

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 17th March – 2nd Sunday in Lent

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, past and
present, and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Worth Pondering

“If we dream alone, it remains only a dream.

If we dream together, it is the beginning of reality” (Dom Hilder Camarra)

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:

It is God, in the dawning, in the renewal, in the arrival, in the new day.
The whole earth is full of God's glory.

HYMN: "We're Standing here on Holy Ground" (Tune: TiS 585)

**We're standing here on holy ground,
on land your hand has made;
Your art displayed in timeless rocks,
in purple haze and space;
Its mighty gums and feathery ferns
your beauty magnify.
Tread softly then, in awe reflect,
and listen to the land.**

**We're standing here on holy ground,
on land which ancients trod.
They wrote your law in hills and streams
in rocks and caves and trees;
A law to tell us who we are,
to guide and make us strong.
Tread gently then, respect the earth,
remember whence we've come.**

**We're standing here on holy ground,
on land that toil has shaped.
It's fertile plains will feed us all,
when tilled with care and love.
But mindless greed and drought and flood
wreak havoc in the land.
Then let us tread with love the earth,
that's fed us faithfully.**

**We're standing here on holy ground,
on land we long to share,
Where each has space and equity,
and neither want nor fear
But demons fierce are dancing here
of race and greed and hate.
Engrave upon our wills, we pray,
your ancient covenant law.**

**We're standing here on holy ground,
we seek your rule on earth;
Your will be done in politics,
in law court, market, church;
Your gentleness among us reign,
and each one dwell secure;
May generations yet unborn,
live here in harmony.**

The Commandments:

Jesus said:

Love one another as I have loved you.

(Silent Prayer)

Opening Sentences:

In hope, in longing

We're glad to come together.

In trust, in community

We're glad to come together.

In many moods, in many shapes and sizes

We're glad to come together.

In peace, in joy

We're glad to come together in this Lenten season.

(Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj)

Act of Awareness:

May our time together renew our hope.

May the stories we share refresh our courage.

May the songs we sing lift our spirits.

May the words we speak invigorate us.

May the touch of hands, the sound of laughter,

the sight of faces new and familiar,

restore us in faith.

We pray:

Remind us, O Spirit, that life is worth living.

Remind us, O Creator,

that the struggle for justice is worth undertaking.

Remind us, O Mercy, that love and action are one.

May it be so.

Sharing 'The Peace'

Let us take a moment to celebrate with each other.

May the peace of god rest with you.

And also with you.

HYMN: "Love Will be our Lenten Calling" (*Tune: TiS 179*)

**Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.**

**Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.**

**Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.**

Elizabeth J. Smith

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:

Luke 13:31-35 (*NRSV/adapted*)

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said,
'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you'.
'Go and tell that fox for me', Jesus said,
Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and
tomorrow,
and on the third day I finish my work.
Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day
I must be on my way, because it is impossible
for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you.

And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say,
'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Holy God.'

In the testimony of God's people

We listen for the Word of the Lord

The WORD –

Celebration of Faith: In response to the word reflected on let us share
together a celebration of faith.

We celebrate our God

**who is not afraid of our minds
with all their questions,
and all their doubting
searching for the truth.**

We celebrate our God

**who knows and loves our deepest hearts,
whose compassion is always greater than ours
so that the measure of our kindness
is always less than that of God.**

We celebrate our God

**who engages with our souls,
linking us with the mystery of the universe,
the endlessness of eternity,
yet is as close to us in our beings
as a parent with a child.**

© Dorothy McRae-McMahon

HYMN: "Creativity – The Canberra Affirmation" (*Tune: 'Austria', 87.87D*)

**When beliefs and rigid doctrines,
Like stone statues cold as death,
Discipline us into silence,
Rob us of life-giving breath;**

**We can voice our great discomfort
As we recognize the truth
That our life and all our living
Give us insight from our youth.**

**We would celebrate evolving;
In the webs of life we bond
To the cosmos and our family,
Humans here and those beyond;
Thus we're called to live together
With respect for all that is,
For the cosmos and our planet
With respect for all that lives.**

**'Creativity' is present
Ever since before the start;
Brings to birth such great abundance;
Gives birth to a loving heart.
With this birthing of the novel
'Creativity' transforms;
Energy and life emerges;
Beauty seen in all its forms.**

**So we celebrate the myst'ry;
Stand in silence; look with awe;
Countless years in billions ended
Since the opening of the store
Of variety and brilliance,
Of the life-force and of grace;
It's amazing and so wondrous
We can claim to have a place.**

George Stuart

Notices and Concerns of the Church:

Offering:

As we bring our gifts forward,
may our whole life move forward,
in good faith, with good feelings,
and with a good belief about the future.

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

The Sending Forth of The People of God

Hymn: ATE 298

**Let's go out and keep on singing,
let's sing loud of the love that we know,
sing of the joy and the hope of the Father,
sing to the world of the love that grows.**

**Let's go out and keep on singing,
sing to the trees and the moon above,
clap your hands and lift your feet,
and dance to the music of love.**

**Let's go out and keep on dancing,
dance through the night to the break of the day.
Dance till the rocks all wash to the sea,
and dance, for the Lord is here to stay.**

**Let's go out and love one another,
pray and care for the people in need.
Let's be a sign of the love from above,
and let this spark be a fire indeed.**

*Words and music: Leigh Newton
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Parting Words:

Let us embrace the wonder of this week
with expectation and imagination...

Now may our wisdom show itself in deeds of compassion
and in acts of understanding.

May the fruits of the spirit be apparent in our lives

May the love that gives to life its beauty,
the reverence that gives to life its sacredness,
and the purposes that give to life its deep significance
be strong within each of us
and lead us into ever deepening relationships
with all of life.

G G Brooks

May it be so.

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 Eslinger Shoemaker 1942–