

Katoomba Baptist Church Bulletin

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:4

41 Waratah Street, Katoomba NSW 2780.

April 2021.

Pastor: Steve Cooper. Contact: mob. 0451 954 675; email cooper.steve.j@gmail.com.

Sunday service 10am. The messages are available to watch on YouTube.

Good Friday service 9.30am, April 2nd. Easter Sunday service 10am, April 4th.

Katoomba Baptist Church website: <https://katoombabaptist.org.au>.

Bible Study: Second and Fourth Wednesday of the month in the church hall.

Church prayer meeting: each Saturday, 9am. Prayer for Israel: third Friday of the month, 1.30pm.

From the Pastor

The Easter weekend is always special for me. My emotions swing from one extreme to another! On Friday, as I contemplate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I feel thoughtful, sad, yet thankful. On Saturday, I wait as I identify with the bitter grief and darkness of Jesus' disciples. On Sunday, there is wonder and joyous celebration as I consider the resurrection of my Lord. This year, I've found it meaningful to reflect on Psalm 22, which predicts the details of Jesus' crucifixion and triumph. The psalm ends with a **vision** of a world-wide ingathering of worshippers from every nation (see verses 27-31).

That **vision** of the future, after Jesus' death and resurrection, will shape our worship services during the month of April. We'll look at Jesus' call to his disciples to participate with him in mission. The Lord Jesus expects us to share the good news of his salvation with others. We invite everyone to join with us in following Jesus and being part of the community of his disciples. We can point people to the Saviour – our family, friends and neighbours – through the lives we live, the way we treat people, and the words we say.

This coming month, as we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection, we re-commit ourselves to the mission of proclaiming his love and forgiveness to a lost world.

Your companion on the journey,

Pastor Steve Cooper

Have you thought about becoming a member of our church?

All regular attenders of our church who are Christians, and have been baptised by full immersion as a believer in Christ, are invited to become members of Katoomba Baptist Church. Becoming a member means you make a public stand about what you believe, and your commitment to our church as your local church. It means you can participate as a voting person in our regular congregational meetings as we discern where the Lord Jesus might be leading our church and make important decisions together. If you would like to find out more, or apply to become a church member, please contact Pastor Steve.

“The underlying foundation of the Christian faith is the undeserved, limitless miracle of the love of God that was exhibited on the Cross of Calvary; a love that is not earned and can never be.”

[Oswald Chambers, from *My Utmost for His Highest*]

Please pray

- that souls will be convicted of their sins this Easter and turn to Christ.
- for our Pastor Steve, for the Lord to guide him and bless his ministry and his family.
- for the Holy Spirit to deepen and enrich our faith through the Word, prayer and communion with God.
- for this church and all faithful churches throughout our community to be as salt and light.
- that the Lord will minister to all who are undergoing trials and suffering, here and everywhere.
- for Israel, for the “Peace of Jerusalem” (Ps 122:6) and for the Gospel to reach Jewish people (Rom 1:16).
- for our persecuted brothers and sisters in nations rich and poor and for those who persecute them.
- for the Lord's mercy in these tumultuous times; for His love and comfort to every person in need.
- with thanks for all His blessings, in our lives, in our church, in our nation, in all creation.
- for the Lord to guide those in authority and to sustain and strengthen Christians in governments.
- that the Lord will help us to use our gifts for His glory and to share the Gospel with others.
- that the Lord will draw to Him our unsaved loved ones and all for whom we have a burden.
- for missions to be fruitful, especially those we support as a church, and for the preservation of converts.
- that we continue to grow in Christian love as a church, serving the Lord and each other.
- with thanks and praise for the blessed hope that purifies, the hope of the Lord's return.
- Maranatha! (“Come, O Lord!”)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks:

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

From Hope From Above [<https://hfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Welding-With-God.pdf>]

“THE IMPACT”

At times, people ask about the impact of HFA's aviation and technology solutions – a good question that should always be asked! Our partners report to us how the gospel has been received when information trickles out of isolated and hostile places. One such testimony:

“Who could send God's words to such people like us? We are writing letters to good people of God who risk their lives to send us this audio Bible. The first word that is penetrating my heart is that Jesus came down to earth to

be crucified and resurrected and ascended and now is in heaven. I have come to have this question: What would our lives be without the presence of God? **It looks like everything in my life is transforming into a new creation.** Thank you for those who are sending the 'new world'."

Sometimes we ourselves are impacted too, like a new volunteer who commented after the first two hours of packing Bibles: "This is the first useful thing I'm doing this year."

Another said: "After packing all these thousands of Bibles, if one of them is leading a person to Christ, it was so well worth it!"

Later we realised that even if no one received a Bible and the project utterly failed, it would still be worth trying to bring the gospel to the nations, as an act of obedience and worship to Jesus.

April birthdays. Steve C 13th, Annette K 17th, Wendy W 19th, Costa K 21st.

May the Lord bless you abundantly on your special day and through the year ahead in your walk with Him.

Spurgeon on "It is finished"

... there is joy to every believer when he remembers that, as Christ said, "It is finished," every guarantee was given of the eternal salvation of all the redeemed. *It appears to me that, if Christ finished the work for us, He will finish the work in us. If He has undertaken so supreme a labour as the redemption of our souls by blood, and that is finished, then the great but yet minor labour of renewing our natures, and transforming us even unto perfection, shall be finished, too. If, when we were sinners, Christ loved us so as to die for us, now that He has redeemed us, and has already reconciled us to Himself, and made us His friends and His disciples, will He not finish the work that is necessary to make us fit to stand among the golden lamps of Heaven, and to sing His praises in the country where nothing that defileth can ever enter? ... If He has bought me with His blood, and called me by His grace, and I am resting on His promise and power, I shall be with Him where He is, and I shall behold His glory, as surely as He is Christ the Lord, and I am a believer in Him. What comfort this truth brings to every child of God!*

(Charles Spurgeon, from the sermon "Cries from the Cross: Christ's Dying Word for His Church".)

Prayer for Israel: Friday March 16, 1.30pm (please contact Irene Robertson for venue details.)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " [Matthew 23:37-39]

From the editor

Like Christmas the Easter holiday is marred by the infiltration of pagan influences. Like Christmas too there is no direct Biblical command to celebrate the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection at this particular time. When we gather to worship at the Lord's table we are remembering Him in a more frequent and personal setting. And even apart from the Lord's table we should reflect on Christ's sacrifice for sin as a necessary element of our daily walk of faith. It should be ever present in our thoughts and prayers. It should be as essential for spiritual life as the beating of our hearts is for physical life.

However, that said, the public celebration of Easter brings the Gospel to the awareness of unbelievers. Despite all the eggs and chocolates and the ubiquitous bunny, there is always the hope that people may suddenly face the reality of their need for a Saviour — and that the Saviour is Jesus Christ and Him alone. More than any other time of the year, Easter could be when people venture into a church, pray, read a Bible. People who normally would have nothing to do with the Christian faith. Maybe someone you know will ask you about the Lord. If that should happen to us, then let us pray that we will be guided by the Spirit as witnesses to the Gospel.

It's significant that, while the crucifixion was a public event and the Lord was seen on the cross by believers and unbelievers alike, after the resurrection the Lord only revealed Himself to believers. He could have appeared to the Pharisees and the Roman authorities. He could have walked through the streets of Jerusalem. Thousands would have worshipped Him then and there.

But is that how salvation works? The existence of God is as obvious as creation. The crucifixion of Christ is known throughout the world. Enough has been revealed. But God always requires personal faith, that people respond to Him with repentance, trust and obedience. The Lord Jesus appeared to those who knew Him and loved Him. The world saw His shame but believers saw the empty tomb. The world only saw His death but believers saw their risen Lord. And so our hope is in Jesus Christ, "the way, the truth, the life", now and forever.

This Easter may someone you love see the Saviour with believing eyes.

Your brother in Christ, Bill.

Giving: Please remember that you can give online to Katoomba Baptist Church at BSB 704-922 and Account Number 100008926. Thank you for your faithful commitment to giving.

Contributions welcome: The KBC bulletin is available in print on the first Sunday service of the month and as a PDF version on the church website: <https://katoombabaptist.org.au/library/bulletins/>. Contributions of a devotional nature and enquiries can be made to the editor, Bill Fewer (email: hillbillyfewer@gmail.com).

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things." [Luke 24:46-48]