

**THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday 3rd February 2019 – Epiphany 4**

We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung People as the traditional people of this land on which we now meet and celebrate our faith.

**Worth Pondering**

“The task of religion is to give us the courage and strength to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to life” *(Don Cupitt)*

**Welcome**

Your presence here enriches all of us and our time of celebration together.

**All are welcome here.**

**Our church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of age, race, creed, cultural background or gender orientation.**

**The Gathering of The People of God:**

**Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while we wait on thee  
Hushed our hearts to listen in expectancy.**

**Speak, O Blessed Master, in this quiet hour;  
Let us see thy face Lord, feel thy touch of power.**

*Emily May Grimes 1868-1927*

**Call to Worship**

“To Reflect on . . .” *(William L Wallace **Courage to Love**/19)*

There is no pain greater than not being able to be yourself.

True humility is not the putting down of the self

but the putting down of roots into the earth, the cultures of the earth, and the mystery which we call God.

To enter the wilderness is to discover one's true home.

What you are seeking lies within you. No one can give it to you.

All you have to do is to own it.

The greatest achievement is to learn to be, and to rest in that awareness.

Abandon yourself to the otherness, and you will find yourself in the process.

Nurture the mystic within you for she is the guardian of the most sacred mysteries.

She alone is the 'you' that cannot be destroyed;  
for her name is compassionate wisdom and her aspect is divinity.

When you can see the divine in yourself,  
you will be able to see the divine everywhere.

When you reverence the divine in yourself,  
you will be able to reverence the divine everywhere.

When you nurture the divine in yourself,  
you will be able to nurture the divine everywhere.

**Hymn:** TIS 156

1. **Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing fresh from the word.**
2. **Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness where his feet pass.**
3. **Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.**
4. **Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing fresh from the word.**

*Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965*

**The Commandments:**

Jesus said:

**This is my commandment,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.**

*(Silent reflection)*

**Act of Awareness:**

***We pray:***

**Abiding God, grant us the joy  
of feeling ourselves a part of your vast magnificence,  
your all-encompassing love.  
May it be so!**

**Hymn: "God Given Energy, Flaring and Fiery" (Tune: 'Spean', 11.10.11.10)**

**God given energy, flaring and fiery,  
stella collisions of fury and pace;  
shafts of the light from the cosmic conception  
searing to earth from infinity's space.**

**Stars from eternity, driven by forces  
formed at the birthing of matter and time;  
mystical sinews restraining the planets,  
elegant science and God's hidden rhyme;**

**These are the visions of wonder and rapture,  
signs of significance, pointers to place,  
drawing us out from our narrow discernment,  
windows to love and God's infinite grace.**

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**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:**

"In Praise of Love" (Based on 1 Corinthians 13:1, 4-8)

*A translation by Margaret Lee & Brandon Scott -**Sound Mapping the New Testament***

If I were fluent in human and heavenly tongues, but lacked love,  
I'd sound like a hollow gong or a crashing cymbal...

love takes its time

makes itself good and useful

it doesn't envy

it doesn't boast

it doesn't bluster

it doesn't make a scene

it doesn't look after its own interests

it doesn't throw fits

it doesn't dwell on the negative  
it takes no pleasure in injustice  
but is delighted by the truth  
love upholds everything  
trusts in everything  
hopes for everything  
endures everything  
love never falls away.

### **Luke 4:21-30:**

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.

But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

In the testimony of God's people,

**we listen for the Word of the Lord**

### **THE WORD –**

### **Notices and Concerns of the Church:**

### **Offering & Dedication:**

## **Prayers of the People:**

We are people of all ages who enter this space bringing our joys and concerns.

*Joys and Celebrations; Grievs and Concerns shared*

*Silent Prayer*

## **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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Hymn: TIS 516**

- 1. Here, gracious Lord, we see you face to face;  
here would we touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace.  
and for sustaining strength upon you lean.**
- 2. Here would we feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;  
here would we lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.**
- 3. We need no help but yours, nor do we need  
another arm save yours to lean upon;  
it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;  
our strength is in your might, your might alone.**

*Horatius Bonar 1808-89 alt.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving:**

We give you thanks, O God, that at the very beginning of time you spoke the Word which replaced the darkness of chaos with the light of life.

A light that has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small.

A light which revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corrupt and evil actions.

So you spoke the Word which could once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives.

Angels sang glory to you and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them to praise you:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who was born that we might have life. Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.

On a night, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: 'Take and eat; this is my body broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you - the sign of a new relationship with God.'

Through sharing these gifts of bread and wine, O God, may we know the presence of Jesus, the Christ.

By your Spirit in us, we can be one with him - living out his ministry in the world today and every day.

**Amen**

### **Breaking the Bread:**

We break this bread and take this cup so that we may all share in the life of Christ.

**God's gifts for God's people.**

### **The Communion:**

#### **Prayer after Communion:**

Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give thank you for inviting us to share this family meal.

Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn: CS 19**

**When this earth was created,  
It was God who spoke the word  
And it was done,  
Gave his warmth to the cold earth;  
All was new and all was young — Time had begun.**

***Make me warm when I am cold,  
Make me young when I am old,  
Move me, touch me inside,  
Let your love burn in me now.***

**If I'm rough, make me gentle,  
If my words are hard and sharp,  
Soften this heart.**

**If I'm weak, make me stronger;  
Let me look to you for strength  
To make a new start.**

***Make me warm . . . . .***

**If I'm deaf, break the silence,  
If I'm blinded by the dark,  
Give me your light.**

**If I'm lame and I stumble  
Let me take your hand again  
And hold it so tight.**

***Make me warm . . . . .***

**If you speak, let me hear you,  
Help me recognise your voice  
Everywhere.**

**If you pass, let me see you,  
Help me to know the face is yours,  
Help me to care.**

***Make me warm . . . . .***

**Benediction:**

May we go forth from this place thankful for the life that sustains and renews us, and open to the grace that surrounds and surprises us.

**May we go forth from this place with openness  
and thanksgiving**

**Words of Blessing:**

As the bird gently settles on the tree, receive the gift of Peace.

As the sun rises with light and warmth, receive the gift of Life.

As the wind moves and dances round the earth, receive the gracious gift of the Spirit.

***Amen! May it be so!***

**Hymn: TIS 778**

**Shalom to you now,  
Shalom my friends.  
May God's full mercy  
bless you my friends.  
In all your living  
and through your loving;  
Christ be your shalom.  
Christ be your shalom.**

*Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942–*