zero Emissions Steering Group will be hosting three Roundtable gathering, each with a different focus.

Roundtable 1. The Advocacy calling of the Uniting Church for climate justice (21 May).

Roundtable 2. Practical Steps toward reaching Net Zero Emissions from UCA properties / activities by 2040 (16 June).

Roundtable 3. Exploring First Peoples wisdom and climate justice (16 July).

The roundtables will be Zoom events and will each last 2 hours.

The starting time will be 2 pm AEST for all gatherings.

The overall purpose of the Roundtable gatherings is to:

- Inform people about activities and opportunities to be involved in climate justice within the UCA
- Help people feel supported and connected as they get involved in actions for climate justice
- Inspire people to continue act in their own sphere of influence and in the key areas identified by the Steering Group.

If you would like more information, please contact Richard Arnold at [richarn50@gmail.com](mailto:richarn50@gmail.com).

## Climate Justice