

Dear Ipswich City Church Family

### **Online Worship**

I happy to say that I have compiled the playlist for Sunday's service already and will provide the link on Saturday.

### **ANZAC Commemoration.**

The Uniting Churches in Ipswich and Rosewood with the coordinating chaplain from Amberley, and a representative from the RSL will be presenting a local commemorative service to mark ANZAC Day. This will be pre-recorded on Tuesday and made available as a link before ANZAC Day (Saturday)

I would also urge you to watch the official ABC coverage of the dawn service at 5:30 am. A full ANZAC Day coverage will go from 5 am through the Day. [Follow this link for details of the official coverage.](#)

### **Daily Reflection**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3, NRSV)*

Pretty much everyone on the planet will be familiar with Secret Garden's “*You raise me up*”. “When I am down and O my heart's so weary... you raise me up to more than I can be.” Even though it is done to death I still love that song. For me and I am sure most of you, there are times when you have been grieving, sick, heartbroken, or despairing and you have needed raising up. Most of you will have had that very experience, of being raised up in the midst of that trouble and somehow going on, even helping, and comforting those around you.

When Peter says we have “a living hope” he speaks of the one who can and does raise you up. This one is of course God the Father who in raising Jesus from the dead has also raised us. Because Jesus lives, we live. Our hope is not only a past hope. Our hope is not only a future hope. Our hope is a living hope. Even though many of you are stuck at home, even though many of you are in a high risk group, on Easter Sunday when you watched and heard the team sing “Yours be the Glory”, I bet you were raised up. I bet you were filled with joy. I was.

Often God does not take the suffering, the grief, or the weariness away, and we remain sinners, but God does raise you up with Jesus. This gives you

strength to carry on. Better still, Jesus' new life in you means you can be there to love and support others in their suffering grief and weariness.

*Lord, we give thanks, we are filled with joy and hope, because for ourselves and for others you have raised us up with Jesus and given us a living hope. In the Name of the living Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.*

Yours in Jesus

Andrew  
Rev. Andrew Gillies