

**THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday 22nd 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**

“Nature fills us with wonder and humility.  
As we try to make sense of it through science,  
or engage with it in a river with rod in hand or running up a mountain trail,  
we learn that what we grasp is but a tenuous thread  
connected to an invisible wholeness” *(Marcelo Gleiser)*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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.

**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 sense of God's Presence.

**HYMN:** TIS 53

**Come, sing praises to the Lord above,  
rock of our salvation, God of love;  
with delight into God's presence move,  
for the Lord our God is king!**

**God is king above the mountains high  
the ocean deep, the land and sky;  
mighty continents and islands lie  
within the hollow of God's hand.**

**Come to worship him and bow the knee,  
praise our shepherd with humility;  
humble creatures in his hand are we  
sing the praise of God the king!**

**God is king ...**

**Hear the story of God's people now,  
you with stubborn hearts who will not bow;  
learn what happened long ago and how  
God can show you who is king.**

**God is king ...**

**Forty years God kept the prize away,  
made them wander till they would obey,  
exiled all of them until the day  
they would honour God as king.**

**God is king above the mountains high  
the ocean deep, the land and sky;  
mighty continents and islands lie  
within the hollow of God's hand**

*Michael Arnold Perry 1942-96.*

### **Opening Sentences:**

The spirit of Creativity God has hovered over the waters...

We invite the cosmos to gather with us:

**We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky  
to radiate the splendour of God's presence.**

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**We invite nebula, nova and black holes  
to thank God for their fascinating formation.**

We summon that piece of stardust called Earth,

**To pulse with the rhythm of God's presence  
and celebrate God's glory in this planet garden.**

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,

**The turtle, the toad and the elephant,  
the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.**

We invite every creature in the web of creation

**To consciously connect with others  
in this community called the cosmos.**

Dance creation, dance!

**Dance with cosmic energy**

### **Video (Silence)**

### **Act of Awareness:**

In the midst of our everyday when life is full  
and we are about all those things we are about,

we scarcely have time to fit it all in.

**And yet, here we are,  
squeezing into this not-so-special-anymore day  
a moment to glimpse the Holy,  
to step out of time into a timelessness of awe.**

With those who have gone this way before,  
and those who have yet to venture forth,  
we travel roads of wonder and give thanks.

**We pray:**

As we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos,  
we celebrate our connectedness to this vast web of life.  
May we connect with all living beings.  
May we sense the presence of God in the stars and the planets.  
May we care for the oceans, the earth and the air.  
May it be so.

**Sharing 'The peace'**

The peace of our Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Let us listen for the word of God.  
**God will speak peace to the faithful,  
to those who walk in God's way.**

**"Sun"** by Mary Oliver

Have you ever seen  
anything in your life  
more wonderful  
than the way the sun,  
every evening,  
relaxed and easy,  
floats toward the horizon  
and into the clouds or the hills,  
or the ruffled sea,  
and is gone –

and how it slides again  
out of the blackness,  
every morning,  
on the other side of the world,  
like a red flower  
streaming upward on its heavenly oils,  
say, on a morning in early summer,  
at its perfect imperial distance –  
and have you ever felt for anything  
such wild love –  
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,  
a world billowing enough  
for the pleasure  
that fills you,  
as the sun  
reaches out,  
as it warms you  
as you stand there,  
empty-handed –  
or have you too  
turned from this world-  
or have you too  
gone crazy for power,  
for things?

**Jeremiah 8:18-22** (OT p.727)

**Amos 8:4-7** (OT p.881)

**Psalm 113**

**<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.**

**<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

**<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

<sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. <sup>9</sup> He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NT p.199)

Luke 16:1-13 (NT p.74)

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

HYMN:

TIS 134

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
*Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise the everlasting king!*

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
*praise him, praise him . . . . .*

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
*praise him, praise him . . . . .*

Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but while mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on.  
*Praise him, praise him . . . . .*

Angels, help us to adore him,  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
*praise him, praise him . . . . .*

*Henry F. Lyte 1793-1847 alt.*

## The Word –

**HYMN:** ATE 301

- 1. May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.  
May the Son bring his tears to your crying.  
May the Spirit of love rise anew ev'ry day,  
and compassion flare up in your soul.**
- 2. May you live day by day and for those whom you meet.  
May you care, though your heart will be broken.  
May your voice be as one with the cry of the poor  
and the hungry be filled with your food.**
- 3. May your love in your deeds work for peace on this earth,  
for our God dwells within those who suffer.  
May you ache for the time war will pass from your life,  
and your freedom frustrate Caesar's pow'r.**
- 4. May the Father of love stir you deep in your heart.  
May the Son bring his tears to your crying.  
May the Spirit of love rise anew ev'ry day,  
and compassion flare up in your soul.**

*words and music (c) Leigh Newton*

**NOTICES:**

**OFFERING:**

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS & The Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN:** TIS 607

- 1. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you...  
O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

2. **Make me a channel of your peace.**  
**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;**  
**where there is darkness, let me bring your light;**  
**and where there's sadness, ever joy.**  
**O Master, grant that I may never seek . . . . .**

3. **Make me a channel of your peace.**  
**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**  
**in giving of ourselves that we receive,**  
**and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

*Based on an anonymous prayer (?French) c.1900*

**Parting Words:**

..... 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:**

**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 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-*