

# Morialta Uniting Church

Mission Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

Prepared by Rev Doug Hosking and Bev Tredrea

*Worship Leader: Bev Tredrea*

*Bible Reader: Kath Cheel*

*Preacher: Tarlee Leondaris, Covenanting and International Mission*

*Officer for the Synod of South Australia*

The light of Christ is with us: the Word is open

Welcome to this service of worship, and wherever you are may be God's peace be with you.

Today we recognise the work of the Uniting Church in our own land and places beyond Australia in our annual Mission Sunday service of worship.

A special welcome today to Tarlee Leondaris who is the Covenanting and International Mission Officer of our Synod and we sincerely thank her for accepting our invitation. I know that she is sorry that she cannot meet us in person but we can get to know her though the message she has for us,

## **Acknowledgement of Land**

As we gather in this place we give thanks to the Kurna people. We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made across the generations to nurturing this land. We honour the custodians of sacred stories, of dreamings and the connections with the deep earth. Together may we walk into the future to continue to love and care for all creation.

We pay respect to those who have gone before us in all our places of worship.

## **Call to worship**

From Genesis: I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.

From Proverbs: God sometimes takes us into troubled waters.

Not to drown us but to cleanse us.

From Luke: Faith does not make things easy: it makes things possible

From John: God is light, in Him there is no darkness.

## **Our first song is from TIS 179**

**Praise with joy the world's creator,  
God of justice love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of greatness without cease,  
Celebrate the maker's glory,  
Power to rescue and release.**

**Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost,  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence-  
Friend and stranger, guest and host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide,  
celebrate the Spirit's treasure.  
Foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker Son and Spirit  
One God in community,  
Calling Christians to embody  
Oneness and diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe, when  
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession**

God of many names, Creator, Yahweh, Holy One, loving Father, Lifegiver  
Merciful God

Whatever name that is in our hearts, we come to pray and offer our thanks to you. We thank you for your love for us as we are. Creator of all, the One who sent Jesus to us to lead us to You.

Merciful God, it is to you we confess that we have not been to others as we ought to have been. We have been neglectful when we should have been supportive. Our lives have been lessened by our thoughtlessness and we have not been true to your word. We ask you to forgive us and lead us to live lives that care for others and love and serve you.

In the name of Jesus Amen

## **FOCUS FOR MISSION SUNDAY**

Our congregation decided that in 2020 we would support 3 projects, Frontier Services, health education in Timor Leste and disaster relief in the Pacific Islands. In April this year, cyclone Harold caused great destruction to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, Uniting World stepped up to support those who lost their homes and businesses.

We have not been able to fund raise in our usual way this year, but would love you to support the Morialta decisions to make our donations to these causes, by sending in your donation to the church, indicating of course that the money is for Beyond Morialta Mission Projects.

**Now let us sing TIS 411**

**Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord  
The infant church confessed its risen Lord:  
O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
No less your power of fellowship display.**

**Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
That unity may be our great desire:  
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,  
And readiness in each to work for all.**

**Widen our love, good spirit, to embrace  
In your strong care all those of every race:  
Like wind and fire with life among us move  
Till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.**

## **Our Bible Reading today is from Matthew 14 13-21**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew to a place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late: send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves". Jesus said to them, "They need not go away, you give them something to eat." They replied "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, and all ate and were filled: and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Message (see insert)

We now sing hymn 459 TIS

**In Christ there is no east or west,  
In Him no south or north,  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find,  
His service to the golden cord  
Close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
What 'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as his child  
Is surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,  
In Him meet south and north,  
All Christlike souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we bring ourselves, along side this money in cash and electronically, for the work and worship of this congregation, the wider Church and the community, because of our commitment to you, each other and our world. Accept these gifts, we pray, in the name of Christ. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR OTHERS**

Today we pray for Morialta's Mission Projects.  
We pray for the work of the Frontier Services.  
We pray for the people of outback Australia.

For Aboriginal communities, isolated from the centres of political power, and the seeking to break the bonds of oppression and determine the direction of their future.

We pray for people living on remote pastoral properties, many facing drought or floods, as well as isolation.

We pray for the Bush Chaplains as they seek to be agents of your justice, love and reconciliation.

Let us pray for the peoples of the Pacific Islands.

God of Kava bowls and coconuts

Spread your mat, sit with us, talk with us.

Teach us of the new life that comes after death.

Help us understand when cyclones destroy what we have laboured for.

Give us patience to begin the painstaking rebuilding.

When we believe we have arrived

remind us of our pilgrim nature,

Continue to give us fresh insights about what it means to be the church.

Increase our sense of partnership with the churches of the Pacific

as together we seek to be faithful witnesses to the love of Christ.

Amen.

We pray for the people of Timor Leste.

We pray, Father, that the efforts of the churches in Timor Leste to grow in unity may be fulfilled.

May Christians continue to uphold integrity and truth, justice and righteousness.

May Christians be a community for the people, faithful and imaginative in their ministries, and sensitive and generous in their relations with people of other faiths and persuasions.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as 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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **COMMISSIONING**

Go in the world, but do not go alone.

Go with each other as loving and grace-filled companions on the way.

Go always with God, who is our ever-present friend and guide.

### **BLESSING**

And may the sacred be found beside your feet,  
holiness spread itself across the skies and above you  
and the mystery of God break forth from every bud of life.