

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 17th November 2019

We acknowledge the traditional owners
and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Worth Pondering

The thought manifests as the word.

The word manifests as the deed.

The deed develops into habit.

And habit hardens into character.

So watch the thought and its ways with care.

And let it spring from love born out of concern for all beings.

(*The Buddha*)

**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:

The morning comes and now is!

Greet the day with gladness, and welcome the evening with praise. (*Adapted*)

“The function of beauty...

is to make us aware of a reality which is richer and deeper
and more marvellous than anything we can dream or conceive.” (*Henry N Wieman*)
Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

HYMN: “Everything in God” (*Tune: TIS 111*)

- 1. God is the One in whom we all have life-giving purpose.
Spirit encompassing all and yet present within us.
Breath of each birth: Source of all beauty and worth:
Found in us all, yet mysterious.**

**2. Have faith in virtue, have hope in great beauty abounding;
Hear words of love, and then listen for laughter resounding;
When, with delight, we turn the darkness to light;
God, we discern, is surrounding.**

3. **Home in our world amidst wonder of life with its splendour;**
Movement and colour show nature's abundant agenda.
God is thus found
In air and sea, on the ground.
God is displayed by each gender.
4. **Greet the creation, the magic of each constellation;**
Stars without number and planets of unknown location
Whirling around,
Far beyond sight, sense and sound.
All share in God's incarnation.
5. **God is the One in whom we live and move and have being:**
Spirit within as we ponder our faith and believing:
Here and elsewhere,
Past, present, future to share,
God, the beginning and ending.

George Stuart

WELCOME:

Welcome, to all of you.

Your presence enriches us and this time of celebration together.

The calling of a magpie greets the gentle sunrise on a bright Spring morning.

May there be awakened in us, long held hopes

and a keening of our longing for the sacred in life.

Amen! May it be so!

Reflection “A God for all Seasons” By Kate Compston. Dare to Dream/31.

Springtime God,
coming alive within us like pale shoots
thrusting through frozen earth,
we need your persistent love to disturb
the impacted soil of our hearts' rigidity.

Summer God,
growing luxuriously, blossoming with heady scents:
holding us in your warm embrace,
we need these times of perceived presence
to draw upon in cooler seasons.

Autumn God,
falling and dying in Christ,
etched with the colours of vulnerability,
we need the fellowship of your wounds
to dignify our brokenness.

**Winter God,
dormant and distant,
starkly challenging our self-absorption,
we need your austerity to nudge us
into a warm compassion for your suffering ones.**

Centring Silence:

Let us open ourselves to the sacred silence of this place.

(Silence)

We gather here as the people of creation.

We name ourselves threads in the web of life.

**We give thanks for connection,
that we are all part of one another
and that we are part of the sacred.**

So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

(Silence)

Sharing 'The peace'

The peace of the LORD be with you

Also with you

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.**

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Luke 21:5-12,16

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

In the testimony of God's people

We hear the Word of the Lord

HYMN: TIS 468

1. We are your people: Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.
2. Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.
3. Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.
4. Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.
5. Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.
6. Spirit unite us, make us, by grace,
willing and ready, Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–

THE WORD –

HYMN: “Where Does Compassion Start?” (Tune: ‘Love Unknown’, 66.66.4444)
(A response to the ‘Charter for Compassion’)

Where does compassion start?
How does compassion grow?
Her seed is at the heart
of every faith we know:
compassion honours others' place,
dethroning self with willing grace.

**How does compassion thrive
in worlds of greed and grief?
Her goodness stays alive
through those of strong belief:
compassion, luminous and clear,
outshining wastes of war and fear.**

**Where is compassion's role
in cultures, or in creeds?
At centre, with the soul
who feels another's needs:
compassion brings the touch of friend,
a bandage that will bind and mend.**

**Dynamic is the power
that heals, restores and gives,
connecting at the core
with everyone who lives,
transcending culture, colour, race,
compassion builds the house of peace.**

Shirley Erena Murray, 2009. © Hope Publishing

Notices and Concerns of the Church:

Offering & Dedication:

Prayers of the People: including The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: TIS 598

- 1. Dear Father, Lord of all who live,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind:
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.
in deeper reverence, praise.**

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.
3. O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love,
interpreted by love!
4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier 1807-92 alt.

Parting Prayer:

God of surprises, startle us with truth we do not see,
amaze us with your power and grace,
beckon us, and lead us far above restricted hope and narrow faith.

May it be so.

BENEDICTION:

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.
So go and travel with the God who is found in ordinary and surprising places.

**May the quality of our lives be our benediction.
And a blessing to all whom we touch.**

Go from this place
knowing that God continues with you and in you,
to watch over you and bless you and those you love
all of your days.

Amen.

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–

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–