

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 1st September 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

“Whether or not we believe that there is something more,
nature is so significant that all our beliefs must be reformulated
so as to take nature into account” *(Philip Hefner)*

**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:

A warm welcome to all.
Your presence enriches this gathering
and contributes to the creative evolution of this community.
Thanks for the gift of you!

Thanks and appreciation:

For sleepless nights awaiting the curfew-breakers
For anxious hours as a driving instructor
For hours spent on sidelines, cheering
And watching school plays, sometimes “resting our eyes,”
For the pressures of bread-winning
And “wait ‘til your father gets home.”
For teaching moments and mentoring moments,
For making up answers when you just don’t know,
But are expected to because you know everything.

For scrapes and boo-boo kisses and band-aids,
For hugs and kisses and silliness and play
For bedtime stories
For all the after-shave and ties received as gifts
For handing over car keys and waves good-bye
For father-daughter wedding dances.
And cradling grandchildren for the first time
For all the moments and all the meaning in the role of a lifetime,
We give thanks for fathers and fatherhood.

HYMN: "God Called Us" (*Tune: 'Duke Street'. 88 88*)

**God, you have called us to this hour:
now two or three or many claim
the promised gift of living power.
as your church meets in Jesus' name.**

**Open our minds and set us free
from spite and hurt, that we may face
the dread responsibility
of your church, meeting in this place.**

**Encouraged by the risk you take
in trusting us to do your will,
we dare to offer, for your sake,
all this church gath'ring can fulfil.**

J.Wootton. © Stainer & Bell Ltd (Title & last line adapted by R.A.E.Hunt)

Statement of Faith:

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating;

**who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;**

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence;
to love and serve others;
to seek justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Sharing 'The peace'

The peace of our Lord be with you

Also with you

HYMN: "Come, Teach Us, Spirit of God" (*Tune: TIS 129 'Amazing Grace'*)

- 1. Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,
the language of your way,
the lessons that we need to live,
the faith for every day.**
- 2. Excite our minds to follow you,
to trace new truths in store,
new flight paths for our spirit space,
new marvels to explore.**
- 3. Engage our wits to dance with you,
to leap from logic's base,
to capture insight on the wing,
to sense your cosmic grace.**
- 4. Inspire our spark to light from you,
to catch creation's flair,
new artistry to celebrate,
new harmonies to dare.**

5. **Delight our hearts to worship you,
to learn compassion's code,
to live in context of your love,
great teacher who is God.**

Shirley Erena Murray

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.**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.

⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord

The Word –

HYMN: "Great God of Many Names" (*Tune: TIS 341 Love Unknown*)

**Great God of many names:
Jehovah, Allah, Lord,
Christ, Brahman, Spirit, Adonai;
we worship you.**

**Whatever name,
whichever face,
by which we know
we worship you.**

**With pomp and pageantry
Beneath an onion dome,
Or in a bare and simple room,
we worship you.**

Whatever name

**In chapel, mosque or shrine
we wait to praise your name,
through icon, book or choir
we worship you.**

Whatever name

**With tabla or guitar,
or with a thousand lights,
through fasting, feasting, fellowship
we worship you.**

Whatever name.

**With formal dress or free,
we meditate or dance,
through pesach, hajj or nam simran
we worship you.**

Whatever name

**Whatever name or creed,
enlightenment or book,
we seek you through our pilgrimage
and worship you.**

**Whatever name,
whichever face,
by which we know
we worship you.**

Andrew Pratt. Ed. Ian S.

Notices:

Offering:

Prayers for Others:

COMMUNION

Discernment:

As we celebrate the renewal of life and hope, we also celebrate the presence of the Spirit of Life and Hope and Creation, everywhere around and within us.

Silence

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at this table
with its symbols of God's Creative Presence.

**In company with all who seek nourishment at this table,
we come to celebrate community,
and to share these life-giving symbols.**

Thanksgiving:

It is right and our joy to give thanks our God.
We celebrate the changing mood of nature:
for sunshine and showers of a spring day,
for the nesting and cheerfulness of birds,
and the flowers of bush and garden...
We give thanks, O Holy God.

We give thanks.

We who hold all such good things in trust,
in the company of each other,
and in company with people throughout the world
declare as generations before us have declared:

**Holy, holy, holy, LORD,
God of life and hope
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the LORD.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And we celebrate our knowledge of Jesus our teacher,
who taught all to care for the birds of the air, and the grass of the paddock;
living expressions of the Spirit of Life in our midst.

We remember that night among friends, reclined at table, Jesus shared a meal
with his friends.

Through bread and wine, and in fellowship together, Jesus spoke of his
enduring love for all of them.

So we take this bread and this wine mindful of the Spirit at work in our lives.
Thus making our living a source of renewal and hope.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: TIS 523

**Here, Lord, we take the broken bread
and drink the wine, believing
that by your life our souls are fed,
your parting gifts receiving.**

**As you have given, so we would give
ourselves for others' healing;
as you have lived so we would live
the father's love revealing.**

Bread:

We take this bread in celebration that death is made the servant of life, and out of death, life is forever resurrected.

Wine:

This cup with its fruit of the vine, is a celebration that things are not always as they seem:

that out of faithfulness and steadfastness, out of suffering and sorrow, may come unsought blessings.

Communion:

To eat and drink together reminds us
of the deeper aspects of human fellowship,
for from time immemorial
the sharing of bread and wine has been
the most universal of all symbols of community.

Bread and Wine served

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: We thank you, our God, that you have fed us through this sacrament and united us with Christ.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit

to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

HYMN: "Seek Not Afar for Beauty" (Tune: TIS 240 'Sursum Corda', 10 10 10 10)

- 1. Seek not afar for beauty; lo, it glows
In dew-wet grasses all about your feet,
In birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,
In stars and mountain summits topped with snows.**
- 2. Go not abroad for happiness; behold
It's in a flower blooming at your door.
Bring love and laughter home, and ever more
Joy shall be yours as changing years unfold.**
- 3. Dream not of noble service elsewhere wrought;
In simple duties that await your hand
God's voice is speaking his divine command:
Life's common deeds build all that saints have taught.**

4. **In wonder workings, or some bush aflame,
All look for God and fancy God concealed;
But in earth's common things God stands revealed,
While grass and flowers and stars spell out God's name.**

Minot Judson Savage, 1883

Parting Words:

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.

As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and our world...

We will be sensitive to the cries of creation & the songs of our kin.

We will celebrate life!

Benediction:

Go into this week

embraced by the steadfast love of God,

overflowing with fullness of life in Jesus Christ

strengthened by the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit.

BLESSING:

HYMN: TIS 779

**May the feet of God walk with you,
and God's` hand hold you tight,**

**May the eye of God rest on you,
and God's ear hear your cry.**

**May the smile of God be for you,
and God's breath give you life.**

**May the Child of God grow in you,
and God's love bring you home.**

Aubrey Podlich 1946-

Shalom: TIS 778
