

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 28th July 2019

We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, past and present, 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

“In the business of living one must not live by certainties
but by visions, risks and passion” (Charles Birch)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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

Welcome:

A warm welcome is extended to all.

Especially those who are worshipping here for the first time
or who have returned after an absence.

Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

Opening Sentences:

Let us gather in celebration and community.

It is good to be here.

Let us also pay deep attention to the world around us:

we are present with our eyes,

...to hear the sounds of creation

we are present with our ears,

...to feel the pain of our fellow people

we are present with our hearts,

...to smell the banquet of abundant life

we are present with our lives.

(Adapt/Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer/ws)

Act of Awareness:

You are in the story of the world.

You are the world coming to know itself.

May you trust that all you will ever say or do

Belongs in the story of the world.

We pray:

God of Love,

give us courage and an open spirit

as we consider the life and teachings of Jesus.

**May we feel an inviting embrace beckoning us to fullness of life
where we can celebrate beauty**

and engage the causes of suffering.

May it be so.

HYMN: “In the Bulb there is a Flower” (Tune: “Austria”, 87.87D)

- 1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise;
butterflies will soon be free!
in the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**
- 2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody.
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future,
what it holds, a mystery;
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

3. **In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

N A W Sleeth

PRAYER:

A Litany: "Our Home..."

- v1. Our true home is in the present moment.
v2. To live in the present moment is a miracle.
v3. The miracle is to walk on the green Earth in the present moment,
to appreciate the peace and beauty that are available now.

**Peace is all around us -
in the world and in nature -
and within us -
in our bodies and our spirits.**

- v1. Once we learn to touch this peace, we will be healed and transformed.

**It is not a matter of faith;
it is a matter of practice.**

SHARING 'The Peace':

The peace of the Lord be with You
And also with you

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.**

Hosea 1:2-10

² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

³ So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

⁵ On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them.

⁷ But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen."

⁸ When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.

⁹ Then the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God."

¹⁰ Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin!

²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes."

²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

³⁰ Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

³² Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Luke 11:1-9

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

² He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'

⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord.

HYMN: TIS 431/AHB 339

1. **Thanks to God whose Word was spoken
in the deed that made the earth.
His the voice that called a nation,
his the fires that tried her worth.**

*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.*

2. **Thanks to God whose Word incarnate
human flesh has glorified.
by whose life and death and rising
grace abundant has supplied.**

God has spoken

3. **Thanks to God whose Word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.**

God has spoken

R. T. Brooks 1918-85 alt.

The Word –

HYMN: TIS 602

1. **O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

2. **O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee:
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

3. **O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.**

4. **O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

George Matheson 1842-1906

Notices and Concerns of the Church:

Offering & Dedication:

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer:

HYMN: "Hymn of Confidence" (*AHB115: 'Sing Hosanna', 10.8.10.9 & Refrain*)

**God is worthy of praises unending
for such love, faithfulness and grace;
let the church grasp anew our high calling
to bear witness to God's wide embrace.**

Refrain:

***Come, O God, empower our witness
by your Spirit's wind extend our range;
may we set our sails in earnest
confident in times of change.***

**Jesus calls us to constant renewal
as we serve him in testing times;
we can cling to the past at our peril
but in faith we trace the future's signs.**

Refrain:

**In the Spirit we have great resources:
unity in diversity;
we grow strong as we welcome each other
as God's servants working mutually.**

Refrain:

**Come, O God, empower our witness
by your Spirit's wind extend our range;
may we set our sails in earnest
confident in times of change.**

**We are one in our faith and our mission
of God's call steadfastly aware;
so we offer ourselves for the kingdom
with enthusiasm backed by prayer.**

Refrain:

(Don Evans. Direct from the author)

BENEDICTION:

May the God you see in all the colours of creation
arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.

May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.

May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage keep calling you forward.

May your God go with you and bless you.

(Francis Macnab)

May it be so. 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–