

8.00am Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 20th June 2021

Pentecost 4
COCU44B

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.



WELCOME and GREETING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In joy and thanksgiving we gather together today. We stand on land curated for centuries by the Kurna people, and in a building sanctified by the prayer and praise of this Christian community. In silence now we open our hearts to God, and to each other, in welcome and love.

GATHERING

The community of Christ's Church gathers and scatters, again and again. In gathering we renew our strength, deepen our understanding about who Christ calls us to be, and pray for the world. In scattering we go to live out the life of Christ on earth through our prayers and our work. Gathered, and scattered, we are part of a movement which has carried the presence of Christ for over two

thousand years, through change and suffering, through renewal and revelation. In silence we remember who we are and the greater community of which we are a part.

Silence

Here, now, in the holiness of this present moment, surrounded by choirs of angels and a great cloud of unseen witnesses; in union with the birds of the air and the creatures of the land; and in community with all on earth who worship God, we begin our worship. **Amen.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

HYMN TiS 477 Jesus calls us here to meet him

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

(A prayer for the anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the Uniting Church in Australia, for the ways your Spirit empowers us to participate in your liberating mission in the world. You call us to be your Pilgrim People, responsive to your leading, as we witness to your reconciling love in our communities. At this time in our life as the Uniting Church, may your Holy Spirit weave us together as the Body of Christ, a community of grace and hope. Renew and strengthen us as your Church.

Where there is hurt and pain, bring your comfort and healing.

Where we have caused hurt to one another, bring forgiveness and reconciliation.

Where our community and unity are strained, give us patience to listen to one another, to see your presence in one another, and to love our sisters and brothers in Christ, as you have first loved us.

Where there is uncertainty and confusion, bring your guidance and light. Lead us forward in ways that are faithful to your mission in the world.

We pray that our church may be a source of your healing, hope, compassion and love, and a welcoming and hospitable place to worship and serve.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, fill us with passion for Christ's mission, so that we will be courageous bearers of God's good news of love, justice and healing in your world. **Amen.** *(Uniting Church President Dr Deidre Palmer)*

READING Mark 4: 25-31

For the Word of God, breaking open the meaning of life in Scripture and story, in poetry and prayer, in art and nature, and in the witness of human experience ... **Praise to you, living Christ.**

REFLECTION

HYMN Song of Faith

1.
Song of faith that sings forever
through God's people, ages long,
Word that holds the world together
when our hearts take up the song,
always, always, somewhere
sounding,
though the source we do not see
counterpoint to all despairing,
it is hope that sets the key.

2.
Song of faith in exaltation,
rising through the vaults of prayer,
tune of simple celebration
offered up in open air,
song in chapel and cathedral,
descant to our daily tone,
song from sickbed or in prison,
faith must often sing alone.

3.
And when life would overwhelm us,
when there seems no song to sing,
hear the constant voice of courage
out of fear and suffering:
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,
all who lift us to be strong,
endless, endless are the voices
of the faith that makes the song.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray;
Tune: ABBOTS LEIGH

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

This is my prayer / **This is our prayer**

O God, You re-create, shape and fashion us to bring forth your life in this world. You help us to recognise goodness, truth and beauty, and help us to quieten our hearts so that we may be wise and discerning. May we grow in kindness and compassion, and share your longing for a world made whole. Receive our prayers, and help us to see the world as you see it - and to be part of all that you are creating it to be. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God.
Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us
of the fruitful life we are called to bear.
May these gifts of time and labour embody our desire
to share and contribute to your mission in the world. **Amen.**

HYMN TIS 537 Let us talents and tongues employ

HOLY COMMUNION

The invitation

Jesus invited us to life in all its fullness. All are welcome at this table. In this meal we remember and celebrate his presence with us and our community with each other.

The narrative

On a night long ago, in an upper room where he gathered with his companions, reaching out in love and promising that wherever this meal was re-enacted he would be present, Jesus took bread and wine - everyday, familiar things - and named them as symbols of the most holy mystery of God. Taking the fragrant, newly baked bread in his hands - hands that had healed and blessed, hands that had been lifted in celebration, and wrung in grief and pain; hands that had overturned tables, and lifted up those who were bent-over with suffering; hands that had been clasped in prayer, and stretched out to gather in the excluded, Jesus took the bread in these hands, broke it, and blessed it, saying "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, - filled with rich, red wine, pressed from the fruit of the vine; purified and matured; symbol of human and divine hospitality; poured out generously into empty vessels; a gift which words and rituals cannot fully describe but which we receive in faith and hope; a sign of the great oneness between holy and human; the holy wine of God's never-ending grace, and blessed it, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(1 Corinthians 11: 23b-25)

Let us, as the companions of Christ, gathered in this time and place, know ourselves to be invited and included in the sacred meal which began that night, and which has never ended.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The presence of Christ be with you,

and also with you.

Be encouraged, dare to be hopeful,

we lift our hearts with hope and joy.

Let us be profoundly thankful

We give to God our thanks and praise.

God, before time you were present. You burst into creativity and everything began. The Universe and its galaxies exploded into life, dancing spirals and fiery stars played across the heavens. The earth cooled, and water came, and over millions of years life on earth flourished and changed, died and gave way to new life. And in all this Your very self was being expressed and made known to us. Here in Australia the rocks and oceans, deserts and rainforests, creatures of sky, sea and land, and human life, came into being, and an ancient

people told their stories and cherished the creation. Wisdom was present on earth, speaking through religions and prophets, through story-telling and myth, in word and ritual, giving meaning to mystery, and charting the story of humankind.

In the Ancient Near East, as prophets had foretold, Jesus the Christ, revealer of God, holy one born into our humanity, came and lived and walked among us, teaching, healing and calling for justice. Through his life, death and abiding presence a confused and hurting world received a new message of hope, reconciliation, and liberation for all God's creation. A new community and a new story began. The story continues through all who follow the Way of Christ as the Holy Spirit directs them to in their time and place. Recalling this, and remembering the splendour, complexity, and eternal possibilities of God's creativity we can only bow our heads in gratitude, and say:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God,
the whole of creation sings to You,
angels and prophets, women, men and children,
whole communities, the trees of the earth,
and the stars in the heavens.**

We who gather today can only say "Blessed ... Blessed are you, O God. And blessed is Jesus Christ, who comes in Your name. Praise to You, Holy One! In this community of Your people, We acknowledge and greet the One who comes among us, Bread of Life, hope of the world. Christ is with us, Christ is one with us, and we are invited to participate in the celebration of this holy meal.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We call now upon the Spirit's presence at this table, so that this bread and this wine may be infused with the Christ-presence, and that we may be bearers of this presence in our life together, and our life in the world. *(In the silence, we pause to contemplate and prepare ourselves to receive the One who comes to us in bread and wine).*
We say together:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again

The breaking of the bread and raising of the cup

The bread of Christ, broken and shared; our source of life in all its fullness.

The sanctified wine, poured out for us, to satisfy our deepest longings so that we may never thirst again.

The gifts are ready and you are invited to receive them.

After communion

Most Holy God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, for the nourishment of his life and teaching, the power of his death and resurrection, and for his invitation to enjoy life in all its fullness. As he

allowed Your life and Your way to become visible in him, may God's presence also be revealed through our lives. We ask this not in our own strength but through the grace and help of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION and WORDS OF MISSION

As we prepare to leave our time of worship and to take up the rhythm of our daily lives, may we hold within us whatever the Spirit has given to us during this time of worship, and may our prayer and our contemplation allow it to grow and to flourish. And may God bless us with imagination and courage, may Christ be our companion and our guide, and may the Spirit provoke us and empower us to be all that we were created to be.

Go now with the blessing of the Holy Three – Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and be a blessing to others. **Amen.**

God's peace be with you.

And also with you.

A COVID safe sign of peace is shared

Acknowledgements: Communion liturgy by Ann Siddall

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.**



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