



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister: Position Vacant

Director of Music: Mark Quarmby

Choral Conductor: Dr David Hood

Organ Scholar: Position Vacant



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www.ssms.org.au

19 April 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Easter 3

Theme: Forgiveness

Guest Worship Leader & Preacher: Allan Blyth

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

Meditation

Nicholas Choveaux (1904 - 1995)

Please stand at the entry of the choir and clergy and remain standing for the...

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 147 *To God be the Glory* (To God be the Glory)

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

... Let us hear Christ's word of grace to us, "Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God.

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet: **A light to our path.**

First Reading

Acts 3:12-20

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14** But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. **17** "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. **19** Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, **20** so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus."

Hymn 635

Forgive our sins

(St Peter 485)

Second Reading

1 John 2: 15-17, 3: 1-6

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; **16** for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. **3** And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. **4** Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

Hymn 598

Dear Father Lord of humankind

(Repton)

Gospel Reading

St Luke 24: 36b-48

36 Jesus stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **37** They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence. **44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

May your word live in us: **And bear much fruit to your glory.**

Anthem *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

Text: by unknown author, 1695
Translated by Francis Pott, 1832-1909
Music: Henry G Ley (1887 - 1962)

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath His foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
3. On the third morn He rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee.
From death's dread sting Thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sermon

Hymn 693 *Come as you are* (Come as you are)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

We stand to sing...

The Lord's Prayer

Albert H Malotte

Lento, religioso

Our Fa - ther, _____ which art in heav - en _____
pp

Hal-low-ed be _____ thy name _____ Thy king-dom come.
p

Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heav - en _____
mp *p*

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our
pp *p*

tres - pass - es As we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion; But de -
mp

liv - er us from e - vil: For thine is the king - dom, _____ and the
mf *f*

pow - er, _____ and the glo - ry, _____ for ev - er - er. _____
ff

_____ A - men. _____
f *mf* *p* *pp*

Offering

Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 526

Lord Jesus Christ

(Living Lord)

Blessing

... and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.**

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Toccata on the Easter hymn 'O Sons and Daughters'

Lynwood Farnam (1885 - 1930)

Adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2* (2005)
Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)