

Morialta UC Worship Sunday May 17th 2020

You may like to have a candle, a jug of water and bowl and a Bible with a bookmark in either Psalm 66 or John 14

Call to worship

God, who was there long before anyone ever gave you a name:

Light candle

We worship you!

God who meets people in their own place and in the depths of their own lives:

Pour water

We worship you!

God who speaks to us in our own language and through our own culture

Open the Bible

We worship you, for you and beyond all our names, God who is eternal and who so loves the world!

God of the ages, how can we presume to ask you to be present to us?

God of the universe, how can you notice us on this small planet?

God of the past, present and future, why would you pause and be among us now?

And yet, this is our prayer in faith, that we will encounter you here, even in this prayer that is stirring in us through the love of Jesus Christ. Show us the beauty of your holiness today. Amen

Song TIS 409 O breath of life

*O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.*

*O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore: for this we plead.*

*O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;*

*come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.*

*Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.*

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the first inhabitants of this place. We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Welcome and introduction

Hello to you where you are gathered this day. We welcome you to our worship time, through Morialta Uniting Church. We gather in God's name. the peace of God be with you!

Meditation "Prayer as Invitation" By Earl Holt

The moment of prayer is an invitation to be calm
in the midst of the tumult of the world and our over busy lives...

To bring together thought and feeling,
mind and spirit,

and to find some center, some still point,
of perspective and peace.

Here in this sacred place which has been home
for so many secret thoughts and hopes, fears and desires,
may we feel free to look at ourselves honestly.

May we be unafraid to face

the decisions we have been trying to avoid,

the doubts and questions it has been easy to ignore,

the things we have tried to keep hidden not only from others
but even from ourselves.

May we come to discover that there are resources
within ourselves and beyond us...

New dimensions of the spirit...

May we be emboldened by these discoveries

to reach out to others in their need

and so finally to discover that to give

is not only more blessed than to receive,
but that to give to others
is to receive what we most need for ourselves.

Come apart from the busyness of family and work,
and dwell in the present-ness of the sacred, source of being.

May the silence which we now share
quieten us, touch our need, refresh our courage,
enlarge our wonder.

(Silence) you may wish to focus on the candle or some other symbol

Song: Jesus be the centre

*Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light Jesus
Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song Jesus
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide Jesus
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live Jesus, Jesus
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live Jesus, Jesus*

Old Testament Reading Psalm 66:8-20 (adapted)

Celebrate your God, you people, let the songs of praise be heard loud and clear.
For God has given us a great living and has not permitted our feet to slip.
Surely our faith has been tested, like silver we have been assayed.
the pressures have fallen on us, and we have been kicked in the groin.
There are those who trample over us, we have gone through hell and high water.
Yet now we are led out of disaster and given an open space.
I will bring my offerings to your house, I will renew my vows to you;

I will fulfil the things my lips uttered, all that my mouth promised when in trouble.

I will give you the best of my possessions, like sweet incense my thanks will rise.
I will make an offering of my strengths, of the choicest that I have and am.
You who are in awe of God, come and listen, and I will tell of what has been done for me. I cried at the top of my voice to my God and praised with a joyful tongue.
If I had nursed evil in my heart, God would not have listened.
But the truth is that God has heard and known my outspoken prayer.
Wonderful are you, loving God, for you have not been deaf to me,
or for one second removed your love and faithfulness from me.
In this is the word of God

Reflection/meditation "Somewhere someone:"

The kingdom of love is coming because:
somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,
somewhere someone shares with another in need,
somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,
somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love,
somewhere someone returns good for evil,
somewhere someone serves another, in love,
somewhere someone is calm in a storm,
somewhere someone is loving everybody.

Is that someone you? *(Binkley. & McKeel/jke*

https://www.rexahuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_a_liturgy_collection/year_a_lenteaster/easter6a1752020.html

Song, Choose Kindness

*When you have a choice to make,
When there are two paths to take,
What will you choose to guide your way,
Decisions you make ev'ryday?*

*Choose kind-ness, choose ten-der-ness,
Choose pa-tience, choose love
Choose mer-cy, choose em-pa-thy,
Walk hum-bly with your God.*

*Choose jus-tice, choose faith-ful-ness,
Choose wis-dom, choose grace.
Choose good-ness, choose gen-tle-ness,
God's light will guide your way_____*

Scripture John 14: 15-21 *take some time to read this passage through in your Bible*

Sermon Promise of the Holy Spirit or “Where to from here?”

News and notices. How you going? Remember to contact each other, find new ways to stay in connection, support those who are finding things tough. We take this time to acknowledge the offerings that have been made that support the work of God’s church in this place and beyond. We remind us all once again of the ability to make our offering via E Give or Direct Debit through the church

Prayers re offering Many gifts are offered every day Gracious God. Gifts of friendship, connection, love and support. We recognise it is difficult to make our offerings in this time of physical distancing and isolation, and so in this moment we pause and give thanks for the offerings that have been given in whatever way. We lay these gifts before you, expressions of our love and response to your gospel in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our prayers for others today will focus around the Corona virus
We join together in prayer

We will not go back to normal. **Normal never was.** Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature.

God we know as Christ, forbid that we return to normal,
Other than what you would set as the your commonwealth of the common good which you call the Kingdom of Heaven.

Normal is just what we are used to,
It is the blinking of our complacency, ignorance and apathy,
But you call us onward towards the promised end,
A new normal full of the discomfort of growth and change.
Our normal is too often an excuse for inaction,

For we simply accept things the way that they are,
But you hold a vision of a better us,
Better as individuals.
Better as communities
Better as the world,
Better in our connection with you and each other
Better in being closer to abiding in your will and way.

Much of our recent normal was full of greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack.
Greed is wanting and having more than we need
Inequity is having more than we need when others don't have what they need.
Exhaustion is the first step to burn-out, and is a place too many of us have known too often.
Depletion is when we use up the supply or resources or lessen the worth of something or someone without replenishment.
Extraction is the forcible removal of one from another, be it the removal of relationships or resources.
Disconnection is the breaking of relationship.
Confusion is the disarray of the mind or misguided thinking.
Rage is anger unharnessed, unleashed or uncontrolled, but also the hedonistic embrace of excitement and entertainment.
Hoarding is the keeping of amounts of things for oneself, be they material resources, relationships or other wealth.
Hate is more than a feeling but the active enmity or malice which drives an attack or offense against others.
And lack is absence and being without or not having enough.

Don't forgive our greed,
But transform our attitude to repentance.
Don't forgive the inequity,
But draw us into your truth that we might hear your call to selflessness.

Don't excuse our exhaustion,
But fill us with the Spirit so that we might draw on your strength and passion.
Don't forgive our depletion,
But help us to see others and the world through your love and grace.

Don't forgive our extraction,
But lead us into healing and wholeness.
Don't forgive our disconnection,
But draw us into communion and unity with you and each other that we might
value our relationships in love.
Don't forgive our confusion,
But teach us and reveal to us your will and way.
Don't forgive our rage,
For it is not justified, instead grow in us the fruit of the Spirit as we centre
ourselves in your compassion and grace.

Don't forgive our hoarding,
But remind us again of your call to leave all behind as we follow you on the way of
the cross.
Don't forgive our hate,
But transform us to be more like you for in love there is no hate.
Don't forgive our lack, But fill us as we need, for in you we have no excuse for not
having wisdom, grace, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness,
faithfulness or self-control, for you hold all we need.
Christ, Lead us anew in your way, That in you we find the new normal,
As we join in your work of redemption and renewal.
This we hope and pray.
Amen. (Jon Humphries. Used with permission)

Song: Here I am Lord (Song TIS 658)

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord;
is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;*

*I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? (Here I am, Lord)*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame;
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (Here I am, Lord)*

Blessing

Through the encouragement of Jesus, let the Spirit of truth be the abiding reality
in your sleeping and waking, working and relaxing, praying and laughing. For in
the God of Christ we live and move and have your being.
May the love of God be the strength of your mind and heart.
May the grace of Christ be the salve for your bruises and wounds.
May the friendship of the Spirit be the joy of your resilient soul.
Now and ever more. Yes, now and evermore. Amen!

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/33EAST6.htm>