

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 3rd March 2019 – Transfiguration Sunday

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

“Theology will carry conviction not by the assurance of its answers but by the integrity of its questioning, and by the rigour with which it is seen to respect the critical disciplines, historical, scientific and linguistic” *(John A. T. Robinson)*

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:

Come into this gathering place!
Come in and find peace and rest,
inspiration and aspiration,
fellowship and love.
Come in and find light for your darkness,
a friend's touch for your loneliness,
and music for your soul.

**Come in and let our hearts sing
for all the blessings that are ours this day.**

HYMN: TIS 468

**We are your people: Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.**

**Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.**

**Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.**

**Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.**

**Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.**

**Spirit unite us, make us, by grace,
willing and ready, Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.**

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–

The Commandments:

Jesus said:

Love one another as I have loved you.

(Silent reflection)

Act of Awareness:

In all our living, may we be freed
to see things afresh,
to be more fully alive,
and have the courage to keep faith in the future of humanity.

We pray:

**Loving God, you have gathered us in your community.
You have made a place for us.**

**Let what we say and do here
be real for us and honest to you
and prepare us for the life of the world.
May it be so.**

HYMN: “For the Music of Creation” (*Tune: TiS 99 ‘Rustington’*)

**For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the worlds composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice:
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!**

**Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and lovesong
catching heaven in a note.**

**All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease!**

Shirley Erena Murray

Centring Silence:

Let us open ourselves to the sacred silence of this place.

(Silence)

May the strength of silence support our courage to endure,
and open to us creative channels of the spirit.

(Bob Holmes/bhwm)

(Silence)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:

Let us hear what God the LORD will speak.

**The Lord will speak peace to the people, to the faithful ones,
to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.**

Exodus 34:29-35:

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face;

³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Luke 9:28-36:

²⁸ Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.

³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -- not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

In the testimony of God's people

We listen for the Word of the Lord

THE WORD –

Notices and Concerns of the Church:

Offering:

Prayers of the People:

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

Joys and Concerns shared

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

Narrative of The Institution of The Lord's Supper:

Hear the words of institution of this sacrament as recorded by the apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: This is my body which is for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

With this bread and this cup we do as our Saviour commands: we set them apart for the holy supper to which he calls us, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanks and praise, glory and honour are rightly yours, our Lord and God, for you alone are worthy.

Therefore, joining with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards.

But we failed to honour your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of life for all people.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**(CS 85) Christ has died. Alleluia
Christ is risen. Alleluia
Christ will come again. Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Breaking of The Bread:

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

HYMN: CS 4 'Take Our Bread'

Chorus:

Take our bread, we ask you;

Take our hearts, we love you;

Take our lives, O Father,

We are yours.

Take our bread, we ask you;

Take our hearts, we love you:

Take our lives, O Father,

We are yours, we are yours.

**Yours as we stand
At the table you set;
Yours as we eat the bread
Our hearts can't forget.
We are the sign of your life
With us yet,
We *are* yours, we are yours.**

Chorus:

**Your holy people
Standing washed in your blood,
Spirit-filled, yet hungry,
We await your food.
We are poor, but *we've* brought ourselves
The best we could;
We *are* yours, we *are* yours.**

Chorus:

Joe Wise

The Invitation:

Draw near in faith and take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

The Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

After all have received a time of silence may be kept.

Prayer after Communion:

We thank you, Father, that you have fed us through this sacrament, and united us with Christ.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

The Sending Forth of The People of God:

HYMN: 'One bread, one body'

Refrain:

***One bread, one body,
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.***

1. **Gentile or Jew,
servant or free,
woman or man, no more. Refrain:**
2. **Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord of all. Refrain:**
3. **Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. Refrain:**

I Corinthians 10:16; 17, 12:4, Galatians 3:28

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Blessing:

The blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Life-giving Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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–