

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 10th November 2019

Greeting

Good Morning....

We recognise that we meet on and share Dja Dja Wurrung land as we come here today.

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

**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:

Loving God, we come to celebrate your greatness.

You are worthy of all adoration, our best service, and highest praise.

In your power you have created and sustained the earth and the life of your people on earth.

Thank you for all that you are and for all you have done. **Amen.**

One of our readings today is from 2 Thessalonians Ch2. It's part of a letter Paul wrote to the Congregation at Thessalonica. Can you imagine this being written to you? See if you can notice any bits that stand out for you.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 The Message (MSG)

¹³⁻¹⁴ Meanwhile, we've got our hands full continually thanking God for you, our good friends—so loved by God! God picked you out as his from the very start. Think of it: included in God's original plan of salvation by the bond of faith in the living truth. This is the life of the Spirit he invited you to through the message we delivered, in which you get in on the glory of our Master, Jesus Christ.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ So, friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground and head high. Keep a tight grip on what you were taught, whether in personal conversation or by our letter. May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.

Our next song was written by Henry Van Dyke in 1907 (the words have changed a bit) & the music by Ludwig van Beethoven was used in the fourth movement of his Ninth Symphony, completed in 1824

HYMN: TIS 152

**Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Centre of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully!**

**You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our Brother,
all are yours who live in love;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy above.**

Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933

PRAYER:

We wait for you Lord,

**expectantly, like a bird watching for food in the morning;
eagerly, like a dry plant waiting for soaking rain,
hopefully, like a mountain climber looking for a new view;
impatiently, like students waiting for the end of the school
year, longingly, like two lovers waiting to meet again.**

Your greatness is our hope and strength.
Your love is needed to change the hatred in us and our world.
Your grace is needed to help us forgive and be forgiven.
God, we remember all you have created
and we look forward to the completion of your creative work,
in ourselves and all people.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Remembering Remembrance Day

Tomorrow is Remembrance Day for us and some other countries as we recall the Armistice to end WW1 in 1918. This can be a chance for all of us to remember the people whose life and work has been special for us.

Let's remember those who have gone before us
in family, church, armed services and public life.
We light this candle and remember them in silent appreciation.

LIGHT THE CANDLE

Let's remember some of what these people have meant to us,
what we have inherited from them
and learned because of them.

Silence

Let's also remember the grace of God that has sustained us and others in
the past and remember that this grace will be there in the future as well.

Silence

**God, we celebrate the many people and gifts you have given,
In Jesus name. Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS:

Let us hear the word of God.

**God, may your word live in us today,
and become a strength and guide for us and others around us.**

Introduction to reading

Haggai 2:15b-2:9 (NRSV)

In the second year of King Darius, ¹ in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying:
² Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Shay - Al - tay – El, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, ³ Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?

⁴ Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, ⁵ according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. ⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. ⁹ The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

Psalm 145:1-5 (NRSV)

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**
- ² Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.**
- ⁴ One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**
- ⁵ On the glorious splendour of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

Introduction to Gospel reading

Luke 20:27-38 (NRSV)

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,

and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

HYMN: TIS 393

**Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

**He is the grain of wheat that died,
Sown in distress and reaped in joy,
Yielding a harvest of new life. *Alleluia.....***

**He is the sun which brings the dawn:
He is the light of all the world,
Setting us free from death and sin. *Alleluia.....***

**He is the vine set in the earth,
Sharing our life, from birth to death,
That we might share in God’s own life. *Alleluia.....***

**He is the bread that comes from God,
Broken to feed us in our need,
Given to bring eternal life. *Alleluia.....***

**Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name. *Alleluia.....***

Pamela Stotter 1944–

SERMON:

HYMN: ‘The Summons’ (*Iona Community p116/ATOK 413*)

**Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoner free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

John L. Bell & Graham Maule

NOTICES:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

Sharing our Joys and concerns:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: atok 320

**I was there to hear your bornin cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptised
To see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well.
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.**

**When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk to rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.**

(repeat first four lines of v 1)

*Used by permission © 1985 J Ylvisaker,
Box 321, Waverly, Iowa 50677 USA*

BLESSING:

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-