

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 24th November 2019

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

Worth Pondering

“Jesus engaged imaginations so that people could
get more deeply inside their own experience” *(Patrick Collins)*

**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

Opening Sentences:

Deep within us, creeping past the facts that stand before us, is hope:

And we lift up our hearts to God.

We walk towards the barriers to change, believing they will fall to your power:

And we lift up our hearts to God.

We gather up the remnants of our energy and wait for the extra
we pray will come:

And we lift up our hearts to God.

In the moments of our lowness, in the doubts which rise among us,
in the depths of weakness and failing,

**God's hand is discovered beneath our wavering,
and we are called again to hope.**

Amen! May it be so!

HYMN: TIS 52

- 1. Let us sing to the God of salvation,
let us sing to the Lord our rock!
Let us come to his house with thanksgiving,
let us come before the Lord and sing!**

***Praise our Maker, praise our Saviour,
praise the Lord our everlasting King.
Every throne must bow before him,
God is Lord of everything!***

2. **In his hands are the earth's deep places
and the strength of the hills is his;
all the sea is the Lord's, for he made it,
by his hands the dry land was formed. *Praise our Maker.....***
3. **Let us worship the Lord our Maker,
let us kneel to the Lord our God;
for we all are the sheep of his pasture,
he will guide us by his powerful hand. *Praise our Maker.....***
4. **Let today be the time when you hear him!
May our hearts not be hard or cold,
lest we stray from the Lord in rebellion,
as his people did in time of old. *Praise our Maker.....***

Richard Thomas Bewes 1934–

WELCOME to all of you.

Your presence here enriches us and this time of celebration together.

Centring Silence:

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

(silence)

We pray: Spirit of God, you are the breath of life within us.

You call us to be one with you.

You breathe among us in all of creation.

Give us the strength and courage to live in your love.

May it be so.

(silence)

Sharing 'The peace'

This is a house of God. A place of peace.

A place where we befriend one another.

Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared friendship.

The peace of the LORD be with you. **And 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.**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 23:35-43 *(Inclusive Text)*

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus.

As for the leaders, they jeered at Jesus.

'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is Christ of God, the Chosen One.'

The soldiers mocked too, and when they approached to offer Jesus vinegar they said,

'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

Above Jesus there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him.

'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.'

But the other spoke up and rebuked that one.

'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'you got the same sentence, but in our case we deserved it:

we are paying for what we did. But this one has done nothing wrong.'

'Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

'Indeed, I promise you,' Jesus replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

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

HYMN: TIS 231

1. **At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now:
this the Father's pleasure
that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.**
2. **Humbled for a season
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**
3. **In your hearts enthrone him,
there let him make new
all that is not holy,
all that is not true.
He is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.**
4. **When this same Lord Jesus
shall appear again
in his Father's glory,
there with him to reign,
then may we adore him,
all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.**

Caroline Maria Noel 1817-77 alt.

The Word –

An Affirmation of Faith

Beckoning Christ,
you call us out of our comfortable ghetto of 'us' and 'them'

to risk discipleship without walls.

You call us into a world-wide fellowship

where God is worshipped above all other.

You call us into a world-wide fellowship

where prayer is offered day and night.

You call us into a world-wide fellowship

where we can share what we are with others who love you.

You call us into a world-wide fellowship

where each person has something to give to the whole.

You call us into a world-wide fellowship

where compassion and respect shape missionary endeavour.

**Keep on beckoning us out of our safe havens into your rich
fellowship of challenge and reconciliation, faith and hope.**

HYMN: TIS: 145

- 1. The king of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.**
- 2. Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

5. **Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**
6. **And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.**

(Based on Psalm 23) Henry William Baker 1821-77

NOTICES:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: TIS 207

1. **Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
2. **For him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice;**
3. **people and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessing on his name.**
4. **Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains:
the weary find eternal rest:
and all who suffer want are blest.**

5. **Where he displays his healing power,
death and the curse are known no more;
in him the tribes of Adam boast
more blessings than their father lost.**

6. **Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with song again,
and earth repeat the long amen.**

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Parting Prayer:

Through this day and every day,
May the sun bless us with its warmth,
**May we gaze up at the brilliance of stars
So very far away,
And into the eyes of loved ones,
So very near.**

May we know how tiny we are,
And also how great and wonderful we are.

The world went on before us and it will go on after us,
But for this time and space together,
**Let it be our choice to bring
Enlightenment and compassion and mystery and joy
To those with us now
And also those who come after us in the future.
May it be so.**

Parting Words:

**As we go, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world...**

**In our lives, may we know the holy meaning,
the mystery that breaks into it every moment.**

**May we live at peace with our world
and at peace with ourselves.**

WORDS OF BLESSING:

As the kookaburra gently settles on the tree,
receive the gift of peace.

As the flame rises with light and warmth,
receive the gift of life.

As the wind moves and dances round the earth,
receive the gracious gift of the Spirit.

Amen! May it be so!

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-