



## PROJECT RECONNECT

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH GOD, EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY

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**Easter 7 Year A, May 17th 2026**

**Presenter: Malcolm Ireland**

**Focus Reading: Psalm 68: 1-3, Acts 1:4-5**

**Message:** 7 minutes 36 seconds

"Relating to our enemies"

### Discussion Starters

1. What do you find the most significant idea of this message?
2. Can you think of an example when you have found it difficult to love your enemy?
3. As a church, do we unconsciously exclude people because they are "not like us"?
4. Are there times we should be speaking out about the increasing lack of love (or of hatred) towards the other (e.g. asylum seekers)?

### Readings for this day

**Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35** Both communal and individual thanksgiving for deliverance, this psalm is a remembrance of God's help through every kind of difficulty.

**1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5:6-11** Instructs believers not to be surprised by trials or persecution - but rejoice in sharing in Christ's suffering. Need to be humble under God's hand and trust in His timing for restoration and exaltation.

**John 17:1-11** God gives a community of disciples to Jesus, who trusts them with his word and who, with the Father, preserves them as those who continue to embody that word.

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### Intergenerational Talk

"Waiting for the Promise"

**Malcolm Ireland** *Length:* 3 minutes 35 seconds

#### Precis of IT

Waiting does not mean doing nothing. It means trusting. It means praying. It means to be ready. What the disciples waited for and got was not what they expected! Sometimes we are like the disciples we want answers right now, but God's kingdom seems to work differently and we are asked to wait and trust Him.

**Uniting in Worship (Blue Book).** **Psalm 68: 6-14** – few verses only on page 297

### Malcolm Ireland

I have been retired for more than 10 years, now living in the beautiful Blue Mountains, after spending most of my working life in the Hunter Valley. I enjoy grandparenting, gardening, bushwalking, woodturning, travel amongst other things, I cannot understand how anyone can be bored in retirement!