



# 'Worship at home' May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022



A new day is dawning.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

We continue in the liturgical season of Easter,  
affirming the risen Christ whose continuing presence  
brings the promise of hope, forgiveness and new opportunities.

**Light a candle** to remind yourself  
that Christ is indeed risen and with you.

**Opening** inspired by Psalm 30

Sing praises to God, all faithful ones

**God hears us in our fear and our sorrow**

Where there was no way

**God leads us in a new way**

Where there was no mercy

**God surprises us with fresh mercy**

Where there was weeping

**God invites us to step into a new dance**

— Rev. Susan A. Blain, *Worship Ways*. <http://uccfiles.com/>

After Jesus' death, we can imagine his followers feeling grief, sorrow, confusion, doubt, fear: everything they had dreamed of, longed for, and invested in had been put to death on a cross and laid in a tomb. However, then they found the tomb empty, the body gone, and found themselves experiencing his presence with them in new and sometimes unexpected ways. They were able to recognise him, same yet different, as he appeared through locked doors, invited them to touch him, talked and ate with them. We can imagine them trying to understand what this meant for them.: as they continued their everyday lives - fishing, eating, travelling from place to place - they found Jesus with them, offering love and forgiveness and grace.



**When have you experienced the presence of God with you,  
perhaps unexpectedly?**

## **John 21:1-19**

*Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?” “No,” they replied. Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only*

*about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn. “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead. After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”*

*Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever*

*you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."*

*New Living Translation*

In the darkness of night, the disciples go fishing. After the events of Easter, we can imagine their uncertainty, their questions, perhaps a feeling of regret as they considered how things might have been different. And how disheartening to not catch anything after trying all night! Many of us have experienced dark times of struggle and uncertainty and emptiness. As the light of dawn breaks over the horizon, Jesus appears, bringing light and hope. He prompts them to change their outlook and try something new and different, with abundant results.



*Hermano Leon Clipart*

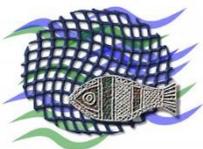
*Is it possible that finding what I'm looking for requires  
just the slightest adjustment in my way of seeing?  
How can pulling up my net, moving it a few feet over,  
throwing it back in the same waters, make a difference?  
And yet...*

*What other slight adjustments to my life, my character,  
my thinking, my relating to family, friends, neighbours, the world,  
might change barrenness to fecundity?*

*At any given moment there's probably  
at least 153 ways to begin.*

*Suzanne Guthrie*

*<http://www.edgeofenclosure.org/easter3c.html>*



**When have you been prompted to see things differently, or experienced a change of outlook, and found Christ bringing light and hope to your situation?**

Before Jesus' death, Peter had denied Jesus three times. Here, three times, Jesus offers him the opportunity to make a new start. Jesus invites us to move beyond our disappointment and regret, to leave the shadows of darkness and step out into the light of God's love. Then Jesus prompts us to live out our faith, bringing light and hope to others, no matter where that might take us.



**How do you respond to Jesus' call to "feed my sheep"?**

**What are some practical ways in which you can live out your faith and bring light and hope to others?**

**When might that lead you into uncomfortable places where you would rather not go?**

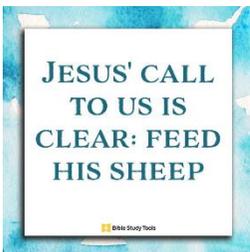
Once again, we are reminded that following Jesus changes us. We are invited into a new way of seeing

a new way of living

a new way of being.

### **Pray for**

- those experiencing dark and uncertain times in their lives
- all involved in the forthcoming Federal Election, and that those who will stand for election commit to policies that seek flourishing for all
- true peace and an end to the war in Ukraine, and in all places of conflict and violence across the world
- wise discussion and discernment as the National Assembly of our Uniting Church meets in QLD next weekend



### **Closing**

May the presence of the risen Christ  
be with you  
the love and mercy of God  
be within you  
the power of the Holy Spirit  
sustain you today and always.