

# Re-Emerge

My online dictionary tells me that re-emerging means to come into view after having been hidden or to come out of a situation. Thinking about this reminded me of a fascinating documentary I saw recently about the vast desert region in Central Australia. We saw images of the dryness, the harsh conditions, and we saw how the animals adapt to the environment to survive. And then we saw the impact of a heavy rain event with resultant flooding. The vegetation sprang to life, abundant wildflowers, the animals were breeding, the birds flew in and there was a re-emerging of plant and animal life. The visual images were stunning.

The same documentary highlighted kangaroos and emus. I was amazed to hear that it is the male emu who sits on the nest containing the eggs. The emu sits there for 55 days until they hatch, not drinking or eating. The emu on the nest hardly moves. It must be as though it shuts its body down. Then when the chicks emerge the male emu also re-emerges to care for and raise the chicks for the next 2 years.

The world, and Australia, and we in Melbourne and Victoria, have gone through a really challenging 12 months. The COVID-19 pandemic hit and with spreading community infections, serious illness and a rising death toll, serious restrictions upon our movements were introduced. There were just 4 reasons one could leave home. Daily life changed as we knew it. It is hard to believe, but churches were forced to close. We could not physically attend services of worship or fellowship groups; we cancelled The Hub, English classes, Playgroups, the Fete, and numerous other activities. We adapted to live stream worship, meetings on Zoom, mediation on Zoom, Bible study on Zoom, children's and youth ministry on Zoom. We adapted and we learnt what worked and what didn't work so well. We tried to stay connected by email, cuppa calls, letters and text messages, and WhatsApp.

And now with restrictions lightened we are re-emerging. People can attend worship, morning tea is happening, some groups are back, and others are planning to

begin next term. We even successfully managed a book sale in a COVID-safe way. We are learning to manage QR codes and adjusting for the health and safety protocols. Our members are slowly feeling confident enough to attend at the church. So, it is wonderful that we are re-emerging.



As we approach Easter, it is a time when we pause to remember and reflect on Jesus' life and teaching and all that he went through by going to the cross. The birth of Jesus was announced as Emmanuel – God with us. Jesus experienced the joys, the sorrows and some of the pain that we experience in life. Jesus was loved, admired, received pledges of loyalty, was misunderstood, betrayed, beaten, faced an unjust trial, and was sentenced to be crucified. Crucifixion was a brutal and harsh death. Those who plotted against Jesus thought they had gotten rid of this troublemaker. They thought his followers would scatter in fear and confusion.

On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead. We do not say that Jesus re-emerged, but he did come out of a situation. Life overcame death. Love overcame hate. Hope overcame fear. And more than that, Jesus' promise of life for us, life in abundance, was now real and freely given to us.

In the midst of all the challenges we face, we can continue to trust God, who is always faithful. We can continue to follow Jesus, who knows and understands our challenges; and we can know that the Spirit of God is with us. This fills us with hope and reassurance. Let us continue to re-emerge and walk together as faithful followers of Christ, supporting and caring for one another, serving the wider community as well as having a concern for the world and the whole creation.

Have a meaningful and blessed Easter, with some fun as well.

*Neil, Alanee, Di, Jemma and Joanne.*

## Easter Services

**Monday 29, Tuesday 30,  
Wednesday 31 March**  
Holy Week 7.30pm

**Thursday 1 April**  
Maundy Thursday 7.30pm

**Friday 2 April**  
Good Friday 9.30am

**Sunday 4 April**  
Easter Sunday 10am

## Some Diary Dates

*The weekly bulletin for more details  
on these and other events.*

**19 April**  
Playgroup Returns for 2021

**20 April**  
Hub Returns for 2021

**9 May**  
Mothers' Day Special Morning Tea

**23 May**  
Pentecost Sunday

**12-14 June**  
*(Date to be confirmed)*  
State Youth Games Day Event

**20 June**  
Church Anniversary

**16 October**  
Church Fete

**28 November**  
Annual Christmas Lunch

**19 December**  
Living Nativity

Go to [www.gwuc.org.au](http://www.gwuc.org.au) to view services online.