

The Uniting Church in Australia - Kangaroo Flat and Chum Street
Sunday 19th January 2020 – Epiphany 2

Introit: TiS 390 “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the Risen Lord”

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

1. **Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
he is the king of creation.**

Alleluia, alleluia

4. **God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
New life for all! Alleluia!**

Alleluia, alleluia

5. **Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

Alleluia, alleluia

Donald E. Fishel 1950–

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Acknowledgement of country

(BE SEATED):

*We acknowledge that we meet on Jaara land,
the traditional home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People.
With respect we acknowledge their living culture
and their unique role in the life of the region
and pray for reconciliation and justice*

An invitation to worship: During Epiphany:

We deepen the experience of Christmas.

We celebrate the appearance of God in Christ as a surprise,

Christ who comes in unexpected ways,

ways to which we are blind,

ways which may make us feel uncomfortable.

In the story of the wise men, Jesus is acknowledged by those
who know nothing of God, beyond what the silent stars tell.

**Lord help us to move beyond the narrow faith
that wants to confine you to the church,
and fails to see you as Lord of the universe.**

HYMN of praise: TiS 164

- 1. The great love of God
is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth
to redeem every one.**
- 2. That love, like a stream
flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart
that from sin would be free.**
- 3. It binds the whole world,
every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low,
and the mountains it shakes.**
- 4. It's yours, it is ours,
O how lavishly giv'n!
the pearl of great price,
and the treasure of heav'n.**

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles 1908-70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge and lament the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.

We acknowledge and lament the way in which their land was taken from them, and their language, culture, law and spirituality despised and suppressed.

We acknowledge and lament the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process, but actively involved in it.

We acknowledge and lament that in our own time the injustice and abuse has continued.

**We have been indifferent when we should have been outraged,
We have been apathetic when we should have been active,
We have been silent when we should have spoken out.**

Liberating Jesus, hear our lament and by your Spirit bring healing and transformation to the lives of the First Nations sisters and brothers and their communities, we pray.

**Gracious God, hear our acknowledgements -
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor have we loved First Peoples and other
neighbours as ourselves.**

**God of mercy, forgive us for our failures past and present
and give us the grace today to make a fresh start.**

**By your Spirit transform our love as you have loved us,
that we may boldly speak your truth and
courageously do your will,**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

CHILDREN with the Coolamon

PSALM 40:1-11 (*Responsive Reading*)

Right side:

**I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.**

Left side:

**He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.**

**³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.**

**Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.**

**⁴ Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.**

**⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;**

none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.
**6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.**
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
**7 Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.**
**8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."**
**9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;**
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.
**10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;**
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.
**11 Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;**
let your steadfast love, and your faithfulness keep me safe
forever.

JOHN 1:29-42 (NRSV) The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,
"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man
who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'

³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water
for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,
and it remained on him.

³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me
to baptize with water said to me,
'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain
is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³

³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,

“Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them,

“What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher),

“where are you staying?”

³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.”

They came and saw where he was staying,

and they remained with him that day.

It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him,

“We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said,

“You are Simon son of John.

You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

HYMN: TiS 272/AHB 200

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley 1707-88

MESSAGE:

NOTICES, Sharing our joys and concerns

OFFERING & Dedication

A Litany Celebrating Jesus' Coming

Arise Australia arise,
For your light has surely come!
The glory of the Lord is risen upon you
And the darkness cannot quench it
We too have seen the rising star,
And have come to worship him.
Jesus Light of the World, we honour you!
Jesus light in our national darkness, we need you!

**Come Prime Minister and Premier, stand in his light;
Parliaments and councils learn his ways.**

**Come business and trade unions, stand in his light;
Managers and shop stewards, hear the good news.**

Let Sydney and Melbourne respond to his light,
Canberra and Darwin his freedom receive,
Let Perth and Hobart respond to his light,
Adelaide and Brisbane discover his love.

Turn magistrates and judge, face his glory:

Lawyers and jurors, discover his laws.

Turn teacher and professor, hear his story;

Graduates and students. Give him your lives.

Let Port Hedland and Port Arthur respond to his light.
Gundagai and Cooper Pedy receive his rare joy,
Let Bendigo and Mallacoota respond to his light,
Goondiwindi and Dimboola share his new day!

Journey, farmer and firemen, to follow his star;

Shearers and stockmen, venture a prayer;

Journey homemakers and children, to follow his star;

Taxi drivers and truckies, acquire his power.

Arise Australia, arise and sing,

Your light has surely come!

**We too have seen the rising star,
and have come to worship him.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent disastrous bushfires.

We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly.

We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss.

Bring them consolation and comfort.

Surround them with our prayer for strength.

Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation.

May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope.

Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance.

May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities.

Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name.

(Jesuit source)

Followed by local items and the Lord's Prayer

HYMN: TiS 268/AHB 224 *(based on Psalm 98)*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.** *Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt.*

BENEDICTION

People of God,
Go from here to live out the covenant into which we,
the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered
with one another

Confront and challenge injustice wherever you see it.
Act justly yourselves and insist that others do the same.
Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them.
Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share in Jesus our Lord.
Commit to worship, witness and serve as one people under God,
until God's promised reconciliation of all creation is complete.

BLESSING

**Bless us therefore, as we depart this place:
give us a generous spirit, a kind heart,
and the grace to walk alongside all people,
as brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Amen

Go in the power of God's good Spirit:
with the gentle fire of God's zeal,
with the breath of life,
ready to work for justice and peace.

We go in Christ's Name.

Amen

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–