

All My Days

Easter/April 2023 (9 April - 6 May)



All My Days

On Easter Sunday we move from **The Third Day** to consider All My Days! What does it mean for Jesus to break into all your days? We will be thinking about our whole lives and how we might live in response to the heartbreaking, world-saving, incredible gesture of love that Jesus demonstrated on that third day.

Our theme for April is the conclusion of our three month sequence that began in February with **Prayers for Living**. We started thinking about personal prayers of preparation and then over Lent explored the bigger picture of how our individual lives connect in a cosmic journey (with the ever resounding events of the gospels through The Third Day). Finally, this month, we turn to the big picture of Easter, thinking about the implications of this journey for the rest of our lives as we live in an ongoing creative tension with the past, drawing inspiration from those early days as our own unfold. Join us as we explore olden days, golden days, unfolding days and emboldened days!

SETTING THE SCENE: A visual motif for each week. An optional additional focus point for preparing worship services or multimedia inspired by the material.

SEEDS TO SOW: Open-ended prompts to inspire creative responses to the themes. Perhaps a song, some drawing, or creative writing! They are short and sweet, simply a starting off place for you and your imagination, be encouraged to tailor and develop as suits you. Often they take the form of a question, to encourage reflection.

Each week of the 4 week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and prompts for thought.

Olden Days (9 April)

What do our precious olden days of faith mean to our present pressing days of faith? We begin our theme by exploring the dynamic, creative tensions between the ancient and the contemporary, the traditional and the innovative, the timeless and the timely. Tension can be great — just ask a tennis racket or a violin — so how can we make the most of the tension by tuning past and present together?

SETTING THE SCENE: **AN EMPTIED TOMB**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE 'OLD DAYS' OF OUR FAITH AND HOW DO THEY INSPIRE YOU TODAY?**

1. Matthew 28:
1-10
(Easter Sunday)

2. Psalm 118: 1-2,
14-24

3. Matthew 3:16 -
4:11

4. Colossians 3: 1-4

5. Jeremiah 31: 1-6

6. Jeremiah 6: 16

7. Acts 2: 14-21

1. **New tomb, old tomb.** A new tomb has quickly become an old tomb... Suddenly emptied... the stone rolls away uncovering history.

2. **Old words, new words.** What do these precious olden days — the first days of the church — mean to our present days of faith?

3. **Old cornerstone, new building.** The keystone of all our days.

4. **Old life, new life.** We are new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21) called to new lives!

5. **Get out the old tambourines with new ribbons!** It's time to get out the old tambourines with new ribbons!

6. **Old paths, new shoes.** Putting on our new shoes to find the old paths, the ancient ways.

7. **Old folks, new dreams.** New dreams can and do come from old folks.

Golden Days (16 April)

This week we contemplate value, worth, resilience, the golden days after the resurrection and golden ways of living...

SETTING THE SCENE: **PANNING FOR GOLD**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WHY DID JESUS HAVE A SNACK IN LUKE 24: 41-43?**

1. Psalm 16
1. **Prospecting for gold.** Seeking God, like one panning for gold, finding joy in God's presence.
2. 1 Peter 1: 3-9
2. **Testing the gold.** More precious than gold! Contemplating refinement and what golden days of living hope look like.
3. John 20: 19-31
3. **Doubting the gold.** Thomas testing if this gold was the real 24 carat deal! Exploring doubt as a component of faith as we reflect on value and worth.
4. Matthew 6: 19-24
4. **Fool's gold?** Learning through our life to recognise true value.
5. Psalm 19: 7-14
5. **Better than gold.** Better than gold, sweeter than honey! How are we living our golden lives in response to this richness?
6. Luke 24: 36-49
6. **Golden days, stories of resurrection Part 1.** Reunited with Jesus after the resurrection, what golden memories!
7. Luke 24: 50-53
7. **Golden days, stories of resurrection Part 2.** What does it mean to live with the resurrection... then, now, and evermore!

Unfolding Days (23 April)

We live our days in the 'now and not yet' of God's unfolding kingdom. This week we explore promised days unfolding and our unfolding response to them...

SETTING THE SCENE: **WALKING ALONG THE ROAD WITH JESUS**

SEEDS TO SOW: **IMAGINE BEING CLEOPAS (See days 5-7)**

1. Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1. **An unfolding promise...** "For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Our lives are lived in this unfolding promise.
2. Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
2. **An unfolding gratitude...** "What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?"
3. 1 Peter 1: 17-23
3. **An unfolding seed...** Reflecting on being born anew and the organic metaphor of perishable versus imperishable as the enduring promise unfolds through all our days.
4. Mark 16: 8
4. **An unfolding response.** Some of the old manuscripts end the book of Mark at verse 8 leaving the book on a cliffhanger. A tantalising hook of faith — if the women never said anything to anyone — the reader/hearer is left thinking 'How come I'm reading this now?!' What happened between then and now? Taking the opportunity to reflect on 'the hook of faith' that draws us in and requires us to respond to the cliffhanger, to join the story ourselves.
5. Luke 24: 13-27
5. **An unfolding story... The promise of Emmaus Part 1.** From dejection to understanding.
6. Luke 24: 28-32
6. **An unfolding story... The promise of Emmaus Part 2.** From understanding to insight.
7. Luke 24: 33-35
7. **An unfolding story...The promise of Emmaus Part 3.** From insight to action.

Emboldened Days (30 April)

This final week we take a deep dive on the early days of the church and consider how it's only early days yet for us, emboldened to live life abundantly!

SETTING THE SCENE: **PRAYING TOGETHER**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WHAT DOES AN ABUNDANT LIFE (Day 7) LOOK LIKE?.**

1. Acts 2: 42-47
1. **The very early days.** A bold countercultural way of living holding all things together.
2. Acts 3: 1-10
2. **Bold days.** No silver or gold, the deck is stacked against them, and yet Peter and John are emboldened.
3. Acts 3: 11-26
3. **Peter speaks boldly.** From the fringes to the main stage.
4. Acts 4: 1-22
4. **The boldness of 'ordinary men'.** Boldly declaring Jesus the cornerstone.
5. Acts 4: 23-31
5. **A boldness that shakes buildings...**
6. Acts 5: 12-42
6. **Bold teaching.** The apostles go on boldly teaching — sending the ripple effect wider and wider...
7. John 10: 10
7. **And it's only early days...** It is still yet early days, there is much to live and be lived abundantly!