

Morialta UC Worship June 28 2020

Call to worship

No matter who we are,
regardless of where we have been,
or what has happened to us along our way,
At each and every moment
God reaches out to us with arms wide open in welcome
and says:
'Ah, here you are, I have been waiting for you.
I am overjoyed that you have come.'
And so it is that today as we come to worship and pray
we are held steadfastly in God's warm embrace.

Acknowledge Land

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the country on which we gather in worship and fellowship. We commit to remembering culture, customs and ways of life. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land on which we meet. We are mindful of those gone before us and those present and those to come, that we share this land.

Song of praise TIS 156 Morning has broken

Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
praise for the morning,
praise for them, springing
fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung from completeness
where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight;
mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day.

Lighting of the candle

In the candle we acknowledge the presence of the Christ –Light of the World, Light for our World, in whose presence we gather to worship, to be in the midst of others, to bring our whole selves to worship

Centring prayer

Let us be still for a few moments and co-create a space for
more gratitude,
greater compassion,
sensitive understanding,
soft human emotions,
and honesty.
Gratitude to be alive and to have choices...
With compassion to give and receive...
Understanding as to build bridges and seek creative solutions...
Emotions as to be approachable and real...
Honesty and integrity to thoroughly take into account all perspectives...
(Silence)
We gather... all people, distanced yet connected;
all people varied, yet one.
Together we seek a balance between individual needs and communal possibilities, now in these moments and beyond, amen

Song God's incarnation (Lauda Anima (Praise my soul) TiS 179

We can be God's incarnation
When we live in love and peace;
God's own kingdom is reflected
When all wars and conflicts cease;
With the promise
Of true justice
We may see God's reign increase.

We can be God's incarnation
When we care for all around;
God's own kingdom is reflected
When in kindness we are bound;
In our living
And our giving
God's own action can be found.

We can be God's incarnation
When we link with Galilee;
God's own kingdom is reflected
In our life and ministry,
When with Jesus
We find purpose
Bringing love to victory.

Prayers of confession and who we are

Gracious God,
we confess that we have transgressed against you
in thought, word and action.
You have given us love,
but we have returned apathy;
you have provided us with neighbours,
yet we have become self-centred;
you have given us a world to enjoy,
but we have spoiled our home.

Forgive us for the wrong things we have done,

and for the good things we have failed to do.
Give us time to change,
with the desire and the will to do so. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Here is the good news:
when we are empty, God fill us;
when we are disheartened, God is compassionate;
when we are wounded, God brings healing;
when we confess our failing, God forgives.
In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,
we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Lord's prayer

**O God of all and in all,
Hallowed be your name,
May your way of love 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 you reign in the glory and power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen**

Scripture readings

Matthew 10: 40-42

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and

whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the LORD;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the desolate pit,^[a]
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.^[b]

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.”^[c]

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.

¹² For evils have encompassed me
without number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,
until I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.

¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

¹⁴ Let all those be put to shame and confusion
who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire my hurt.

¹⁵ Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”

¹⁶ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

¹⁷ As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God.

Sermon

Song: 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’ry day?**

**Choose kindness, choose tenderness,
Choose patience, choose love
Choose mercy, choose empathy,
Walk humbly with your God.**

**Choose justice, choose faithfulness,
Choose wisdom, choose grace.
Choose goodness, choose gentleness,
God's light will guide your way**

Prayers offering and for others

God of love and grace,
you have led and sustained us
in our journey over the years and in the past forty three years.
For this we humbly give thanks.

We give thanks also for the women and men
who have been the servant hearted leaders on the journey.
For all those who have nurtured and encouraged your Church
as we have faithfully sought to live as Christ's ones.

Please, O God forgive our failures to act justly, to love with mercy
and to walk humbly with you. When as Church we have caused
others to stumble or caused others hurt, forgive us, and lift them
up in your love.

God of abundant life we pray that as a fellowship of reconciliation
we might more truly reflect the beauty of your creation.

May we Loving God be a passionate people
who share in Christ's unfinished mission
the reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation

Loving God you put in the hearts of men and women
your passion for unity and called a pilgrim people to embrace this
vision. Now, oh God, your Spirit is calling us to the new things you
are doing with us, First and Second Peoples, one in Christ.

We pray that we might in our love for one another
reflect your love for all humanity, and your care and concern for
the whole creation. In this, may your grace, love and peace renew
your creation. In the name of the Christ. Amen

Blessing

The LORD bless you- and keep you;
²⁵ may the Lord's face shine on you- and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD'S FACE BE TURNED toward you- and give you peace."

