

THE MEANING OF IT ALL

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
and the Church of All Nations

Easter 3C | May 4 2025

Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those
who can't join us physically today.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude JL Krebs, *Fantasia in F*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (*TIS 390, selected verse*)

*We stand to sing after the cantor introduces the refrain, and the Scriptures are brought in
the worship space:*

Refrain

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

Refrain

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Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118.22-24

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 383 Joyful the morning

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

John 1.1-13 ...*authority to become children of God*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

Prayer of Confession Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

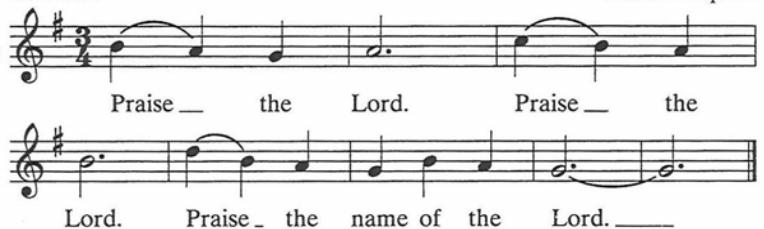
...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology via Psalm 30

[PCS p343 no.3]

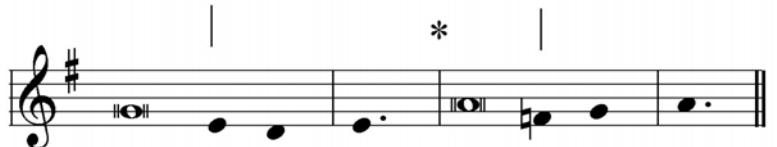
REFRAIN



Hal H. Hopson

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TONE



¹ I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up
and have not let my foes triumph / over me.

² O Lord my God, I cried out to you
and you have | healed me.

³ You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored me to life from among those that go down | to the Pit.

⁴ Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks to his | holy name.

⁵ For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime.

Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes | in the morning.

⁶ In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved.'

You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my | hill so strong.'

⁷ Then you hid your face from me
and I was utter- |-ly dismayed.

⁸ To you, O Lord, I cried;
to the Lord I made my | supplication:

⁹ 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your | faithfulness?

¹⁰ 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, | be my helper.'

¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

¹² Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

REFRAIN

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 211(i) Jesus lover of my soul

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - sa-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san na - in the high - est!

(The prayer continues...)



(The prayer continues...)



(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

(The people sit)

The Breaking of the Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God....

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

...Let us receive what we are,
let us become what we receive
The body of Christ

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

GATHERING: We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Offering

(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 560(ii) All my hope on God is founded

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude A Raison, Dialogue

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, faithful servant



Monica (c.331-87) was probably born in Tagaste, in the northern part of Africa that is now Algeria, administered from Carthage as part of the Roman Empire. Most of what we know about her comes from the spiritual autobiography of her eldest son, Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430). As Peter Brown comments, 'Few mothers can survive being presented to us exclusively in terms of what they have come to mean to their sons, much less to a son as complicated as Augustine'; but Monica emerges as resolute and absolutely steadfast in prayer. She was perceptive and not above some dignified sarcasm, but despised gossip. Augustine presents her as a peacemaker in the community, and a woman with deep inner resources.

Monica was brought up in a Christian household and through her life kept up devotional traditions of the African Church sometimes dismissed as primitive by more educated contemporaries, such as fasting in preparation for the Sabbath, graveside meals, and the confident interpretation of dreams.

She was married to Patricius, a pagan, apparently hot-tempered and violent, who became a Christian catechumen about 369, a few years before his death when Monica was 40. They had two other children, whose names we know, younger than Augustine: a second son, Navigius, and a daughter Perpetua.

Following contemporary practice, Monica enrolled the child Augustine as a catechumen without having him baptised. She was convinced that a good classical education would eventually bring Augustine to Christian faith, but was anxious enough about his lifestyle to follow him to Italy in 383, first to Rome and then the Milan. Like Augustine she was influenced by Ambrose, bishop of Milan, and Augustine presents her views in two dialogues written in 386 *De Ordine* and *De Beata Vita*. Garry Wills suggests that Augustine came to appreciate his mother later in life, realising not only her piety but now also her theological insight.

Monica saw Augustine baptised in 387, and set out with him to return to Africa later that year. They had travelled as far as Ostia on the Italian mainland when she caught a fever and died.

Recording her final days in *Confessions* Augustine stressed Monica's faith and quiet contentment. He also recounted a conversation between them 'reclining by ourselves at a window which looked out on the inner garden of the house' that prompted a shared mystical experience of God as 'the ageless wisdom that outlasts all things else' (*Confessions* 9: 25). From conversation, 'recalling past events, musing about the truth which you [God] are, and wondering what the eternal life of the saints might be like' they were caught up so that their 'hearts were thirsting for the streams that flow from that fountain of life which is in you' (*Confessions* 9: 25). The remarkable experience was almost beyond words for Augustine, and of course not recorded at all by Monica, but it has become a touchstone for showing how community and companionship can lift individuals towards God.

Contributed by Katharine Massam

NOTICES

Thank you to the many hands who helped to make last week's luncheon here with CAN a great success!

AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/privately funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

Rosalie Hudson

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

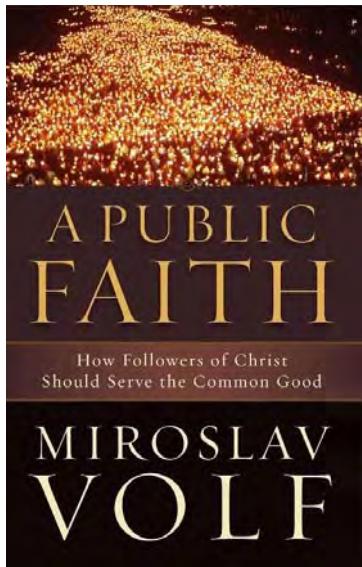
MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



[Wesley Conversation #4 – Thursday May 15](#): The Ethics of AI & Human Rights with Ed Santow, former Human Rights Commissioner and author of "Machines in Our Image: The Need for Human Rights in the Age of AI. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other new digital technologies are developing at lightning speed and changing almost every part of our world, from media to education to health care and the economy. The opportunities are real, and so are the risks. How can we make sure that the most vulnerable among us are protected from the potential harms of AI? In this conversation, former Human Rights Commissioner Edward Santow will discuss the need to put human rights at the centre of our efforts to control these powerful and pervasive new technologies. Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/169SHbxYHN/>

SECOND QUARTER 2025 STUDY GROUP

Our second quarter 2025 study groups will use Miroslav Volf's *Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*.



FROM THE PUBLISHER: Debates are raging today about the role of religions in public life. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, various religions come to inhabit the same space. Covering such timely issues as witness in a multifaith society and political engagement in a pluralistic world, this book highlights things Christians can do to serve the world.

At least two online (Zoom) groups are planned on **Wednesday** evenings (7.45pm) and **Friday** afternoons (1.30PM), for seven-eight weeks (one week per chapter). These studies will commence on **Wed May 14** and **Friday May 16**, and run for 7-8 weeks. See the MtE website for more details and to register.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Church Council	May 6, 7.30pm (online)
Study Series – A public faith	May 14/16+
Wesley Centre – Human rights and AI	May 15, 12.30pm Wesley Church
Congregational AGM (2024)	May 25 after morning tea

People to commemorate this week

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Lectionary Readings | 11 MAY 2025

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 7:9-17

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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