

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 7th July 2019

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

**Our Church is a safe place for all people to worship
regardless of race, creed, cultural background or sexual identity.**

Worth Pondering

“If you are demanding rights for yourself which you won't extend to others,
that's not freedom. It's privilege” (David Marr)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

As we gather together in this sacred place, may we recognise and affirm:
the pieces of possibility,
the bits of good, we bring,
and allow our individual gifts to weave a patchwork of peace.

**We come into your presence, O God,
knowing that we can unburden our hearts before you.**

HYMN: "Wake, Now My Senses" (Tune: TIS 547 - Slane, 10 10 10 10,)

**Wake, now my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.**

**Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new,
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honour the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer your limit, and praise the sublime.**

**Wake, now compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbour both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.**

**Wake, now my conscience, with justice your guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.**

Thomas J S Mikelson

PRAYER:

We remember the blessings with which we have been blessed.

We remember the teachings of Jesus, his death and the resurrection.

Through him, we have been called to love and serve you O God, and our neighbour.

You have given us the freedom to enjoy lives made fruitful through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Having graciously been given the power to live by the Spirit,
let us also be guided by the Spirit in all we do and say.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

CELEBRATING BELONGING: THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation:

Belinda and Jamie have come today to present their son, Zayden Brian Harrison, for baptism.

The narrative:

Hear these words from the stories of our faith:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Baptism is the church's way of celebrating and naming the grace of God living in every one of God's children.

It is the way we initiate new members into the life of the universal community of faith. And it marks the entry point into the life-time pilgrimage of following in the Way of Jesus.

The request:

Little one, born to love, surrounded by love, child of the universe, one with all that lives, live in freedom and fullness as you travel your journey of life.

Belinda and Jamie, what do you ask of God's church for Zayden?

(We ask that he be baptised into the faith and family of God's love)

Zayden, we welcome you to this family and this community.

Thanksgiving:

God is the heart of life.

And we are the heartbeat.

May our hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

We rejoice in the miracle of life and delight in our participation.

We claim the joy of water and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

Let it flow and pour and sprinkle for all people.

That all may know each day the gift of God in water.

God's love, like a shower of rain in drought, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

God's love, like a hot shower, cleanses us, reawakens us.

God's love, like waves crashing on the shore, breaks in on us and enfolds us, leaving us feeling vital and refreshed.

(The water is poured into the font)

So let's give thanks for this love that reaches out to us and to this child whom we are welcoming into our midst.

PRAYER:

We gather to pray, believing that God prays in us.

We give thanks for the gift of this water. May it be the birthing waters of a new and holy life.

Amen.

(The congregation stands as they are able)

THE BAPTISM:

Zayden Brian Harrison, in the touch of this water, the ancient symbol of new life, I baptise you into the love, service and joy of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(The minister takes the child)

Zayden, may the presence of the Spirit of Love in you be nurtured and constantly affirmed by your family, your friends, and by your church community.

May you know God's blessing always.

BLESSING:

**May the mystery of God enfold us,
may the wisdom of God uphold us,
may the fragrance of God be around us,
may the brightness of God surround us,
may the wonder of God renew us,
may the loving of God flow through us,
may the peace of God deeply move us,
may the moving of God bring us peace.**

(The congregation sits)

Responses:

Belinda and Jamie,

I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to Zayden by making these promises:

Will you provide for Zayden, a welcoming home of love and trust?

(With God's help, we will)

Will you help Zayden grow in his understanding and appreciation of our faith?

(With God's help, we will)

Will you encourage Zayden to reach out to others with love and compassion?

(With God's help, we will)

Each of us knows the need for support and care as we share in a journey of faith.

As this family gathers around this font and this water, symbols of belonging and community, let us pledge our care for them.

We stand as witnesses to the commitment Belinda and Jamie have made this day. And we pledge ourselves to their support and care as they discover the ways that the Spirit unfolds for them.

Baptismal prayer

We pray:

Bless this newly baptised child.

May he always know that the Source of all Love lives and comes to unique expression, in him.

Amen.

Bless Belinda and Jamie, may they always show their gratitude for the new life given them by loving and caring for Zayden.

Amen.

Bless this faithful people.

May we all live in love.

And may we continue to draw encouragement from the faith which connects our loving

with the mystery we call 'God'.

Amen.

This is a day of great celebration for Zayden and his family.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Parent/s and God parent/s return to their seats)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:

Let us hear what God the LORD will speak.

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

2 Kings 5:1-14

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.

³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said.

⁵ And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments.

⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!

¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage.

¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Luke 10:1-11

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'

⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

In the testimony of God's people
We hear the Word of the Lord

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.**

The Word –

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

NOTICES:

OFFERING:

Offering Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you free us to love one another without the constraints of the law.

You empower us with your Spirit to live abundant and fruitful lives.

In response to your gracious gifts, we offer these gifts and our lives for your blessing as we seek to be your faithful disciples. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

The Lord's Prayer

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Offerings:

Our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond, and our gifts of bread and wine, shall now be received.

Presentation:

Love kindness, humbly walk with God and, through compassion, trace the person we are called to love in each and every face. *(Andrew Pratt/ea)*

Beginnings and endings shape this gathering today.

We celebrate a faithful, strong past.

We prepare for a future yet to be conceived.

So let us share both the elements and the friendship, with thankfulness and expectation.

Thanksgiving:

May it be well with you.

And also with you.

Life is a gift and we its celebration.

May we rejoice in the beauty that we are. *(Gretta Vosper/wwg)*

We give thanks and praise for all that is good in the world.

For that mystery we name God...

For the one we name Jesus...

For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit...

(Silence)

God of winter, God of lightning, wind rain. God of brisk winter mornings, frosted lawns. We open ourselves to all the possibilities life offers us so we join in the song of the cosmos, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, renewing God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Bread and Wine:

We remember the times when Jesus faced difficult decisions and destructive forces:

- in the days and nights of his searching,
- in finding ways to free others from images and ideas that kept them captive and dependent and fearful of God,
- in breaking down social and religious barriers,
- in facing failure,
- in facing death.

(Michael Morwood/pns)

When we too experience the winter of our lives
may we find the courage to let go and trust in your guiding, warming light.

(Silence)

And as we eat together at this table, we remember the importance
and the words and the actions of all meals in the tradition of Jesus.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends.

(Bread is broken)

He poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and gave it also to his friends.

(Adapt. Bruce Sanguin/idp)

(Wine is poured out)

HYMN: TIS 514/AHB 435

- 1. Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart,
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
your table in our heart.**
- 2. There sup with us in love divine;
your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food**

James Montgomery 1771-1854 alt.

Response:

In sharing this meal, we enter a new covenant,
with the Sacred, with all creation, and with one another,

**a promise to walk gently upon this planet,
to raise our voice in the service of life,
to love kindness,
and to seek justice.**

(Bruce Sanguin/idp).

COMMUNION:

The Bread and Wine is served

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

HYMN: TIS 687

- 1. God gives us a future
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power
we will let God change us
for new life starts now.**
- 2. We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight
and the strength we lack.**

Elizabeth J. Smith 1956–

(Remain standing)

(The parents and child will again gather at the front of the church...)

Baptismal candle:

A lighted candle is given

Zayden, throughout your life, may this candle remind you of Jesus, who opened peoples' minds and hearts to see the 'light' of God's presence within them.

Belinda and Jamie, use this candle to help you tell your children the story of their baptism, as you light it each year to remember this day.

BENEDICTION

Go into the world

blessed with the unconditional love of God,
accepted through the sacrificial love of Jesus,
anointed with the empowering love of the Holy Spirit

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–