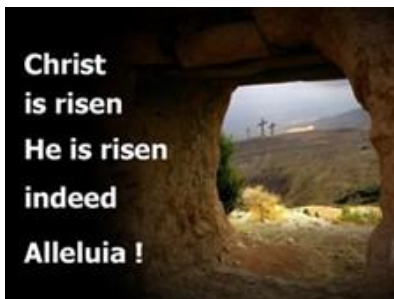


## ASUC News

From Rev. Emily Hayes

Good morning and welcome to the Alice Springs Uniting Church this Easter Sunday. This week I was asked to write an Easter message for the Centralian Today. This is it.



This Sunday morning, Christian communities here in Mparntwe and across the world will gather together. In a 2000-year-old tradition, many of us will greet each other with the words, "Christ is risen!"

And the other will respond. "He is risen indeed!"

And the story that we will read together is the same story that we read every year. As the church, we are formed by a tradition in which birth, life, death, and resurrection are cyclical occurrences. Our story begins, "early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. . ."

Yes, Easter begins in the dark. This matters to me because I too have been in dark places. Perhaps you have too. But the light ever so slowly dawned on that darkness.

Debie Thomas in her book "Into the Mess and other Jesus Stories," that I highly recommend, describes the Easter story like this, "*Resurrection happened in total darkness. Sometime in the predawn hours a great mystery transpired. No sunlight illuminated the event. No human being witnessed it. And even now, two thousand years later, no human narrative can contain it. Because it exceeds all our attempts to pin it down, because it's a mystery known only to God. Whatever the resurrection was and is, its fullness lies in holy darkness, shielded from our eyes. And yet 2000 years later we still proclaim that somehow, in an ancient tomb on a starry night, God brought life out of death. Somehow, from the heart of loss and misery, God enacted salvation.*" (p188)

It is an audacious claim. None the less it is a claim in which Christians put their trust. Because for us it is the only claim that gives us hope. The hope of new life in this deeply hurting world.

### Rosters

**Please note there are still opportunities to fill the roster.**

### Synod

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April to Sun 7<sup>th</sup> April**

### Prison

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

### AGM

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

### Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study Wednesday night fortnightly  
High school bible study: the other Wednesday

### Church Camp: 3rd – 5th May Hamilton Downs

**Please see letter about camp and respond as soon as you can if you are coming.**

### Prayer

Pray for Christian communities coming together to celebrate Easter this weekend. That we come to know more deeply the transforming power of new life in Christ, in our lives and communities.

Give thanks for the rain and the new life springing forth in its wake.

Pray for the Quilliams as they travel to Yulara for Easter services. Pray for the church there.

Pray for the family of the young man killed in a hit-and-run last weekend. Pray for safety on our roads.

### READINGS

**John 12: 12-18**

## sCHURCH ROSTER

	Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Pick Up	David Y		
Welcome	Ben H		
Communion		NA	Carol
Music	Joel and Mel	Joel, Katherine, and Mel	Jesse and Keith
Bible Reading	Emily Howland	Phil	
Reflection	Emily	Stella	Emily
Prayers of the People	Ben H	Alex P	Sarah P
Tech	Shanon	Benj and Martin	Benj and Martin
Morning Tea	Sondra	Neils	Sondra and Dante
Godly Play	NA	NA	Ben H and Mel C
CC's	NA	NA	Mikaila and Katherine

**The Alice Springs Uniting Church congregation worships @ 9.30am in the John Flynn Memorial Church Building:**

**50 Todd St, Alice Springs**

**Church Office: 52 Todd St 8952 1856**

**Rev. Emily Hayes:** Minister – 0422 587 144

[Emily.hayes@aliceunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:Emily.hayes@aliceunitingchurch.org.au)

**Sondra Lowing-Nicho:** Church Administrator & Property Manager – 0427 873 248

[Admin@aliceunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:Admin@aliceunitingchurch.org.au)

**Sarah Pollitt:** Chaplain St Philip's College – 0403 293 836

**Benjamin Quilliam:** Frontier Service Bush Chaplain – 0400 562 127

**The work of the ASUC depends on giving from the congregation.**

**Please consider direct credit:**

**Name:** Alice Springs Congregation

**BSB: 634 634**

**A/C 1000 855 65.**

**Ref:** offering



Thanks so much to all who give of their time, money, gifts, and skills to the building of the church.