

# Morialta UC Worship May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

Prepared by Rhonda Amber, Rev Bob

**You are invited to bring to your table  
or place of worship  
Bread and Wine, Juice or Water  
for sharing in Holy Communion**



**Welcome/ intro** Hello to where you are gathered this day. I am Bob Hutchinson and together with Rhonda and Anne, we welcome you to our worship time at Morialta Uniting Church and beyond. Welcome to you where you are, close by or far away, or even at another time. We gather in God's name.

## **Light the candle water bible etc**

O God, Who shaped us, and nurtures us,  
We, Your children, praise You;  
for the breath of life that moves within us,  
and within all living things.

### **Light candle**

O Lord, Who shared our flesh, and made for us a way  
into God's Kingdom  
We, Your sisters and brothers, praise You;  
for Your life and words among us,

### **Open Bible**

O Spirit of God, Who re-unites us with our Creator, with each other  
and with ourselves,  
We, Your people, praise You;  
for the Living Water that quenches our thirst  
and for the divine image that You recreate in us  
and every person.

### **Pour water**

Praise be to our Life-Energizer!!

God, - Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 Love is Your nature, and love is Your gift,  
 We praise You for inviting us into Your family,  
 and for igniting Your love in our hearts.  
 Amen.

### **Call to worship**

*Welcome to worship  
 at this Autumn season.  
 As the temperatures dip  
 we gather in the warmth  
 of God's presence,  
 as the darkness grows  
 we seek Gods light,  
 as the earth rests from its labours  
 we long for God's peace.  
 Come, let us worship the Lord!*

### **Song TIS 442 all praise to our redeeming Lord**

**All praise to our redeeming Lord,  
 who joins us by his grace,  
 and bids us, each to each restored,  
 together seek his face.**

**He bids us build each other up;  
 and gathered into one,  
 to our high calling's glorious hope  
 we hand in hand go on.**

**The gift which he on one bestows  
 we all delight to prove;  
 the grace through every vessel flows,  
 in purest streams of love.**

**Even now we think and speak the same,  
 and cordially agree;  
 centred all, through Jesus' name,  
 in perfect harmony.**

**We all partake the joy of one,  
 the common peace we feel,  
 a peace to sensual minds unknown,  
 a joy unspeakable.**

**And if our fellowship below  
 in Jesus be so sweet,  
 what heights of rapture shall we know  
 when round his throne we meet.**

### **Acknowledgement of land**

*We acknowledge the Kurna people, traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, we*

*pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.*

### **Prayer of thanksgiving**

*As we gather together for worship in varied places near and far in these difficult times that we are able to worship as God's family were ever we are.*

*We praise you for all creatures great and small each little flower that that opens and as we see the Autumn leaves falling preparing us for Winter, we give you thanks.*

*Lord we know your eyes are open day and night watching over us and your ears are always ready to listen to our prayers. Some come for forgiveness, some come tired and weary and in need of refreshment and recreation, with worries and in need of your guidance, as some struggle with the COVID-19 .*

*But first Lord, lift us out of our pre-occupation with our needs allow us to see you with the eyes of faith and to hear with understanding what you are saying to us. and make us thankful for all the good we have received from you.*

*We give thanks that our young people here in South Australia are able to return to school to continue learning, and seeing their friends, we also thank the parents who home schooled and the teachers who prepared and taught the children through video media, thank you.*

*Bless our Minister Rev Bob and his family as they support and minister to the people of Morialta Uniting Church, we give thanks for the families who are working in remote areas telling others of your love for them.*

*Thank you for keeping us safe in these difficult times and ordinary times, and in the plans we make for the future, Father help us to live for you*

*And let us sing together our prayer response---**O Lord hear my prayer (Song TIS 741 )***

**O Lord hear my prayer,**

**O Lord hear my prayer:**

**when I call answer me.**

**O Lord hear my prayer,**

**O Lord hear my prayer.**

**Come and listen to me. X2**

### **A prayer of confession / meditation**

We are told that we are not alone, you are with us.

You are as close as a prayer, close as our heart.

Yet why do you feel so far away, God?

Teach us to pray!

For those among us who have not prayed this week;

forgive us for not turning to you,

for prioritizing many things, while missing what is essential.

We have failed to find the comfort and wisdom you offered.

For those among us who wanted to pray,

but didn't know how to pray this week:

show us that we can long for you,

even when there are no words.

For those among us who prayed,

but prayed selfishly or for only our own benefit;

enlarge our horizon to see your big picture,  
to see the needs of others and not just our own.

For those among us who prayed,  
but felt that you were not listening,  
or did not answer the way we wanted;  
give us patience, and trust in your timing.

For those among us who are not sure you are even there to pray to;  
may the prayers of our community  
lead us into your presence,  
drawing us into your love and deepest care.  
Hear the concerns of our hearts in this time of silence;.....

God, teach us to pray as you, in Christ, taught the disciples and the church to pray –  
together, saying the Lord's prayer

***Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our sins***

***As we forgive those who sin against us.***

***Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil***

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,***

***Now and forever. Amen***

**Reading (s) Psalm 46**

**John 17:1-11**

### **Sermon**

In 1987 the Seekers released the song *I am Australian, We are one, but we are many And from all the lands on earth we come We share a dream and sing with one voice: I am, you are, we are Australian.*

We are one, but we are many they sang. Jesus prays for the disciples that they may be one, one in him.

The other day I read that there are two fundamentals of life.

1) to be an individual and 2) to learn to be a member of a, community.

*And According to [thechangeblog.com/30-fundamentals-of-a-wonderful-life/](http://thechangeblog.com/30-fundamentals-of-a-wonderful-life/) #1 of a wonderful life is.....*

- 1) **Defining what success means to YOU:** Deciding what is important to you, and not wasting time chasing someone else's idea of success.
- 2) **Strong work ethic:** expecting great success without being willing to work hard for it is a recipe for mediocrity.

### But It is the third one that is highlighted for me

- 3) **Focus on adding value:** stop focusing on what you *want*, and start thinking of how you can **add value** to other people.

Sounds like kingdom values! That is sort of what Jesus says – love one another

The whole prayer of Jesus in Jn 17 is that his disciples be one. This goes on from John 15 where Jesus talks about the vine and the branches, being connected and remaining in Christ.

Jesus prayer was that the ones close to him, would become a community, a congregation, a community, a church, a movement, a people who know themselves to be bound to God, and to each other and who would be, one – one body!

Community is fundamental for Jesus. I don't believe it was unintentional that Jesus, when asked to teach the disciples to pray, said, "When you pray, say, **Our** Father...**our** daily bread, **our** trespasses. The whole of the Lords prayer is communal in nature, said by the individual, yet centered in community.

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to change the dominant thought of society from an emphasis on the individual, or the singular, to the plural, to be inclusive, to say **our** instead of **my**, **we** instead of **me**.

What would that look like if we really lived the command, to love one another as Jesus loves us? to love sacrificially, intentionally and whole heartedly?

So Jesus prays in John 17, for his disciples and us. He prays that he and God be one, that the disciples and he be one, and therefore one in God, as Paul reminds us, we are **one in Christ**, for in Christ Jesus, he says, there is neither male nor female, Jew or Greek, slave of free, for Christ died for all.

That is the benchmark for the church and for the world. That's the standard. God in Jesus, Jesus in God. We in Jesus and Jesus in us. Us in each other. All that adds up to Unity, unity in diversity.

But do we have to be all the same?

We are created in the image of God, but does that mean sameness? We only have to look around and see that this cant be. We are diverse, we are unique, we are individuals with different traditions, experience, shape and size, age and gender. Yet what is it that we have in common?

What is it that unites us if we are not all the same? It is our common identity in Christ.

Jesus is praying for his disciples (which means us). Were they one? Most likely not, in the common sense. There were 12 disciples at least and therefore 12 different people. Yet Jesus' prayer is that they be one.

So if we are all diverse, different, share unique gifts and talents, how might we be unified in a common cause?

By working independently? Or working and living in unity?

St Paul reminds us of the unity of the body in 1 Corth 12. there are many parts that make up the body and many functions, yet there is one body. Each part is vital to the rest and each part is part of the team.

We are a church with a common purpose. We are united in Christ and united by Christ. How we live that out, **is the exciting part.**

Our mission statement encourages us to remind ourselves that we follow the ways of Jesus, he is our model, coach and he is our way.

As a church we have been unified through past experiences, some of which have caused divisions. We have worked through hard times and testing times and also times of joy and celebration. There have been times of common and shared experiences. And through all this, the glue that has held us together is our common faith and unity in God, and faith in Jesus Christ.

Yet on a micro level we may not be as unified as Jesus would pray. We might not get on with everybody, all the time. We might form groups and factions and even disagree at times. These are the things that we hold in tension, Yet, (the optimist in me says) they are that which we can work on.

Sometimes disagreements and working through disagreements can be a catalyst to raise the bar of expectation and seek common goals. Our differences can become opportunities for growth and even conversion, reconciliation and wholeness.

One of the great things about the church is that its not our church. Sometimes we might think it is, we might have spent all our life in it, but its no more our church than it is some else's. it Jesus' church!

You know its God who has brought us all together, each and everyone of us, and each made in the image of God. It is the Holy Spirit which is poured out on all flesh, not just a select few.

Jesus' final prayer, his heart burst prayer is for unity. That his church, be one in him.

So let us celebrate our oneness, our uniqueness and even our diversity, all within the inclusiveness and welcoming embrace of God, with all the love of Christ and with all the power and energy of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus prays for his church, he prays for us. Today is an encouragement, and an affirmation of our life in God, our union with God in Christ. After all we are the Uniting Church, whose publicity campaign is called *uniting church uniting people*. How unifying is that.

**We**, we are the church- us, not the building, nor the institution, for we are the body, dispersed and diverse, but one body of and in Christ Jesus. The church is outside the building –currently locked out, dispersed – which sounds a bit like the NT church

We are one in Christ, for he has ordained it. And to quote from a modern day prophet/vocalist – Bobo from U2 -We are one, but we're not the same and yes, we get to carry each other. One!  
**One love... one life**

### **Communion – one, one in Christ, one body, one love**



Words dance into cyberspace  
bouncing off satellites, dancing through cable:  
my voice rocketing through the stratosphere here-  
ricocheting into your ear there.  
Your thumbs type text and even as you press send,  
I receive your message.  
Across the miles the image of your presence  
hovers on my screen, our voices intertwining on this internet.  
My grandparents were as proud  
of their telegraph, reliable mail service,  
and the wonder of the telephone.

And for all this, Lord,  
are we better connected?  
Has all this technology  
enabled us to live more peacefully,  
more in tune with one another?  
Have all our inventions  
increased our capacity for compassion  
or changed the desires of our hearts?  
As our means of communication  
increase in clarity and capacity  
and speed and sophistication,  
....touch our hearts.  
May our longing to reach one another  
be matched by our yearning  
to learn your language of love.

And so we gather, at Jesus invitation, where we put aside the gifts of technology that unite and assist us with communication, to this moment – of sign and symbol – of communion, communion with our Lord Jesus Christ and

communion with each other in this, the Lord's Supper – where we see and taste the gifts of **love** and **welcome** in bread and juice, where we see and feel the love of community in the Triune God and with each other. To this moment of communication of the Love of God, in the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Come, let us break bread together with the Lord

**Song TIS 511** *Let us break bread together*

**Let us break bread together with the Lord!**

**Let us break bread together with the Lord!**

**As we travel through this land,  
all God's children hand in hand,  
Lord, fill all our living with your life.**

**2**

**Let us drink wine together with the Lord**

**3**

**Let us sing songs together with the Lord**

**4**

**Let us all work together for the Lord**

Invitation:

*This is the table, not just in this place but the Lords table where ever 1,2,3, or more gather. We might be absent from each other by distance but we are one in Christ. This Sacrament is made ready for those who love Jesus a little but want to love him more. So come, whether you have much faith or whether you have little. Whether you have gathered around the Table often or have not been for a long time.*

*Come, because you are invited by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is his will that all those who want to know him should meet him here.*

*Whilst the invitation to share in Communion is open to all, We also acknowledge today that there may be some who will choose to abstain from taking the elements in this context, and so we hold you in the love of Christ and of this community.*

*Christ communes with us. Christ comes among us and feeds us with his word and sacrament.*

O God,  
You created the heavens and the earth,  
and from the tiniest seeds, you filled the earth with life.  
You called your people to walk by faith, not by sight,  
and you anointed faithful rulers to lead them in your ways.

Then, Jesus, came among us  
sharing stories of your love and grace  
and teaching us the mysteries of your kingdom.  
He died at the hands of those who take pride in brute force,  
and in his death, all have died.  
But you raised him to life for us,  
and in him everything has become new.

And so we praise you with the faithful of all times and all places, gathered here and afar, with one voice and one prayer:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of life and love*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory*

*Hosanna in the highest*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord*

*Hosanna in the highest*

### **Institution**

Let us once again hear the words of institution as recorded by St Paul who writes

*For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

### ***Taking and lifting B&W and invocation***

Holy Spirit of God, by your presence renew us and refresh us that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you. May these elements of Bread and Juice be for us a sharing in the body and blood of Jesus. Take us, shape us, mould us and remake us.

*Break and pour*

*Invitation to share at home*

### **Distribution**

Let us pray: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  
Thank you, God, for drawing us near  
to your heart of compassion  
through this meal  
and in this fellowship.  
Thank you for refreshing us at this table  
with the Bread of Life.

### **Our Offering prayer**

How shall we respond to the good news in Christ? One way is to hear the affirmations of God in scripture Lamentation 3

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,<sup>[b]</sup>

God's mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is thy faithfulness.

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts through electronic giving, e-give and in other ways as we worship through virtual church –through the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may

help to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.

### **Prayers for others**

O God, we pray this day:  
 for all who have a song they cannot sing,  
 for all who have a burden they cannot bear,  
 for all who live in chains they cannot break,  
 for all who wander homeless and cannot return,  
 for those who are sick and for those who tend them,  
 for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,  
 for those who live in hunger  
 and for those who will not share their bread,  
 for those who are misunderstood,  
 and for those who misunderstand,  
 for those who are captives  
 and for those who are captors,  
 for those whose words of love  
 are locked within their hearts  
 and for those who yearn to hear those words.  
 Have mercy upon these, O God.  
 Have mercy on us all.  
 Lord hear our prayers

### **Song Song Tis 473 Community of Christ**

**Community of Christ,  
 who make the Cross your own,  
 live out your creed and risk your life  
 for God alone:  
 the God who wears your face,  
 to whom all worlds belong,  
 whose children are of every race  
 and every song.**

**Community of Christ,  
 look past the Church's door  
 and see the refugee, the hungry,  
 and the poor.  
 Take hands with the oppressed,  
 the jobless in your street,  
 take towel and water, that you wash  
 your neighbour's feet.**

**Community of Christ,  
 through whom the word must sound  
 cry out for justice and for peace  
 the whole world round:  
 disarm the powers that war  
 and all that can destroy,  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish  
 into joy.**

**When menace melts away,  
so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace  
and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love  
and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one  
for evermore.**

**Blessing**

Go in peace to love and serve the Christ and the world.  
And may God the creator go on creating within us.  
God in Jesus Christ, sit at table in our midst  
And the Spirit surround us all with grace. Amen.