

Morialta Worship. Sunday June 14th 2020

Prepared by Margaret Cargill, Rev Bob

Call to worship

Creator of all, we gather today thankful that you have welcomed us.

How do we know when God is with us? There are times when we are led where we do not plan to go. Let us come to this time of worship, open ourselves to God, and begin our journey.

Let us worship together, separated yet connected, through shared words heard and spoken, shared songs sung, shared longings felt and expressed. Welcome, wherever you are, to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians on whose land this church was built, and we likewise acknowledge the first peoples of all the places where this service of worship is shared. We pay our respects to their elders both past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the first peoples living today. We commit ourselves to work actively alongside Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice in our land.

Opening

We open the Bible, which enables us to listen to the memories, understandings and wisdom of our elders in the faith. We pour water to remind ourselves of our own baptism into the faith. And we light the candle to remember and celebrate the presence of the light of Christ with us, here and everywhere.

Song: TIS 474 Gather us in

**Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,**

**brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of your name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Prayer

*Called:
There's a whisper inside of us:
Most of the time we can ignore it if we so choose,*

*and often we neglect it;
But its insistent, compelling voice reminds us
that our lives are not without meaning,
that we have a contribution to make,
that we are called.*

*This called-ness can be hard for us, Jesus,
We are all too aware of our denials of you,
of all the ways we've failed to live up to our promise;
We're not sure that there aren't others who are more than we are:
more faithful,
more responsible,
more organised,
more committed,
more able.
But, it seems that you don't really hear our objections, our excuses;
all you ever seem to say is just, "Follow me."*

*So, if you see in us something worth calling;
If you are committed to empowering us,
infilling us,
using us,
then all we can do is respond,
nervously, but wholeheartedly,
"Yes".*

Reflection spot This is an amazing week to be involved in leading a dispersed gathering of God's people in worship! And invited to share some of the reflections that have been part of the journey – to which I said “a nervous but wholehearted ‘yes’”, to quote from the prayer we just shared.

- Background: We're involved with Covid-19 opening up and keeping vulnerable people as safe as can be; refugee week is coming up, and noticing the suffering of asylum seekers with no visible means of support once fragile casual jobs are gone ...
- Then the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis breaks– a publically visible, videotaped example of racially-based violent injustice, within the context of

the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the US. This is quite close to home for us -my husband Colin, last week's worship leader, was studying in Alabama in 1968 when Martin Luther King Jnr was assassinated. We have close friends living not far from Minneapolis.

- Outpourings of rage and demands for justice occur in the US, not all of them peaceful – and political posturing, even using the Bible. It was easy to feel a bit self-righteous here.
- And then, very uncomfortable promptings emerged here at home. Why was I not equally angry about more than 400 black deaths in custody, with zero convictions of perpetrators, all since the government report in 1991 making recommendations about how to solve the problems?
- Why? How could I have ignored what I 'knew'? But now, an opportunity opens up to engage – both with these facts and events, and with words of Jesus and of the OT prophets, words that I know and love and have largely ignored in terms of actually doing anything uncomfortable.
- So –I watch the current affairs programs, listen to the oppressed talking about their experiences. Yes, oppressed. Here. Then, I read the biblical words again – and begin to think more deeply about the meanings for today, and for me. One of the emails I shared with Bob this week said “I need to have my unquestionably white, middle-class privilege destabilised by actual humility of the Micah kind!” You know, Micah 6:8: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Justice – a favourite definition is “what love looks like in public”. Walk humbly with God –this week, this feels like, listen, feel with – com-passion. And speak out, take action, when we can. (Shared by Margaret Cargill)

Song TIS 161 Tell out my Soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;**

in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age to age the same;

his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

to children's children and for evermore!

Scripture

Genesis 18:1-15

Psalms 100

Matthew 9:35 thru to chpt 10:8

Reflection

Prayers: offering and for others

We pray together. We dedicate now the offerings we have made and will make, electronically and in other ways, to support the mission and ministry of this church and the coming of the kin-dom of God, here and wherever there is need. May our efforts and our actions be joined with the gifts we give, in Jesus' name.

We pray for others:

Jesus,

in a time of confusion, you teach a daring way forward,

in the presence of despair, you proclaim good news,

in the midst of dis-ease, you bring peace and health.

Good Shepherd,

in this strange and sorry season on this Earth,

we often feel like sheep without a guide.

May we feel you near, so that we may

experience your compassion for your twenty-first century people,

embody your hope for our pandemic planet,

work for your vision for a world where everyone can breathe.

May demons of racism and hatred be cast out.

May we become labourers of right relationship,

harvesting connection and community.

May we know ourselves sent out to serve and support

the overwhelmed, oppressed, and under-loved,

the hurting, harassed and helpless,

the tired, troubled, and thrown to the ground.

Your way is demanding.

The cost of discipleship is high.

Creator God, you are the giver of life.

Saviour Jesus, you have shown us what it is to love.

Guiding Spirit, you awaken us to justice.

May we learn how to build a just future, where all people have equal opportunity to belong and to flourish in your vitality and love.

We ask for mercy for people in limbo on temporary visas,

for safety for those seeking permanent protection,

for reunion for families who are separated by borders,

and for relief for those losing hope within our detention systems.

We pray for First Nations Peoples fighting for justice on their own Lands,

for survivors of domestic violence

and for creation groaning under climate disruption.

May we live out your inclusive love and live into your Kin-dom

where all people have equal opportunity to belong and flourish.

Work through us, towards a just future.

May we be your faithful disciples. Amen

(Adapted from a Facebook post by Diaconal Minister Ted Dodd and prayers from Common Grace)

Song TIS 648 Help us accept each other

**Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are
ourselves
accepted
and meant to love and live.**

2

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.**

3

**Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practise your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table* of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.**

4

**Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!**

Blessing

In the name of the Living God, peace and grace
That you may have love according to your needs,
That you may have the joy that money cannot buy,
That you may have peace that the world cannot give,

It is time to get going: 'Life with its path before you lies,
'Christ is your way and Christ your goal.'