



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



*Witnessing to God’s love for the world
From the main street to the paddock.*

April 2024

Where O Death Is Now Thy Sting?

The Orthodox Church does not represent the Resurrection, like we do, with the empty tomb. Instead, they tell the good news of the Resurrection of Christ by recording the work of Christ on Easter Saturday, *between* the cross and the empty tomb. We call this the harrowing of Hell.

Taking seriously the claim of the Creed that “*He descended to the dead*”, these Churches tell the story each year of how Christ’s death and resurrection was effective not just for those who came after him – not just those who were part of the Church –

but indeed for *all*. The icon therefore shows Christ entering into Death itself, to take Adam and Eve by the hand, and lift them into the promise of the Resurrection. The logic goes that because Christ was Life itself, he could not die. And yet, he did. Therefore, the moment that Life with a capital L touched Death with a capital D, Death itself was overcome.

This may seem a strange image to those of us in the Western Church who have been taught that our faith is precisely about questions of Heaven and Hell. We often treat faith like it is some kind of eternal

Contact Us

Minister of the Word

Rev Daniel Mossfield

0432 648 676

crookwelluniting@gmail.com

Congregation

(02) 4832 1026

PO Box 75

Crookwell NSW 2583

insurance policy, making sure we book a room in the right hotel after we die. But the central claim of our faith is far more profound than this. It is simply not that we go to Heaven when we die – but rather that the holy Triune God has entered into Death itself to claim us as his own. Therefore, there is now nowhere we can go that God is not.

Though this teaching might seem new to you, it is in fact very ancient – and is even a part of our own Western tradition. Think about the words to the hymn *Abide With Me* for example:

*I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight and tears not bitterness.
Where is Death's sting? Where grave, the
victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.*

Or the last verse of *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*:

*When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and Hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.*

But perhaps nowhere is this good news more obvious than in that beautiful Wesleyan hymn, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*:

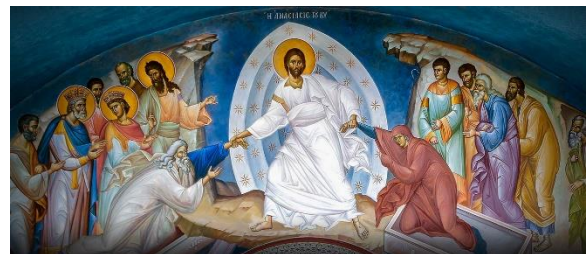
*Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.*

*Lives again our glorious king;
Where, O Death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where your victory, O grave?*

We are those who Christ has freed from the very depths of Hell itself, so that now, as St Paul writes, “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

May this be our Easter proclamation.

- Daniel



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Worship & Readings

Sunday 7 April

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Sunday 14 April

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48

Sunday 21 April

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Sunday 28 April

9:30 Crookwell and
Crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Social Worker Available

In March, Matthew had the opportunity to meet with a social worker from Centrelink who will be servicing the Crookwell area.

Centrelink provides social workers to rural communities for people seeking emergency assistance due to domestic violence.

Assistance may include emergency payments, access to accommodation, legal assistance, health services and counselling.

Our region's social worker is based in Canberra, but is available at short notice. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this service, please contact Matthew for further information.

April Roster

Please find below the roster for April services. If you would like to volunteer for future services, please contact Daniel.

APRIL 2024	WORSHIP LEADER	ELDER/PRAYERS	BIBLE READER	STEWARDS
7/04/2024	Daniel	Barry	Gill	Margaret & Reta
14/04/2024	Daniel	Margaret	Louise	John & Jan
21/04/2024	TBA	Barbara	Joi	Gill & Allan
28/04/2024	TBA	Gill	Barry	Louise

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Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme

The Australian Red Cross has introduced the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme - a free programme which connects a friendly volunteer with an elderly person who is feeling lonely or socially isolated, either in an aged care facility or in their own home. It is fully funded by the Australian government, and is available to anyone receiving government subsidised residential aged care or a Home Care package.

Regular visits can add to the quality of life of the resident and help them feel involved with the community. Residents can be a caring person who is able to spend quality one-on-one time with them. Residents look forward to their regular visits which can lead to a friendship that is both long lasting and meaningful.

Residents and volunteer visitors can talk a walk or sit in the garden, play a board game, share a hobby, or just sit and chat over a coffee. All activities are undertaken within the grounds of the facility for aged care residents.

Visitors usually meet the resident at least once a fortnight at a time suitable to both parties, and they last for about an hour. Matches are made using various factors including location, culture, language, common interests and personality. All Australian Red Cross volunteers are required to complete an interview process as well as a National Criminal History check. Volunteers also attend a training programme, which outlines their role and responsibilities. A Support Officer provides ongoing guidance.

If you are a resident, or know one who would like to partake in this programme, please complete the referral form at www.redcross.org.au/acvvs-referral and email it to acvvs@redcross.org.au. Be sure to include as much detail as possible to assist in finding the most suitable match.

If you would like further information about the programme, please call 1300 440 813.



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