



Order of Service 24th of April 2022

10.00 am

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from Martin Petty and the Choir



Welcome & Announcements

Good morning and welcome to our service of worship.

Allow me a few announcements please?

THE WEEK AHEAD

Friday 29 April @ 7 pm Balerno Village Screen show Korean film "Parasite". Saturday 30th April @ 2 pm Oscar winning animation "LUCU".

Saturday 30th April @ 7pm Golden Globe & Oscar winning musical "WEST SIDE STORY" (12A) All tickets are FREE and available on BVS website. Please come along.

27 April @ 7:30 pm Pastoral care team meeting with visitor elders in Ogston Hall.

28 April @ 2 pm Pastoral Care meeting at Manse

28 April @ 7:30 pm BPC Extended Cluster Group in Ogston Hall.

Call to worship this morning you as the congregation will have the first words...

Worshipping God Together

ALL: Come, let us find the risen Lord.

Minister: Come with your whole self, with your
worries and your successes, your fears

and your joys, your questions and your answers.

ALL: Come, all who are excited and all who are anxious.

Come, all who are confident and all who are searching.

Minister: God will meet us here.

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

CH4 194 verses 1 & 2 This is the day

Opening prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord, those who visited the empty tomb reacted differently to what they saw, or didn't see.

We know that we, too, all have our own ways of reacting, behaving and believing.

We pray that you will speak to each of us this

morning,

in a way that we will truly understand.

In the troubles of the world, in conflict and distress,
we come to find peace.

In our challenges and our hopes, in all we wish was
different,
we come to find peace.

When we don't know the answers,
when we don't know what is true,
in all our searching and longing,
Jesus, meet us, and in whose name we now pray:

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
 Hallowed be THY name. THY kingdom come,
 THY will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For THINE is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for**

ever.
Amen

Reading: John 20:19-31 by Martin Petty

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. ³¹ But these have been written in order that you may believe^[a] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

Choir sings Psalm 8 CH4 5 - O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth.

Reflection

After reading the passages, I could not help but think

how incredible normal the disciples are portrayed, which really gives me hope to be a Christian believer.

They modelled things that all of us experience on a daily basis namely fear, sadness, joy, doubt and faith. Life as a Christian believer is indeed like walking on a tightrope between truth and lies, faith and doubt, the conscious and the un- or sub conscious, joy and sadness, love and hate.

They were walking on a tightrope too – being afraid of the Roman and temple authorities – not knowing where to go, what to say and what not to say! Inside their souls they were torn between hope and hopelessness, between fear and peace, between faith and doubt...

And then all of a sudden Jesus appeared to them...saying the things they needed to hear namely his offering of Peace ... his reassurance that He was truly with them in body and in Spirit

When they told Thomas about Jesus' appearance – he did not believe them... they were walking the tightrope again from what they have seen with their own eyes and the doubt of Thomas...

And again just like that - Jesus appeared to them a behind locked doors doing and saying what He did a week before – offering them the peace they needed and the confirmation that He truly was alive – in body and Spirit.

Jesus came and stood among HIS disciples – twice

behind locked doors. And he said “Peace be with you.”
In a time that they experienced no peace – only fear!
He gave them the peace of being reconciled with God,
on the cross through the shedding of his blood. It was
a peace, not as the world gives but only as He can give.

He is also giving us His peace in a time when we are all
overcome by fear and angst, for the future and our
world.

The peace He is offering us, will change our
perspectives and the way we walk on the tightrope
which is called life....

There is Peace between us and God – God’s justice has

been satisfied by the Son carrying our sins, so that God becomes the loving Father whose hand we can hold on to when life gets tough and messy...

There is Peace between us and others, our brothers and sisters in Christ – Among Christian brothers and sisters there should be no hostility or jealousy or racism or sexism and elitism. There is no-one on this earth who is not walking on a tightrope – we should help one another, offer a helping hand when and wherever we can...

There is Peace within our souls – so many people are weighed down by a guilty conscience, a heavy burden of sin, of feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy. People often struggle to forgive themselves – but that is what Good Friday is for, that is why Jesus did what

he did. Each and every time, we feel heavy laden with guilt, feelings of unworthiness, we need to say the Lord's prayer.... "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" believing that God is listening.

God's Kingdom is awaiting all who has faith.... Some day, in God's timing, all evil will be overcome and the entire new creation, the new heaven and the new earth, will be full of peace and righteousness.

Peace is a gift from God. His peace is part of our faith in HIM. When we trust and obey HIM, love HIM with all our hearts and minds, when we worship HIM and talk to HIM, we will receive HIS peace.

But this does not mean that we will always have PEACE in our souls...

Doubt like any other emotion, does not suddenly one day appear at our doors. It is a part of us and our journeys, which we will always carry with us like a backpack.

In Africa we always ask the question when we meet someone: How was your journey? Implying that the journey is almost more important than the arrival.

To be a Christian believer is a journey of many river crossings, climbing several Munroe's, crossing many valleys, some lush and some dry, facing many storms and even walking through fire....

To walk on a tightrope means to be balanced and to tread lightly. To walk a tightrope will require extreme care and precision; to navigate a situation that allows

very little or no error which means that we cannot walk the journey of life without the help of God, Our Lord and Saviour.

It is interesting that the elephants who are the biggest land creatures on earth walk like ballerinas, almost without making a sound ... so much so that hunters will often tell of the “elephants” that tiptoed upon them, without them even knowing...

As believers we should also have big presence on this earth but “walk lightly” without leaving too many footprints...in fact we should only have one set of footprints in the sand of God carrying us like the well know Poem attests to.

We have been offered PEACE by God Let us go out

and apply it to everything we do, say and think... Amen

CH4 197

As we are gathered Jesus is here

Prayer of thanksgiving by Kay Coull

MP 279

I know not why God's wondrous grace

Blessing

Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

Lord, we came into your house this morning with
hearts full of doubt and fear...

We go out now in renewed knowledge of PEACE, faith
and love.

You overcame death to become our risen Lord.
You have gone before us and circle us with love and
protection.

Hallelujah!

And the blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy
Spirit will be with you now and forevermore.

Congregation sing Amen, Amen, Amen

