**MACEDON RANGES PARTNERSHIP SERVICE – Good Friday**

**2nd April 2021**

You may like to follow our service on our video. You can find it on our Worship Services page on our website at <https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/worship-services> or on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/P9vw7zk943w](https://youtu.be/P9vw7zk943w" \t "_blank)

Our service invites you to read the scriptures, pause, meditate and pray. Allow the stories told to lead you. We suggest reading the passages when suggested below. We are touching on several of the scripture readings in one way or another this week.

If you would like to look at previous videos on our YouTube channel, go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb4hzdO-YgzmrIRVC-oby_w>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge all the Aboriginal Groups who have cared for and nurtured the land on which we meet: the Wurundjeri; Woi Wurruung; Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung.

We acknowledge their leaders: past, present and emerging for it is in them that Australia’s future lies.

You are welcome here, as we reflect in different rooms and districts, States and Countries around the world, our spiritual connectedness through Christ Jesus, is remembered.

**WELCOME** & **CALL TO WORSHIP**

….our worship, begun on Maundy Thursday, continues….

**Opening prayer**

God of Jesus, who shared our humanity,

keep us company on this Good Friday journey

so that we may find the path to life. Amen.

**Mark 15:1-5**

**Hymn:** Were you there when they took him to be tried?

**Prayer:**

God, we are still unable to build a society where the justice system treats everybody with equality. It is still the case that those with money and power are more able to achieve the kind of results they seek. Poor people, indigenous people, people with mental health problems, people from violent and difficult backgrounds are much more likely to be in prison than those whose life has been relatively easy.

**Jesus, you stand with all who are oppressed by abuse of power, and all who are suffer because of their position in society.**

Holy Spirit, enable and encourage us to work for your justice and peace.

**Mark 15:6-15**

**Hymn** Were you there when the crowd called “Crucify”

**Prayer:**

God, we are still capable of being ruled by the Mob. We find it easier to listen to the crowd around us than to hear your word.

**Jesus, you stand with all who resist the easy and the status quo, whatever the consequences might be.**

Holy Spirit, teach us to listen for your voice over the voice of the crowd

**Mark 15:16-21**

**Hymn**: Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?

**Prayer:**

God, we are still capable of immense cruelty. As well as the capacity to hurt by our actions, we are just as able to be cruel by our inaction.

**Jesus, you stand with all who are hurt by the cruelty of others, and those who are hurt by the unwillingness of the community to care for them.**

Holy Spirit, fill us with compassion and kindness, open our hearts to the suffering in our world

**Mark 15:22-**32

**Hymn**: Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**Prayer:**

God, we still crucify you today. We ignore your message of peace. We despise your message of inclusion. We mock your idea of true justice and mercy. We are so busy seeing what we can get for ourselves that we fail to see you suffering right in front of us, in the faces of our neighbours.

**Jesus, you stand with a lost and failing world.**

Holy Spirit, help us to live as people of God’s kingdom

**Mark 15:33-41**

**Hymn** Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

**Prayer:**

God, we still live in darkness, leaving Jesus utterly alone.

**Jesus, you stand with all who feel lost and forsaken.**

Holy Spirit, help us to be like the women who followed and cared.

**Mark 15:42-47**

**Hymn**: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

**Prayer:**

God, we still live in a world where some are called to bravely pick up the pieces. In the face of grief, death, despair, betrayal, abandonment, some will roll up their sleeves and begin the slow work of cleaning up.

**Jesus stands with those whose courage is not the courage that comes from power, but the courage of just doing the next right thing.**

Holy Spirit, strengthen us, in the face of overwhelming difficulty, to be the body you need us to be here on earth, and to wait with patience and strength for the kingdom of God.

**Sending out:**

Lord Jesus, as the light thins, and the world conspires

may we tell Your story

When hope seems gone and the future broken, may we tell Your story

When the hungry need food and injustice is rife, may we tell Your story

For this day, this week, it seems it is all we can do

Yet may we retell it, not just in this place, but every place we find ourselves

for in this story is the hope of the world

**OFFERING**

You may like to consider giving an offering to your congregation via direct deposit. Details for each are:

* Gisborne: Gisborne branch, Bendigo bank, B.S.B. 633 108, A/C: 1512 83736
* Romsey: Bendigo Bank, B.S.B. 633 000, A/C: 161501200, Account name: UCA Romsey Uniting Church
* Mia Mia – Kyneton: Commonwealth bank, B.S.B. 063 517, Account no.: 1002 1775