

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE  
EASTER DAY, 2020  
BIBLE STUDY

Leader: Christ is risen!  
All: He is risen indeed!

1. The story of Easter is one that most of us know well. Can we recount the story **without** consulting the Bible? Let's see if we can!
2. Each account of the events of Easter Sunday morning are slightly different, although agree on the heart of the matter – Jesus rose from the dead! The accounts can be found here:

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8 Luke 24:1-12 (read the paragraph that precedes this);  
John 20:1-18

During the week I encourage you read each of the gospel accounts and use them for your private meditation and prayer.

3. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you personally? How does it affect your daily living (if at all)?
4. **READ ACTS 10: 34 – 48**
  - 4.1 To whom was Peter speaking in this passage?
  - 4.2 From this passage, what can we learn about how the resurrection of Jesus affected the disciples and first Christians?
  - 4.3 What can we learn from this passage and apply to ourselves?
5. **READ COLOSSIANS 3:1 – 17**
  - 5.1 In our baptism we are buried with Christ and raised to eternal life with him. (Romans 6:4). What does Paul say our response to this should be?
  - 5.2 What does it mean to “set our minds on things that are above” (verse 2)?
  - 5.3 Paul's instructions in verses 5-11 cover many things that sadly form part of everyday life both then and now. How do we *actually* “put these things to death”? What challenges do we face? How can we possibly achieve such a high aim?
  - 5.4 Verses 12 – 17 present **positive** challenges. How do we achieve these ends as those who have been buried in baptism and raised to eternal life?
  - 5.5 How should verses 12 – 17 apply to us as a worshipping congregation in Melbourne in 2020?

Pray together.

## **Acts 10:34 – 48 (NRSV)**

**Acts 10:34** Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Acts 10:44** While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### **Colossians 3: 1 – 17 (NRSV)**

**Col. 3:1** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Col. 3:5** Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

**Col. 3:12** As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.