

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 27th October 2019

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

(An act towards reconciliation)

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

Entry into the Celebration:

An old religious writer said,

'Today is a day the Lord has made,
let us therefore rejoice and be glad in it'.

It is indeed!

So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

HYMN: "Come Celebrate..." (Tune: 88.88D)

**Come celebrate the gift of life:
creation's journey from the star
whose first great flaring forth of light
responded to God's word of power.
Enable us, O God, to see
your living word is in us still;
this vibrant possibility
within our human lives fulfil.**

**Come celebrate the gift of love,
potential in each human soul,
revealed by Jesus as he strove
to heal our world and make us whole.
Enable us, O God, to choose
beyond the inborn needs of self;
in loving, be prepared to lose
our boundaries, and find new life.**

**Come celebrate the gift of power:
the flow of God within each soul,
which calls us in this present hour
to see creation as a whole.
Enable us, O God, to know
your life is present in all things;
and may our lives, within that flow,
reflect the joy creation sings.**

M Bond

WELCOME:

A warm welcome to all.
Your presence enriches this gathering
and contributes to this time of celebration together.
Thanks for the gift of you!

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.

Centring Silence: Let us take a moment to settle into the silence.

(Silence)

In these brief moments of silence and meditation may we find strength.
May our lives be rich in affection,
deep in understanding and sympathy for each other.
May the blessings of life be known to all.

THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(the people exchange a sign of peace)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD:

Luke 18:9-14 *(Inclusive Text)* *Jesus told the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else.*

Two people went up to the temple to pray,
one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer,
'I thank you, God, that I am not grasping,
unjust, adulterous, like the rest of humankind,
and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here.

'I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on all I get.'

The tax collector stood some distance away,
not daring even to look up to heaven, but in humility said,
'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

This one, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not.
For all who exalt themselves will be humbled,
but those who humble themselves will be exalted.

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord

HYMN: ATE 218

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the aeons you called to each thing:
Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.**

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded by their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow, the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes;
with bold new decisions your people arise.**

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness

Words and music: © 1978 Jim Manley

The WORD –

HYMN: ATFG 587/TIS 668

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.**

Shirley Murray 1931

NOTICES and Concerns of the Church:

OFFERING & Dedication:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

...Silent Prayer...

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: TIS 626

- 1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.**
- 2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil,
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.**
- 3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.**

4. **Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.**

5. **Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if ever I leave you I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.**

Jack Copley Winslow 1882-1974 alt.

Parting Words:

Let us embrace the wonder of this week with expectation and imagination...

God of wonder

Send us out with hearts full of praise.

God of wilderness

Send us out with lives full of courage.

God of the rainbow covenant

Send us out to live at one with all people.

God of the cross and resurrection

Send us out in joyful service.

CLOSING SONG: 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-

Words of BLESSING:

Go now, into the world God loves so much,
to bear the fruit of love and compassion.

Go in peace and with delight for God goes with us.
In this is great blessing!

Amen! May it be so!

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–