

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 4th August 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

“The desire for security can cause religious beliefs to become oppressive, especially when they do not allow for, and encourage, fresh, imaginative envisioning of a still better future” (*Don Cupitt*)

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**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:

God of all creation -

Be with each one of us,

as growth, creativity and healing, as light and wisdom.

Spirit of the living God -

Live within our community,

**giving courage to dispel fear and resolve conflict,
giving fire to inflame with love.**

Spirit of Peace -

Dwell with us so that we may

**know your presence in silences and stillness,
know your vision for your people.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

For gathering today in this sacred space, we give thanks.
For the opportunity to be together as a community,
to remember the past, to claim our future, to be alive in our present,
we give thanks.

Act of Awareness:

We pray:

**God of the important and the common place,
you reach into our lives through story.
Open our hearts to be attentive:
that seeing, we may perceive,
and hearing, we may understand,
and understanding, we may act.
Amen. May it be so.**

HYMN: "A Firemist and a Planet" (Tune: TIS 457)

**A firemist and a planet,
a crystal and a cell,
a starfish and a saurian,
and caves where ancients dwelt;
the sense of law and beauty,
a face turned from the sod
- some call it evolution,
and others call it God.**

**Haze on the far horizon,
the infinite tender sky,
the ripe, rich tints of [wheat]fields,
and wild geese sailing high;
and over high and low-land,
the charm of golden rod
- some people call it autumn,
and others call it God.**

Like tides on crescent sea-beach,
when moon's so new and thin,
into our hearts high yearnings
come welling, surging in,
come from the mystic ocean
whose rim not foot has trod
- some people call it longing,
and others call it God.

A sentry lone and frozen,
a mother starved for her brood,
and Socrates' dread hemlock,
and Jesus on the rood;
and millions, who, though nameless,
the straight, hard pathway trod,
- some call it consecration,
and others call it God.

(William H Garruth)

Sharing 'The Peace'

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

Story: "It Takes A Village" by Hilary Clinton

Song: "He's got the whole world in His hands"

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.**

Psalm 107:1-9, 43:

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

⁶ **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;**

⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸ **Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.**

⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

⁴³ **Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

Luke 12:13-21:

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'

¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'

²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord

HYMN: TIS 468 – "We Are Your People"

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

2. **Joined in community,
treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.**
3. **Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbours,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.**
4. **Glad of tradition
help us to see
in all life's changing,
where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.**
5. **Give, as we venture
justice and care
(peaceful, resisting,
waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.**
6. **Christ, as we serve you
in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.**

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–

MESSAGE – Guest: Aduk Dau

NOTICES:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The invitation:

Our tradition says that Jesus, sharing bread and wine, invited the disciples to share his journey.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our unity with one another, and with all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our communion with the earth and our connection with the broken ones of the world.

The story:

We are reminded again of the tradition that surrounds this story.

Long ago, on the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it: 'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.

And he handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat: 'Remember all that I have been to you'.

Long ago, on that same night, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it: 'This wine is poured out, as my life will be.'

He gave it to his friends inviting them to drink: 'Remember me and give thanks for all I have given you'.

HYMN: TIS 514

**Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart,
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
your table in our heart.**

**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.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread:

Distribution:

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us in this meal with the life and love of Jesus our Lord. We go from here strengthened to be eager proclaimers of his word, believable bearers of his love, and willing followers of his way. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Parting Words:

Let us take on this week's life with renewed hope and imagination...

From all corners of the world:

God has called a pilgrim people.

From all walks and ways of life:

God has called a pilgrim people.

Black and white, male and female

We are signs of our world's division

Black and white, male and female

**We are signs of God's new creation
joined together by the love of Christ.**

So let us not journey alone with God.

Let us not journey only with our friends.

**Let us be a place and a people of welcome,
signs of God's all embracing love.**

HYMN: TIS 531

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.**

**The supper is ended: O now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.**

**The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.**

**His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
the task of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each race.**

**One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.**

**Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Omer Westendorf 1916– alt.

BLESSING:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

May it be so. Amen.

HYMN: TIS 778 – “Shalom”