

# Ashburton-Burwood Uniting Church

AUC- 3 Ashburn Gve Ashburton – BUC- Cnr Warrigal Rd & Hyslop St Glen Iris

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<https://ashburton-burwood.ucavictas.org.au/>



**Purpose:** *Welcome all. Nurture faith. Grow disciples.*

**Vision:** *A welcoming missional community, nurturing faith and growing disciples, sharing God's love intentionally, serving God's world compassionately and striving to be faithful followers of Jesus*

## Sunday 5 April 2026 – Easter Day – Year A

10.00am - Communion Service

at 3 Ashburn Grove Ashburton

Minister: Rev Ojitha Goonetilleke

Minister's Steward: Samantha Szeredi

Online service via YouTube channel. Link:

<https://youtube.com/live/3mllOBWLmhY?feature=share>



### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### WELCOME

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### INVOCATION PRAYER - Minister

HYMN TIS 156 – Morning has broken

#### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All: We believe in the power of Christ to overcome all deaths, deaths in us and death in the world. We believe in life which rises in freedom and carries us in joy towards grace beyond our imagining, calling our spirits to soar in freedom with wings of hope. The gift of life will never be taken from us. The costly life of God will be our company for ever and for ever. Thanks be to God. Amen**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN TIS 380 – Yours be the glory

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Living God, we confess that hidden within our own lives, lie questions which challenge our faith. Doubts beset us as we look at the world around us, fears that we may be wrong in holding to faith.

**All: Forgive our doubts O God, spring forth in truth before us we pray.**

Minister: There are times when we choose to stay with our own deaths, rather than accepting your gift of new life to us. We stay paralysed by our own fears. We are stricken by events long past which you call us to leave behind us.

**All: Forgive our doubts O God, spring forth in truth before us we pray Amen.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE - Minister

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**2 Corinthians 5:14-17, John 20:1-10**

#### REFLECTION – Minister

HYMN TIS 653 – This is a day of new beginnings

#### OFFERING & PRAYER

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN TIS 519 – And now O Father, mindful of the love

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

...

The Institution

The Breaking of the Bread

The Distribution

Prayer after Communion

**All: O God, we give you grateful thanks for all that lies within this sacred feast. May we carry into the world the bread which brings life and the wine of compassion for all who wait in longing. This we pray in your name Amen.**

HYMN TIS 607 – Make me a channel of your peace

#### BENEDICTION



Daylight Saving ends/ended (depending when you are reading this) in Victoria at 3am Sunday 5 April when you put your clock back to 2am. Please change your clocks before you come to the church or you will be very early.

## **ROSTER SUNDAY 5 April 2026 – Easter Day – Year A**

Minister:	Rev Ojitha Goonetilleke
Worship Leader:	Samantha Szeredi
Prayers:	Fran Willmott
Narthex/Count Leader:	David Wright
Door, Greeting, Offering:	Marco Matucchi
Organist:	Colin Prohasky
Pianist	Anne Forrest
Song Leader:	Megan McLaughlin
Readers:	Marco Matucchi, Val Nixon
Communion Stewards:	Michael Donnelly, Fran Willmott, Val Nixon, Tina Wong, Dawn Sullivan
Computer/Sound	Richard Hedding
Power Point	Michael Donnelly
Morning Tea/Clean Up:	David & Alison Wright, Elaine Gloster
Online Communications:	Christine Chappell/Dawn Sullivan

## **Induction Service for our new minister, Rev Yoo Mi Park**

Friday April 24, 7:30pm  
Ashburton-Burwood Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove Ashburton

The service will be led by Rev Joan Wright Howie, Deputy Chair,  
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

A light supper will be provided after the service. If you are able to bring a plate, and/or help serve and clean up, that will be greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet will be available after worship on April 12.

**SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026 - Easter 2 – at Ashburn Grove**  
**10am** Alison Wright – unless someone else volunteers.  
Glenys Borland and worship team.

**Lectionary Readings:** 2 Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16; 1 Pt 1:3-9;  
Jn 20:19-31

## **ROSTER SUNDAY 12 April 2026 – Easter 2 – Year A**

Worship Leaders:	Alison Wright ( <i>unless someone else volunteers</i> ) & Glenis Borland & team
Prayers:	Anne Campbell
Narthex/Count Leader:	Howard Hamlyn
Door, Greeting, Offering:	Jill Capstick
Organist:	Colin Prohasky
Pianist	Anne Forrest
Song Leader:	Lynette Hurley
Readers:	Dorothy Thorpe, Tom Thorpe
Computer/Sound/PPT:	Angus Borland
Morning Tea/Clean Up:	Howard Hamlyn, Lynn McKie, Angus Moore
Online Communications:	Christine Chappell/Dawn Sullivan

(*Mary Magdalene was outside the empty tomb*) ... Jesus said to her, "Mary". She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni" (which means "Teacher"). ...  
She went to the disciples with the news: "**I have seen the Lord!**" John 20: 16 & 18.

*Uhde, Fritz von, 1848-1911. Woman, Why Weepst Thou?, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58748>*



## **Still dark** by Jennie Gordon

– John 20:1-18

While it was still dark  
she came, they came  
they entered,  
saw only the wrappings  
and went home

she stayed, wept, entered,  
met holy presence  
in the absence  
and heard her name  
that only his breath  
could frame

then she went  
and told them  
'I have seen the Lord'

while it is still dark  
we come  
because we have no light of  
our own  
but

do we leave  
with only wrappings  
for our journey

or do we stay, weep, seek,  
discern the whisper of our  
name  
and see the one  
for whom we come

then go  
and tell the others  
while it is still dark

*Jennie Gordon  
from "Dad & Daughter" Ron  
Gordon & Jennie Gordon – Used  
with permission.*

## **ASHBURN GROVE SITE DEVELOPMENT** - request for volunteers and/or your thoughts

At our congregational meeting in December, we agreed to the following proposal:

*"That there be a property committee organized to facilitate and recommend changes to the Ashburn Grove site to make it more functional."*

We are now ready to begin planning what those changes to the Ashburn Grove site might be. If you would like to be part of the team looking at potential changes, or would like to suggest changes which would make the site more functional, please speak to Alison. Thank you.

**COMBINED ABUC LADIES AND MENS' FELLOWSHIP GROUPS** will meet on Monday April 13. We are fortunate to have an adventurer in our midst who is willing to tell us his story. A brief to tempt you into attending has been supplied by David:

*"In 2025 I did a relatively new long distance walk in France called the Hexatrek. Over 4 1/2 months, I walked almost 3000km through the mountains of France including the Vosges, Dura, Alps, the gorges of the Massif Central, and the Pyrenees.*

*As well as spectacular mountains I passed through numerous beautiful villages. For me some of the highlights were the Château Forts of Alsace, Tour de Mont Blanc, the Vanoise, the gorge country of the Ardèche and Tarn Rivers, and the Pic du Midi d'Ossau in the Pyrenees".*

If you would like to hear about David's adventure, be at the Burwood site on Monday April 13. We will meet at 1.30pm in the Wesley Room; Afternoon tea to follow. All ABUC members (and friends) are welcome.

## **SOME REGULAR EVENTS IN APRIL**

**TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP:** Meets weekly on Tuesdays at 8pm on Zoom. Please contact Paul Mattiske or Michael Donnelly M. 0438 674 247.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP** is in recess during the school holidays and will resume their study using With Love to the World at 9.00am on Wednesday 22 April.

**BARRY'S PLACE:** Open **every Thursday** from 10 to 11.30am. An opportunity to share in conversation, morning tea and prayer. Drop in, relax and enjoy.



**COMBINED ABUC LADIES AND MENS' FELLOWSHIP GROUPS** – Monday April 13 – See detailed notice above.

**SPECIAL MORNING TEA** in the Lighthouse at Ashburn Grove – **Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 10.30am.** Come and join in the conversation, have a lovely morning tea and enjoy friendship and fellowship.

**BADMINTON:** If you feel like playing badminton at BUC please contact Miff [mschlipalius@hotmail.com](mailto:mschlipalius@hotmail.com) for details.

### **A display of works on paper at The WellSpring Centre.**

**Jesus in the Gardens:** The Gospel stories of Jesus played out in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne/Naarm. A suite of Works on Paper by Michael Donnelly.

**Tuesday 24 March - Sunday 31 May 2026.**

The WellSpring Centre, 10 Y-Street, Ashburton Vic 3147. (03) 9885 0277

[info@wellspringcentre.org.au](mailto:info@wellspringcentre.org.au) [www.wellspringcentre.org.au](http://www.wellspringcentre.org.au)

To view images in the series, see 'Jesus in the Gardens' Gallery on the website:

<https://www.michaeldonnelypictorally.com/>

### **The In-between Show, works by Michael Donnelly**

A short-run show of artwork from various decades by Michael in The LightHouse, beginning with some lino-prints from his time in art college and a first visit to Melbourne from Sydney with his fiancé, Patsy; a few of his Jesus in Melbourne prints from the nineties and after; the odd landscape and some botanical studies; and a work that reflects on Fathers and Sons. Enjoy.

**VIEWS FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE** - Watch in your Inbox for the April issue which will be emailed to you during the Easter weekend. Many thanks to those who contributed to it with particular thanks to Maree Silver. *Dawn das42ul@gmail.com*

*Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!* **Psalm 47:1**



**CROSSLIGHT MAGAZINE** – The April issue is available online at <https://crosslight.org.au/> or hard copy at Ashburn Grove Church. 40 pages of excellent information and stories as well as Easter Reflections.

**PEW SHEET:** Please forward all notices to Dawn *das42ul@gmail.com* by Wednesday 5.00pm. Please state for which date/s you need your notice to be listed. **The pew sheet is posted online on the Communications page at <https://ashburton-burwood.ucavictas.org.au/>**

**ABUC UPCOMING EVENTS and SERVICES** are listed on the **Quarterly Calendar on the Communications page on the BUC website**. Also refer to 'Views from the Lighthouse', Ashburton UC.

**NOTE:** AUC = Ashburton UC, 3 Ashburn Grove Ashburton - BUC = Burwood UC, 1 Hyslop St., Glen Iris

### SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY,

Food, toiletries and household goods can be brought to Burwood church to support Burwood Neighbourhood House, Camcare and East Burwood Care. The basket is in the foyer at the Hyslop Street Site. Bread is also available for anyone to take.

Non-perishable food items can be brought to the Ashburn Grove, Ashburton site and placed in the Care & Kindness Pantry which is outside the glass doors of the church under the covered area and is accessible at all times. People are free to take whatever they need from the pantry. If you wish, you may donate cash which is used to purchase groceries for the pantry. Place cash in an envelope clearly marked "Pantry" and put it in the offering plate or you can make a direct deposit to the church bank account as follows: BSB 033106; A/c No. 121266 – Reference "Pantry" A/c Name: Ashburton Uniting Church Parish Council.



**PRAYER NETWORK:** During April please forward prayer requests to be shared to Max at [mandf.procter@gmail.com](mailto:mandf.procter@gmail.com) or Dawn at [das42ul@gmail.com](mailto:das42ul@gmail.com) by midday on Mondays.

Additional prayers will be circulated as needed. (If email not available: 0435 602 453).



### **Prayer Focus:**

May our Heavenly Father strengthen our faith, guide our steps in love, and help us to live as witnesses of Christ's victory, grace and everlasting life..

### **Prayer Points:**

- That our hearts will be filled with hope and renewal this Easter.
- Those for whom Easter is a lonely and difficult time. May they hear of the message of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Interfaith harmony in our communities that as Christians we might follow Jesus' example in giving and receiving hospitality
- For Ukraine as another Easter passes while they are in conflict.

### **WCC Prayer Cycle:**

5 – 11 April - *The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia*

- those who kept both the people and their faith alive during years of repression.

### **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PRAYER**

**CYCLE** The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year.  
12-18 April - Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Over the page you will find transcript of the President's Easter Message. Rev Charissa Suli's message is also on YouTube – the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14QTKHZn0I> Browse YouTube

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

## President's Easter Message 2026

**Rev Charissa Suli**  
**President, Uniting Church in Australia**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14QTKHZn0I> Browse YouTube

If life feels loud right now...

If the world feels more anxious than peaceful...

The first Easter happened behind locked doors.

Not in a cathedral. Not in celebration. But in fear.

And into that fear, the risen Jesus stood among his disciples and said:

***"Peace be with you."***

He says it twice — because sometimes once isn't enough.

As President of the Uniting Church in Australia, I want to speak into this moment we are living through — because the world does not need more noise. It needs peace.

Many of us are carrying more than we show.

We feel it when making ends meet feels harder than it used to.

In private grief.

In young people wrestling with anxiety.

In conversations that divide more than they heal.

Across the world, families live behind locked doors of their own.

Across the Pacific, rising seas remind us how fragile home can feel.

Here in Australia, the wounds of this land are still carried by First Peoples.

Easter does not look away from any of this.

When Jesus appeared, he showed his hands and his side. He did not hide his wounds.

Resurrection is not denial.

It is love moving through scars.

He stood among his disciples — not performing, not demanding — simply present. And he breathed on them and said:

***"Receive the Holy Spirit."***

This is how his peace comes alive in them.

Not by pretending everything is fine, but in the middle of real life. It brings them back to God — and back to one another. As Christians, this matters for us. Because if Christ is risen — and he is — then fear does not have the final word. The Church does not live by anxiety. We live by resurrection. Not anxious about survival, but faithful in witness. We are here to represent Jesus Christ. And that peace does not stay behind locked doors. It moves outward. It sends us. So, this Easter — Receive his peace. Stand firm in resurrection hope. And live as people of resurrection — because death and fear do not have the final word. Because the tomb is empty. Love has not ended.

**Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.**

Happy Easter. Peace be with you.

**FROM THE ASSEMBLY NEWS: A PRAYER FOR PEACE** - Creator God The world feels loud right now and I am carrying more than I let on. If you are near, meet me here. **Bring your peace.** For the people I love who are struggling and grieving **Bring your peace.** For this world where seas are rising, war and violence continue, and many are finding it hard just to get by **Bring your peace.** For the wounds carried in our communities and in this land **Bring your peace.**

Jesus, you stood among fearful people and said, "Peace be with you." If that peace is real, let it find me now. **Bring your peace.** Not a peace that ignores what is hard, but a peace that steadies me, holds me, and helps me find a way forward with others. **Bring your peace.** For me. For those I love. For all of us. **Bring your peace.** Amen.

Click on the links below to read Easter messages from leaders of other churches.

[National Leaders of Churches in Australia](#)  
[World Council of Churches](#)



A kindly neighbour of the church took this photo on Thursday morning and sent it to our email address with the caption: *"Saw this lovely sight this morning. Thought the congregation may appreciate."*

We certainly do appreciate it! The blue balloon looks like it might land on the tower.

Thank you neighbour, we appreciate you sending the photos to us.

*Alleluia*  
*Christ is risen!*  
*He is risen indeed!*