

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 20th October 2019

Worth Pondering

Are you afraid of the void, the empty future, your own undefined face?

Do you want it spelled out, written in prose?

Do you want tomorrow filled in, neat and chinked,
no crevice for the unannounced wind to blow in?

We are sorry, but that is not the way things are.

None of us has answers, certainties, definitions for ourselves.

How can we give them to you?

The question is not whether you want the void,
the unfulfilled, the gap of time and becoming
that founts before you.

You will get it whether you want it or not.

The question is, what are you to do with it...?

Kenneth Patton

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Dja Dja Wrung People of the Kulin Nation, past, present
and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

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

The Gathering of The People of God:

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Our trust is in you, O God, and in you alone.

We rejoice that God's love for us is stronger than our fear.

Let us worship God who is our refuge and strength

and the source of justice and peace.

HYMN: CS 19 'Pentecost Prayer'

1. **When this earth was created
It was God who spoke the word
And it was done.
Gave his warmth to the cold earth
All was new and all was young —
Time had begun.**

Chorus:

**Make me warm when I am cold
Make me young when I am old,
Move me, touch me inside,
Let your love burn in me now.**

2. **If I'm rough, make me gentle,
If my words are hard and sharp,
Soften my heart.
If I'm weak, make me stronger;
Let me look to you for strength
To make a new start.**

Chorus:

3. **If I'm deaf, break the silence,
If I'm blinded by the dark,
Give me your light.
If I'm lame and I stumble
Let me take your hand again
And hold it so tight.**

Chorus:

4. **If you speak, let me hear you
Help me recognize your voice
Everywhere.
If you pass, let me see you,
Help me to know the face is yours.
Help me to care
Chorus:**

1976 Robin Mann

PRAYER:

God, source of our trust and peace, we praise you.
Your care for us is evident through your love made visible in Jesus.
His life and light penetrate the dark and fearful places of the world.
In Jesus, fears are diminished through the power of love.
We pray that this time of worship and the service of our lives may be a worthy
expression of our praise and commitment.

Amen

GREETING:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

The Commandments

Jesus said:

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

(Silent reflection)

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD: Readings from our broad Religious Tradition

**From the World Around Us: "Science and Mystery" No. 55
by Dennis McCarty. **Thoughts from a Gentle Atheist/36****

We are not separate from the wild things of the earth,
Nor from natural patterns that drive all.
We are part of an immense interchange:
Predator-prey, cause-and-effect,
At once wonderful, terrible, and profound.
Yet human beings, from the Book of Genesis on,
Have adopted an attitude of arrogance
Toward the earth.
This costs us dearly,
More with each cycle around the sun.
What we do not yet know can be learned,
And what has been done can yet be undone.
It is upon us to make a beginning.

OR

'Hope Appears' by Marilyn Tandumkar

In the midst of winter,
When all the world seems grey,
The trees have lost their leaves,
The grass is brown and dry,
Hope appears ...

A small bud encased in its furry envelope,
A crocus thrusting up in a frosty garden bed,
A nest crazily perched in the high limbs of a tree.
A plover keening as it returns home,
The warble of a magpie.
Hope appears ...

In the most difficult of times
Despite the direst predictions
Against the call of prophets.
The life force continues.
And hope appears again and again,
True cause for much rejoicing.

Traditional Gospel:

Luke 18:1-8 (Inclusive Text)

*Jesus told the disciples a parable about the need to pray continually
and never lose heart.*

'There was a judge in a certain town,' Jesus said,
'who had neither fear of God nor respect for persons.

'In the same town there was a widow
who kept coming to the judge and saying,
"I want justice from you against my enemy!"

'For a long time the judge refused, but at last said,
"Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for persons,
but since she keeps pestering me
I must give this widow her just rights,
or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

And Jesus said,

'You notice what the unjust judge has to say?
Now will not God see justice done to the chosen who cry out
day and night even when God delays to help them?

'I promise you, God will see justice done to them, and done speedily.
But when the Promised One comes,
will any faith be found on earth?'

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord.

HYMN: *(Tune: TIS 443)*

- 1. A man of ancient time and place
with foreign speech and foreign face,
reveals the glory, power and grace
of costly, unexpected love.**
- 2. A rabbi, schooled in Moses' Law,
a male, amending Herod's flaw,
arouses wonder, rage and awe
with costly, unexpected love.**
- 3. By teasing word and healing deed,
a leper touched, an outcast freed,
he bears the fruit and plants the seed
of costly, unexpected love.**

4. **The cost we barely can surmise
when, lifted up before our eyes,
the face of God we recognise
in crucified, unfathomed love.**
5. **May faith and hope within us grow,
the way of Christ to tell and show,
and may the Spirit breathe and blow
in costly, unexpected love.**

Brian Arthur Wren

The WORD –

HYMN: 'I Am Carried'

1. **Day by day and hour by hour,
your love for me from heaven flows.
Like streams of water in the desert
living waters *flow*.
You walk beside me, gently guiding,
leading me through every storm.
Everlasting, never changing,
grace and love divine.**
2. **Mercy's healing grace relieving
every spot and every stain.
Forgiven freely, no more guilty,
love has conquered shame.
The broken mended, night has ended,
lost and lonely, lost no more,
for I am carried in the arms
of grace and love divine.
I am carried in the arms
of grace and love divine.
I am held by hands of healing,
washed by water pure.**

**Lifting up my heavy heart
held in grace scarred hands.
I am carried in the arms
of grace and love divine.**

- 3. Never worthy, never earning,
all my works now left behind.
Ever onwards, ever upwards,
you've called me on to rise.
Above my darkness, all my failure,
every fear and every pain.
Always carried, always covered
by grace and love divine.**

**I am carried in the arms
of grace and love divine.
I am held by hands of healing,
washed by water pure .
Lifting up my heavy heart
held in grace scarred hands.
I am carried in the arms
of grace and love divine.**

Geoff Bullock

NOTICES:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

...Silent Prayer...

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly
share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: CS 104 (*Benediction from Jude*)

**Now unto him who is able to keep,
able to keep us from falling
and present us faultless
before the presence of his glory
with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God, our Saviour,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power
both now and forever.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

Go, blessed with
the great love of God,
the presence and peace of Jesus Christ
and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

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–