

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 17th February - Epiphany 6

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

“Faith is an engagement in the wonders, mysteries, and questions of life, not its certainties” *(C T Irish)*

“Our challenge today is not only to survive the next few decades or so but, with faith in the future, to minimise our negative impacts and maximise the positive as far into the future as we can”
(Joel Primack & Nancy Ellen Abrams)

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:

The chorus of suns and planets announce the beginning of a new day.

Each morning births new possibilities and beckons fresh challenges

The cycle of morning music and starry silence promise second chances.

Each day provides new vistas and promotes further exploration.

The laughter of oceans and the wailing of winds reflect the human condition.

Each week declares we are in the world and determines we are of the world.

(George Stewart/www.uusf.org)

HYMN: TIS 102

**Praise to the living God,
all praise be to his name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
and still the same:
the one eternal God
before what now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
his timeless years!**

**Formless, all lovely forms
declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth
can his express.
Behold the Lord of all:
creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere, above, below,
his will obeys.**

**God's Spirit freely flows,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old,
is speaking still.
Established is God's law
and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart,
on sea, on land.**

**God has eternal life
implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay
while ages roll.**

**Praise to the living God,
all praise be to his name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
and still the same!**

*From the Jewish Yigdal 13th cent. tr. Max Landsberg 1845-1928,
Newton Mann 1836-1926 and William Channing Gannett 1840-1923 alt*

The Commandments:

Jesus said:

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

(Silent reflection)

Act of Awareness:

As we listen to the life of our community,
may we sense a Sacred Presence in its murmuring rhythms,
**its' working and walking and talking,
its' colours and faces and longings.**

Today is a day of compassion...

**May our indifferences give way to awakening.
May we allow ourselves to feel more keenly
the hungers and pains of others we encounter.**

And may we come to know deep within
that our every act of compassion,
changes things... even if only ourselves.

HYMN: TIS 686

**Lord Jesus, we belong to you
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you— — —
*Because we bear your name.***

**Help us receive each other Lord
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them— — —
*Because we bear your name***

**Bless those who give us any gift
because they know that we are yours;
reward them with your grace— — —
*Because we bear your name.***

**Let us acknowledge those as friends
who use your name to right a wrong,
but have not joined us yet—**

Because we bear your name.

**Let nothing that we do or say
offend the weak so that they fall
and lose their faith in you—**

Because we bear your name.

**Keep us from missing out on life;
give hands that help and single sight,
and feet that walk your way—**

Because we bear your name.

**You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out and make us fit
for common life with you—**

Because we bear your name.

John Wilfred Kleinig 1942-

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

In the testimony of God's people

We listen for the Word of the Lord

The Word –

Notices and Concerns of the Church:

Offering:

In all the colours and scents and sounds of the world,
we see God's signature as the beauty of things.

(Maggie Abbott/sc)

Our offerings for the work of ministry in this place and beyond shall now be received.

Prayers of the People:

HYMN: TIS 145

**The king of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker 1821-77

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-