

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 15th 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.

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

Worth Pondering

“The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible,
but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for
remaining ashore” *(Vincent van Gogh)*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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 of you.
Your presence enriches our gathering
and contributes to the creative evolution of this community.
Thanks for the gift of you!

**May our hearts be opened,
our hands unclenched,
and our ears unclogged,
that we may feel and touch and taste and see
the breath and play of the Creator God around us.**

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.

The earth has gone the round of seasons:
from the vibrant green of spring's new life
to the lush richness of warm summer,
to the brilliant fulfillment of riotous autumn,
to the generosity and self-giving of winter.

Now we stand again, touched by the promise of new life in the spring.

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

(silence)

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

HYMN: TIS 100 (verses 1, 3, 5, 7)

**All creatures of our God and King, —
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia;
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

**O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
O fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
*O praise him***

**And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise him, alleluia!
All who long pain and sorrow bear
praise God and on him cast your care;
*O praise him***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*Based on Laudato sia Dio mia Signore
the 'Canticle of the Sun' of Francis of Assisi 1182-1226
by William Draper 1855-1933 alt.*

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.**

Luke 15:1-10

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable:

⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'

⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'

¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Season of Creation3 Gospel: *(Open English Bible)*

This morning we celebrate the Season of Creation.

And the theme is Storm Sunday.

(silence)

We remember fierce storms in our lives, moments when we raised questions about our role in our changing and sometimes dangerous world.

We remember asking ‘why?’

Now away from the busyness of life, and in the silence of this sacred place, let us give thanks for the gift of all the elements, and the mystery of an endless horizon stretching out across the Earth.

(silence)

Luke 8: 22-25

One day about that time, Jesus got into a boat with his followers and said to them: "Let us go across the lake."

So they put off.

While they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep.

A squall swept down the lake,
and their boat was filling and they were in danger.

So they came and roused him. "Master, Master," they cried, "we are lost!"
Jesus rose and rebuked the wind and the rushing waves,
and they fell, and a calm followed.

"Where is your confidence?" he exclaimed.

But in great awe and amazement they said to one another:

"Who can this be, who commands even the winds and the waves,
and they obey him?"

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord

HYMN: TIS 254

**O changeless Christ, for ever new,
who walked our earthly ways,
still draw our hearts as once you drew
the hearts of other days.**

**As once you spoke by plain and hill
or taught by shore and sea,
so be today our teacher still,
O Christ of Galilee.**

**As wind and storm their Master heard
and his command fulfilled,
may troubled hearts receive your word,
the tempest-tossed be stilled.**

**And as of old to all who prayed
your healing hand was shown,
so be your touch upon us laid,
unseen but not unknown.**

**In broken bread, in wine outpoured,
your new and living way
proclaim to us, O risen Lord,
O Christ of this our day.**

**O changeless Christ, till life is past
your blessing still be given;
then bring us home, to taste at last
the timeless joys of heaven.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926–

The Word –

HYMN: TIS 135

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.***

**The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call.**

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.*

The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden -
God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful

The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall.

All things bright and beautiful

The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
Of bushland, field or desert,
On farms, or roaming free,

All things bright and beautiful

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell,
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful

Cecil Francis Alexander 1818-95 (vv. 2 alt.,5, and refrain)

Brian Black 1926- (vv. 1 and 3)

Compilers (v.4)

NOTICES:

THE OFFERING:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

The Lord's Prayer –

HYMN: TIS 137/AHB 77

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.***

**For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
*Christ, our God***

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
*Christ, our God***

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
*Christ, our God***

**For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
graces all of your design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
*Christ, our God***

**For the church that evermore,
lifting holy hands above,
offers up on every shore
the pure sacrifice of love,
*Christ, our God***

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint 1835-1917 alt.

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
and 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.

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-

HYMN: TIS 778

Shalom to you now,

Shalom my friends.

May God's full mercies

bless you my friends.

In all your living

and through your loving;

Christ be your shalom.

Christ be your shalom

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942-
