

**THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday 18th August 2019**

**Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples**

*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**

"We need to be reminded not to approach all new ideas starry-eyed.  
And of course, not with squinty eyed prejudice before we start, either"  
*(Jim Taylor)*

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

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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.**

Your presence here enriches all of us and our time of celebration together.  
Life is an indescribable gift.  
Our gathering together in this sacred place is a celebration of that gift.  
Let us be still and know that all will be well,  
that in all manner of things it will be well.

*(Silence)*

As this community gathers together in this sacred place  
draw your deep breath, knowing you are welcomed and valued here, now.  
Be at peace, and at one with yourself and with those close by...

**Opening Sentences**

In our gathering here together, let us:  
open our minds to the challenge of reason,  
open our hearts to the healing of love,  
open our lives to the comfort of joy.

**Astonished by the miracle of life,  
grateful for the gift of fellowship,  
confident in the power of living faith,  
we are here gathered.**

**HYMN:** “The Universe in God” (*Tune: “Praise My Soul”*)

**All creation sings a story  
Of great splendours to declare.  
When we contemplate its beauty  
We are called forth into prayer.  
We, enchanted, stand in silence;  
God discovered everywhere.**

**When we stumble on new knowledge,  
When new insights help us grow,  
We are quick to re-discover  
Just how much we do not know.  
But the Universe smiles gently,  
As our theories come and go.**

**Outer space and inner being  
Both have secrets they conceal.  
Galaxies so grimly awesome,  
Deep emotions that we feel –  
All in God are judged as sacred;  
It is God they all reveal.**

**Ageless mysteries still excite us;  
Time and space we must explore.  
God the 'Presence' and 'Surrounding',  
God the ever wondrous 'More'  
Is not found by science labours,  
But in praise when we adore.**

## **The Christ Candle:**

For gathering today in this sacred space,  
we light the flame.

For the opportunity to be together as a community,  
to remember the past,  
to claim our future,  
to be alive in our present,  
we light the flame.

## **We pray:**

God, help us to listen to our inner spirits...  
To the inner yearning to belong to something greater than ourselves.

**Help us to listen to our inner spirits...**

**To find there the presence of your spirit.**

**May it be so!**

## **Sharing 'The peace'**

The peace of our Lord be with you

**Also with you..**

*(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours)*

## **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.**

### **Isaiah 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

### **Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19**

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

<sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

<sup>11</sup> it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

<sup>12</sup> Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

<sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, <sup>15</sup> the stock that your right hand planted.

<sup>16</sup> They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

### **Luke 12:49-56**

<sup>49</sup> "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

<sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

<sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

<sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;

<sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens.

<sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens.

<sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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

### Message –

HYMN     Tune: TIS 117)

**Church of the living Christ,  
people of Easter faith -  
speak to the Man who walks  
free from the dark of death!**

**The Christ who burst the tomb apart  
comes questioning the Church's heart.**

**No use old wineskins now -  
new wine is here to stay:  
no patching up old schemes -  
new patches tear away,  
old gear, old concepts have no place  
where Christ's own presence sets the pace.**

**Women and men of God,  
come, as one Church to serve,  
bring all the skills we have,  
sharpen our every nerve:  
to save a world in bitter need  
the rule of love must come in deed.**

**We are the Body now -  
our feet must mark the Way,  
our speech declare the Word  
and live it day by day,  
the resurrection story ours,  
disciples gifted with new powers!**

*Shirley Murray*

**Notices:**

**The Offering:**

**Prayers for Others:**

*Joys and Celebrations; Grievs and Concerns shared*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN:** TIS 658

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night;  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?***

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord? . . . . .*

*Words and music: Dan Schutte S.J.*

**Parting Words:**

Let us go from this time together  
with the resolve to allow wonder -  
that sense of what is sacred -  
to find space to open up our minds and illumine our lives.

**Words of Blessing:**

And now may the rhythms of our coming together,  
the melodies of our worship,  
and the harmonies of our farewells,  
make musical our living--  
soothing our spirits  
and uplifting our souls,  
This day and into the beckoning future.

**Amen. May it be so.**

**Blessing:**

Walk well your journey in peace and in justice.  
May you be wrapped in the shawl of God's loving.  
May you be cherished.  
May you be blessed... this day, and forever.

**Amen. May it be so.**

**HYMN: TIS 778 'Shalom'**