



**24 MARCH, 2024**



## Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Easter Sunday Flowers

Next Sunday morning, we will be decorating the cross with flowers. If you have any spare flowers in your garden, please bring them with you, we will have extra flowers available.

## Easter Services

### Maundy Thursday 7pm

### Good Friday 9am

### Easter Sunday 9am

Our Maundy Thursday service will be a service of reflection with music, prayer, art and poetry. You are invited to be part of this time to reflect on the Easter message and how we might respond to God's great love for us all.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 24 March, 2024 (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 11:1-11/John 12:12-16

## Holy Week Readings

### Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or  
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

### Easter Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or  
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 18:1 - 19:42

### Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
John 20:1-18 or  
Mark 16:1-8



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## **I am because we are.**

Because we live in a modern, western orientated society, and by this I mean our systems of commerce, government and lifestyle we get away with thinking of ourselves as an individual. We think in terms of 'my career', 'my home', 'my car', 'my hobbies' and so on with little thought for how our actions and our very being impacts and effects the whole of society.

Individualistic societies display the following characteristics, autonomy, independence, self-sufficiency, uniqueness, personal achievement, individual liberties and rights and self-direction. These are not bad qualities, per se, however they are quite different to the qualities of humility, obedience and self-surrender required to truly serve God in Christ.

These traits are so ingrained within us that we rarely think of ourselves as being one body, one family, one people, or one tribe, despite the fact that this a biblical principle. God's chosen people, the people of Israel, did not see themselves as a group of individual souls but as a collective.

A collective society focuses on the group and cooperation, and it is founded on a very Christlike principle; sacrificing one's own comfort for the greater good of everyone else. The church founded upon Jesus Christ is also considered to be one body, however have you ever noticed how many of our contemporary hymns describe 'my Jesus', 'my rock', 'my salvation'?

Below is a recent Facebook post that nicely demonstrates the concept of being in communion with another, being one body committed to the welfare and well-being of each other.

### **Ubuntu**

An anthropologist proposed a game to children in an African tribe. He put a basket of fruit near a tree and told the children whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats.

When he asked them why they had run together like that as one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: 'Ubuntu, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?'

Ubuntu in their civilization means: (I am because we are).

That tribe knows the secret of happiness that has been lost in all societies that transcend them and which consider themselves civilized societies!

- Rev Gail