



INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP FOR EASTER

The theme for this intergenerational worship service is prompted by the Uniting Church SA's postcard campaign for Easter 2011. The postcard features a picture of chocolate eggs, with the message:

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

GOOD NEWS: THERE IS.

Satisfy more than your tastebuds this Easter.
Visit {name} Uniting Church & rediscover Jesus.

For more about the postcard, see www.sa.uca.org.au and click on 'communications'.

THEME

Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, fulfils our hunger for more.

BIBLE BASIS

Jesus says: 'I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.'
(John 10:10, NIRV)

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

Intergenerational (or all-age) worship is, first and foremost, worship: an encounter between God and his people. Intergenerational worship takes seriously the understanding that people of all ages are God's people — the body of Christ. Worship is not just for adults or just for children.

Intentionally intergenerational worship allows for

- exploration of a single simple theme in a number of different ways
- interaction and dialogue between people of various ages
- movement and use of the body
- use of several senses
- imagination and wonder
- surprise, fun and awe.

Intergenerational worship recognises and values the children present in the worshipping congregation and 'the child within' each adult worshiper.

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For other intergenerational worship ideas see <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au>

MORE?

Some questions for congregational leaders



Are you serious about inviting people to your church to satisfy more than tastebuds?

Do you offer 'more'?

'More' means finding ways of connecting people who have an unsatisfied hunger for Jesus — his word and his people — on a long term basis.

What happens in an hour worship service on Easter Sunday is — for a visitor — just a taste.

What do you have for visitors (and members), that's more than just a taste?

- Do you have people who are willing to befriend (in Jesus' name) visitors (or members) who are hungry for a friend?
- Do you have small groups or a playgroup or kids club or youth group or women's club or men's club for people who are hungry for more healthy relationships?
- Do you have counselling (or can you refer to counselling services) for people who are hungry for more peace, better relationships, parenting support, financial advice, time management . . . ?
- Do you have 'introduction' (to the Bible, to Jesus, to the church) programs available — as courses or for individuals?

It's a given that you are probably *doing* all you can; there's no way you can *do* more. But the answer may not lie in *what* you do, but *how* you do it. And to some extent, how you let people in your community (and your congregation) know what you offer.

Using this promotion and worship service may be a catalyst for:

- clarifying what your programs are and what they offer
- reminding one another in the congregation of what you offer
- putting together a leaflet and/or web site that tells people who you are and what you do
- creating some sort of expo of who you are and what you offer as a congregation.

Remember that what many people, whether they are part of the church or not, are seeking is not 'more' — more responsibilities, more tasks, more commitments, more demands. What they may be seeking is less of these. By pointing people to Jesus we may assist them in prioritising and eliminating the 'more things' that keep them from the 'more important things'.

A wise man once said: 'Keep the main thing the main thing. Jesus is the main thing'.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews wrote: 'We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.' (13:2).

GENERAL NOTES

'USING THIS DOCUMENT

These notes have been prepared by the Children and Family Team of the Uniting Church in South Australia. The notes are designed to help congregations plan Easter worship, based on the postcard concept, which actively involves children and families.

You may make as many copies of the notes as needed. The use of music and other copyright elements is not covered in this permission.

If you are using the resource, we would appreciate your letting us know what you do. Send a brief email to children@sa.uca.org.au

Scan through all the material. Discuss it as a planning team. You may use the sample service, or any of the ideas that are appropriate in your situation.

A PLANNING TEAM

Ideally an intergenerational worship service is planned by an intergenerational team working with the pastor/minister/priest.

If possible the team should consist of at least three people: one representing the youngest, one the middle and one the oldest third of the worshipping congregation.

The team may also draw on people (young and old) who have special abilities, eg in the areas of hospitality, music, drama and visual arts.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The service can involve just one or a number of leaders. They are indicated in the script as

- **WORSHIP LEADER** who serves as host (or compeer) leading worshippers through the service. The role of Worship Leader can be taken by a minister and/or layperson.
- **SONG LEADER** encourages and leads congregational singing in concert with the instrumentalists and other vocalists.
- **PRAYER LEADER** prepares and leads prayers.

Several people of different ages — children, youth, young adults, middle-aged and older people — can share any of the roles.

Remember, leaders are leaders not performers. They worship with the congregation and at the same time direct the worshippers.

THE SENSES OF SMELL AND TASTE

The theme postcard for Easter features chocolate eggs. That opens the way to use senses we don't always incorporate in formal worship: taste and smell.

Consider surrounding the congregation with the aroma of chocolate by using chocolate-scented candles. People will enjoy the sensory

experience at the time. Later, the scent of chocolate may remind them of the service when they encounter it in other places and at other times.

Include eating chocolate as well as smelling it — either during the service or afterwards.

Consider inviting family groups to make shaped chocolates before the service. Have available in your church kitchen melting chocolate and the necessary equipment (chocolate moulds, double boiler pots, spoons and trays). Refrigerate the moulds to set during the service and let families un-mould and taste (and, perhaps share) their creations after the service.

CHURCH DECORATIONS AND SET UP

If you have banners or posters depicting the Easter events or symbols, display them.

Otherwise, decorate the church with chocolate Easter eggs or coloured foil-wrapped egg-shaped cardboard cutouts, honeycomb paper eggs or polystyrene eggs.

If your worship area allows for it, consider arranging seating so that people are sitting around tables or in clusters (put blankets or mats in the centre of the cluster for very young children). This will make interaction in families and other small groupings more natural.

HOSPITALITY

At Easter time you are likely to have guests worshiping with you. People who do not worship regularly may choose to go to church on Easter. You may also intentionally invite people who do not worship regularly, perhaps using the UCA Easter card.

Your Easter guests will form their impression of your church in the first few minutes of being there. A clean well cared for building and creative decoration contribute to a positive first impression.

More important is the hospitality of the members of the worship community. All members share the responsibility for making other worshippers feel welcome. Those who invite guests have a special role in worshiping with their guests. A specially designated hospitality team may

- greet guests and members
- help guests feel comfortable with the facilities and practices
- stay alert and prepared to care for anyone in distress during the service
- organise snacks before and/or after the service; and perhaps some after-church fellowship activities or even a lunch.

MUSIC

Most of the music in the service is congregational singing. This allows all worshippers to participate.

However, some visitors (and some members) may not be comfortable with this practice. The worship leader (or song leader) may make a point of inviting people to sing when they are comfortable doing so, or to just listen.

Children, visitors, and new Christians worshipping with you may have difficulty with words and images used in Easter hymns and songs. The worship leader (or song leader) may explain or illustrate unfamiliar language or images that are significant in the song.

Consider ways of involving children who are too young to read or sing the words, eg

- encourage parents to sway, bounce or clap with infants and very young children.
- teach Auslan symbols or other actions for some key words in the song and ask everyone to do the actions when they come to the words in the song
- teach one or two lines that are repeated in the chorus and give a cue when everyone can sing the lines they know
- give children a percussion instrument to play or a banner to wave during a song.

Some Easter songs for children:

- *Don't you know that Jesus died?* sung to the tune *Do-Re-Mi* from 'The Sound of Music'. (www.perputualpreschool.com)
- *God's love (that he sent us his Son)* All Together Now, 23
- *I'm happy on the inside* (Reichelt) All Together Now, 28
- *Jesus is alive today*, sung to the tune of 'Mary had a little lamb' (www.perputualpreschool.com)
- *We welcome glad Easter* (author unknown) see www.cyberhymnal.org

Display song lyrics on screen or in leaflets in your usual manner. Make sure children as well as adults can see the screen or leaflet.

Your regular instrumentalists (organist, band) can lead/ accompany singing. Small congregations, or congregations that do not have strong musical leadership, may choose to have the congregation sing with CDs or other electronic music.

For many worshippers, an Easter service just isn't an Easter service without at least one of the stirring old Easter hymns. So include traditional hymns as well as more contemporary songs and songs written with children in mind.

Your worship service may also include a performance (singing, dancing, miming) by a choir, band or a small group (a family, a Sunday school class).

In the film 'Sister Act' a contemporary love song was given a Christian interpretation. In keeping with the theme of this service, consider doing something similar with the 60's pop song 'More' (originally '*ti guardero nel cuore*', English translation by Norman Newell). 'More than the greatest love the world has known' was recorded Bobby Darin, Andy Williams and Vic Damone and appears in several compilations of 'Great Love Songs'.

SERMON

In an all-age service the sermon should be an all-age sermon. This means that it should be short and simple — no more than three points. Stories, illustrations and dialogue can be helpful.

It's a good idea to follow the adage: first tell people what you are going to tell them, then tell it, then tell them what you told them. If you do each step in a different, engaging way, people of all ages are likely to remember the message.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Holy Communion, Jesus truly satisfies our hunger for forgiveness and new life. He sustains our faith.

Traditionally Christians celebrate Holy Communion on Easter Sunday as a special way of being connected with the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a wonderful tradition to continue.

However, these notes are for intentionally intergenerational and invitational worship. If it is the practice of your congregation to exclude young children (or visitors) from the sacrament, you will need to find a way of including them. Or have the Communion at another time.

REHEARSAL

Because this service is different from your usual worship pattern, a rehearsal is necessary. A complete walk-through will pinpoint any logistical problems, allow the worship leader/s to fine-tune instructions and ensure that the service itself runs smoothly.

Some churches find it best to have this rehearsal in conjunction with the band or choir practice for the service.

Use rehearsal time as an opportunity to pray together and to remind people of the awesome privilege and task they have in leading Easter worship.

SOME EASTER FAQs

What does the word 'Easter' mean?

Easter is observed in the Northern Hemisphere season of Spring. 'Easter' comes from the Old English *Eastre* —the Anglo Saxon Goddess of Dawn (thus Spring, the dawn of the year).

Easter is also known as The Festival of the Resurrection. The term 'Pascal' is also used for Easter. It comes from the *Latin paschalis* (relating to Easter), which is in turn from the Hebrew *pesach* (associated with Passover).

'Easter' refers both to one day — Easter Sunday — and the Church's Easter season that begins on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later at Pentecost.

Why does the date of Easter change from year to year?

Easter is observed on a Sunday, because according to the Bible account, the women went to the tomb on the day after the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday).

According to the Bible accounts, Jesus' death and resurrection took place at the time of the Jewish Passover. The dates of Jewish festivals were set according to a lunar (moon) calendar. The formula for setting the date of Easter in western churches is: the first Sunday after the first new moon after the equinox (when night and day are equal, 12 hours each) which occurs on March 20, 21 or 22. [Eastern tradition Christians use a different formula.]

Why do we have eggs for Easter?

The custom of exchanging eggs began long before Easter was celebrated. For ancient Egyptians and Persians the egg was a symbol of 'fertility', 'rebirth' and 'beginnings'. They exchanged duck and hen eggs decorated in spring colours. In Hindu scriptures, earth developed from an egg.

The Christian church has adapted many pagan customs. The egg, as a symbol of new life, came to represent the Resurrection. Some Christians regarded the egg as a symbol of the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

The earliest Easter eggs were hen or duck eggs decorated at home in bright colours with vegetable dye and charcoal. Some people decorated the eggs with messages, dates and pictures and exchanged them with friends and loved ones.



← In the Ukraine *pysanka* Easter eggs were decorated with traditional folk designs using a wax-resist method.

Perhaps the most famous decorated eggs come from Russia where Peter Carl Fabrege created the first of a series of intricately designed and jeweled eggs for the twentieth wedding anniversary of Czar Alexander III and his wife Maria on Easter Sunday 1885. →



In the 1800's egg-shaped sugar candy became an alternative to hen and duck eggs. Some candied eggs were made with one end cut open and a miniature scene inside.

Australian emu eggs have three layers of colour: green, blue, and white. Decorating these large eggs sometimes involves carving through the outer layer/s to create a design.

Why do we have chocolate for Easter?

The linking of chocolate with Easter is more a commercial story than a religious one. People love chocolate. Chocolate tastes good, and eating chocolate makes us feel good. We might make a loose connection with Psalm 34:8 'Taste and see that the LORD is good'.

Chocolate Easter eggs were first made in France and Germany in the early 1800s. They were solid eggs until technology made it possible to make hollow ones.

The first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made in 1875. They were made of dark chocolate with a plain smooth surface and were filled with sugared almonds. The earliest 'decorated eggs' were plain shells enhanced by chocolate piping and marzipan flowers.



THE EASTER STORY IN A CHOCOLATE EGG

Based on Matthew 28:1-10

For this gospel story presentation you will need four people

- **A reader**, who has the script inserted in a Bible and reads from the open Bible. As much as possible, make a distinction between the actual Bible text (in italic) and the extra comments.
- **An egg-splainer**, who has a large hollow chocolate Easter egg.
Prepare the egg by carefully cutting off the small end of the egg. Then re-attach it using melted chocolate at several points.
- **An angel voice**, who can be 'offstage' or standing beside the reader.
- **Jesus' voice**, who also can be 'offstage' or standing beside the reader.

It's possible (but harder) for one person to do it all alone.

READER: This is a story that tells what we celebrate at Easter.

(Show a Bible) It's from the Bible, the book of Matthew, chapter 28, verses 1 to 10.

Before we get to the Easter story, we need a quick review of what happened earlier.

The man called Jesus, who was God's own Son, was arrested. He was treated like a criminal, even though he had not done anything wrong.

He was crucified — nailed to a wooden cross. The Son of God chose to die, so that we would know how very much God loves us.

After he died, Jesus' body was put in a grave.

EGG-SPLAINER: The grave where they put his body was probably a rock cave.

(Show the egg) Can you pretend that this egg is Jesus' grave?

READER: *There was an earthquake.*

EGG-SPLAINER: Do you know what an earthquake does? It makes everything 'quake', or shake.

(Shake the egg, holding it with two hands to keep the two pieces together.)

READER: *After the earthquake a shining angel came down from heaven. He rolled aside a stone that had sealed Jesus' tomb.*

EGG-SPLAINER: (Remove the loosened end of the egg. And put it aside — or eat it.)

READER: *Early Easter Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to the grave to take care of Jesus' body.*

EGG-SPLAINER: (Show the remaining part of the egg.) Jesus' two friends thought Jesus body was still inside.

READER: *The angel said:*

ANGEL VOICE: *Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here!*

He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was laying.

EGG-SPLAINER: Do you know what the Marys saw when they looked into the grave?

(Have someone look into the egg.) What do you see when you look in the egg?

Jesus' grave was just as empty as this egg. He wasn't there.

ANGEL VOICE: *Go quickly! Tell his followers, 'He has risen from the dead'.*

READER: *The Marys were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' other friends.*

Jesus met the Marys on their way.

EGG-SPLAINER: Jesus was no longer dead in a tomb, but very much alive and walking around.

JESUS' VOICE: *G'day!*

READER: *. . . Jesus said to them.*

The Marys knelt down and worshiped Jesus.

JESUS' VOICE: *Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me.*

EGG-SPLAINER: And that's what happened. Jesus tomb was empty, like the egg.

(Show the egg)

Jesus was alive. We know that's true because lots of people saw him. That's what we celebrate at Easter.

And that's what you can think of when you bite into a hollow Easter egg.

BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE

A statement of faith

There are three possible ways of reading this statement:

- Read responsively between a leader and the people.
- A number of different people can read the leader parts in a responsive reading.
- A number of different people can read one section each (both People and Leader) as shown by the short lines.

OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION:

LEADER: Show a nested/stacking toy (eg a Russian doll) where each outer layer can be opened up to reveal a new, slightly smaller toy inside.

This toy looks like an ordinary egg (or ball or whatever), doesn't it?

But wait. When I open it, there's another egg.
And then more.
And more.

What we believe about God is a bit like that.
Once we grasp one thing we find there's more.



LEADER: We believe that God exists and is real.

PEOPLE: But wait: there's more.

L: We believe that God created everything — things we can see, things we can't see, things we can't understand or even imagine.

P: But wait: there's more.

L: God created every one of us unique human beings.

P: But wait: there's more.

L: God loves us unconditionally.

P: But wait: there's more.

L: God showed his love through his Son, Jesus.

P: But wait: there's more.

L: We believe that Jesus is both God's Son and a real human being, who experienced human life with us — the good and bad.

P: But wait: there's more.

L: Jesus experienced the worst! He was tried, found guilty — even though he was innocent. He suffered. He died

P: But wait: there's *still* more.

L: Jesus overcame death. He burst out of his tomb. Jesus came back to life!

P: But wait: there's more.

L: Jesus is alive now in heaven with his Heavenly Father.

P: But wait: there's *still* more.

L: He's prepared a way for us to be with him forever — beyond time.

P: But wait: there's even more.

L: God knows we have trouble believing all this, so he helps us. He speaks to us when we delve into the Bible.

P: And that's not all.

L: We believe that God's Spirit is here among us, the church, in all our human relationships. He loves us and helps us love one another. He forgives us and helps us forgive one another. He strengthens us and helps us strengthen one another.

P: Amen.

HUNGRY *for* MORE?

WORSHIP OUTLINE

The sample service follows closely the format of traditional worship; but gives many of the components a tweak, to make them more engaging and memorable for people of all ages.

You may add your own planning notes to this outline. Alternatively begin with your own worship plan and insert appropriate elements from the notes or the sample service.

BEFORE WORSHIP _____

1. ARRIVAL: _____

2. WELCOME & INVOCATION: _____

3 SONG OF PRAISE: *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia* _____

4. REFLECTION: *Chocolate eggs* _____

5. GOSPEL: *The Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28)* _____

6. EASTER SONG: *My Redeemer lives* _____

7. EASTER MESSAGE: _____

8. SONG REFLECTING MESSAGE: _____

9. CONFESSION OF FAITH: _____

10. SONG: *God's love (that he sent us his Son)* _____

11. NOTICES: _____

12. OFFERING: _____

13. PRAYERS _____

14. HOLY COMMUNION _____

15. CLOSING SONG: *Allelu* _____

16. BLESSING _____

17. AFTER WORSHIP: *Easter egg hunt* _____

HUNGRY *for* MORE?

SAMPLE SERVICE

(Spoken 'script' is in plain type; comments and instructions are in *italic.*)

1. ARRIVAL

HOSPITALITY TEAM greets people as they arrive.

They give each person a hen egg-size foil-wrapped chocolate egg. Do not explain what to do with the egg. Just say 'it's a present'.

NOTE: Have some sugar eggs on hand for any worshipers who are allergic to chocolate.

They also give out any books or papers needed for the worship service.

They pay special attention to visitors: help them find a suitable place to sit (perhaps near members who can welcome, befriend and assist them).

MUSIC TEAM/instrumentalists play music that will be used in the service.

TECH TEAM may run a slide show of pictures illustrating the Easter story. Alternatively, project the image from the 'Hungry for More?' card, a series of pictures of chocolate eggs, or even a video about making chocolate eggs. There's a humorous one on YouTube: 'How to make a chocolate egg for Easter'.

2. WELCOME & INVOCATION

WORSHIP LEADER (WL): Easter is a great day. Thank you for spending part of it with us.

We're here to worship the living God of Easter who gives us more — more than we hunger for; more than we need; more than we can even imagine.

3. SONG OF PRAISE

WL or Song Leader: Let's begin our worship with one of my favourite Easter songs.

There's a word that's repeated lots of times in the song. 'Alleluia' means: 'Hooray. God is great. Praise Him'.

That's too good a word to sing quietly. So I invite you to wave the 'alleluia'.

[Name] is going to show you what to do.

[Name] holds up an alleluia egg sign. Wave the sign from side to side with each syllable of the word (*It's really stretched out in the hymn*). People can wave their arms, following the sign.



Have a practice before you begin singing.

MUSIC TEAM leads the congregation in singing

'Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia'
(Hymn/Wesley)

4. CHOCOLATE EGGS REFLECTION

WL: When you came into church today, someone gave you a present. What was it? What did you do with it?

Have some people feed up to give any of these answers that don't come spontaneously from the congregation:

- I put it in my purse/pocket.
- I gave it to [someone else].
- I ate it.
- I lost it.
- I held it (and it melted).

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to taste and see how good your chocolate egg is.

HOSPITALITY TEAM may distribute paper towels or wet wipes as people are eating.

WL: Was that good? Talk about these questions with someone sitting near you.

Display the following questions:

- Was that good?
- Are you hungry for more?
- Why are you hungry for more?

5. THE GOSPEL STORY OF EASTER

Option 1: Bible reading

Worship Leader (or another reader) reads Matthew 28:1-10 (The lectionary reading for Easter, Series A)

Option 2: The Easter story in a chocolate egg
(see the script on page 6)

6. EASTER SONG

WL: Let's sing another song that celebrates our living Lord Jesus.

MUSIC TEAM leads the congregation in singing an Easter song, eg 'My Redeemer Lives' (Morgan/Hillsong) or 'I know that my Redeemer Lives' (hymn version/Medley).

7. EASTER MESSAGE

Option 1: Sermon

Acts 10:36-43 or John 10:10 or Matthew 5:6

Option 2: Interactive discussion.

Everyone is hungry for more. More what? Discuss in small groups. Debrief and record on whiteboard or PowerPoint. Be sure to include suggestions from people of all ages.

The good news: there is more. We believe that in one way or another Jesus is the 'more' that we are all seeking. Jesus himself says:

'I have come so you can have life. I want you to have it in the fullest possible way.' (John 10:10) That's 'more'!

Leader helps people reflect on the list of mores in the light of Jesus' statement.

Option 3: Clown performance

Clowns pantomime a skit based on the concept of 'the God-shaped hole'.

Sad Clown is unhappy because there's a hole in his/her heart. Friend/s give items that may fill the hole (money, a sports trophy, a fancy toy car, a box of chocolate). With each gift, Sad Clown brightens up initially. But the gifts don't fill the heart hole. The clown becomes sadder and sadder. Finally a friend gives sad clown a heart with a cross on it. It fills the hole completely. Sad Clown becomes Glad Clown.

Option 4: Testimony

A personal story of hungering for more and being satisfied by Jesus. This may be given as a statement or in an interview format.

8. SONG REFLECTING THE MESSAGE

MUSIC TEAM leads the congregation in singing: 'You're all I need' (Bullock) or another song about God satisfying our hunger.

If appropriate, the Worship Leader may read through the song before it is sung, helping people recognise that this is the author's testimony about God satisfying their hunger.

People can choose to simply listen or to join in the song if it reflects their own experience or their own belief.

9. CONFESSION OF FAITH

Option 1: Creed

Worship Leader may lead the congregation in saying the Apostles' or Nicene Creed.

Option 2: 'But wait, there's more'

Use the statement of faith from page 7.

10. CHILDREN'S SONG

MUSIC TEAM leads the congregation in singing a children's Easter song, eg 'God's love; that he sent us his Son . . . died on the cross . . . rose up again.

11. NOTICES

WL or **CONGREGATIONAL LEADER:**

- make any necessary, brief announcements
- tell about anything 'more' the congregation is offering to those who have come hungry for more: after-service prayer/counselling, after service fellowship, learning, worship and service opportunities . . .
- explain how the offering money is used. Explain the procedure for giving offerings and assure visitors that they are not expected to give an offering.

12. OFFERING

Give and receive offerings in your usual manner. Consider using 'Easter baskets' to collect the offering.

13 PRAYERS

PRAYER LEADER/s may use their own prayers for others or for the wider church.

Alternatively several people of different ages may read the following prayer based on Matthew 5:1-12 (the Beatitudes/Blessings).

Dear God, we pray for people here and in our community who are grieving the death of a loved one or any other loss.

Bless them, for you have promised that they will find comfort.

We pray for people who are humble and powerless.

Bless them, for you have promised that the earth will belong to them.

We pray for people who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Bless them, for you have promised that they will be given what they want.

We pray for people who show mercy to others.

Bless them, for you have promised that they will be treated with mercy.

We pray for people whose hearts are pure. Bless them, for you have promised that they will see you.

We pray for people who work for peace. Bless them, for you have promised that they will be called your children.

We pray for people who are treated badly for doing right. Bless them, for you have promised that they belong to your kingdom.

We pray for people here and in our community who are insulted, mistreated or lied about because of you. Bless them, for you have promised that they will have a great reward in heaven.

Dear heavenly Father, we pray these things in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus. Amen.

14. HOLY COMMUNION

See note on page 4. Follow your usual communion practice.

Choose songs for the congregation (or music team) to sing during communion that reflect the idea of God satisfying our hunger.

Note: If you do not include Holy Communion in your service, you may insert a simple confession and statement of forgiveness at this point.

You may ask people to use the foil wrappers from chocolate eggs to demonstrate.

By this time the wrappers have been lost or messed up. That can be a symbol of our lives. Try as we can, we can't completely smooth the wrinkles and get the foil back to its original smoothness.

Our lives are like that. We get messed up (and sometimes lost). We can't fix it ourselves.

The risen, living Jesus wants to help us. When we admit to him that we are messed up and can't fix ourselves, he forgives us. He completely smooths out our relationship with God and helps us to live God's way.

15. CLOSING SONG

WL: (or song leader) introduces the final song: Let's praise God who can satisfy all our deepest hungers.



Revise the Alleluia egg if you used it earlier in the service. You may have a second 'Praise to the Lord' egg or have those words on the back of the Alleluia egg.

Use the eggs to lead the singing. Have fun with this. You can have part

of the congregation stand and sing 'Allelu' and another group sing 'Praise to the Lord' or sing it three times getting faster each time.

MUSIC TEAM leads the congregation in singing the traditional chorus: 'Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord.' (Change the words to 'Allelu' and 'praise to the Lord.

16. BLESSING

WL: Hungry for more? The good news is that there is more.

Jesus once spoke of his love as 'living water' and said 'anyone who drinks this water will never thirst again.'

Today you have had a taste of God's living water. We pray that you will keep drinking and be satisfied.

The blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. Amen.

17. EASTER EGG HUNT

WL: Some of you said you wanted more chocolate eggs. We have more.

Explain where eggs have been hidden for children. You may have separate spaces for children under 3, under 6, and under 9.

Children, if you find more than one egg, you can share your extra eggs with some grown-ups. When you have finished your search, come back to the hall for a drink.

Parents, please take your children to their hunting grounds now.

Invite to morning tea/supper any remaining adults who will not be hunting for eggs, but — if things go well — will receive eggs from generous children.