

Morialta UC Worship 9th August 2020



Welcome to you in this place, in your place. In Jesus, when two or three or more gather, we are confident that God is with us and among us.

Prayer -

We pray: Spirit of God,
We have gathered here in (virtual) community.
A place has been made for each of us.
Let what we say and do be both real and honest,
thus preparing ourselves for the life of the world.
Amen. (Rex Hunt – adapted)



Acknowledgment of Land

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and Her Peoples. From Time beyond our reckoning, the Kurna People have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and concern and we acknowledge their rich cultural history. We honour their Elders and Leaders, past and present. May we walk respectfully on this land and in our working together in relationship and truth, now and into the future.

Song: God of creation (tune: Morning Has Broken)

God of Creation
Gentle life-giver
Present at birth, and
all through our days
Author of sunrise
Song in the night sky
Here in this place, we
offer our praise

Jesus, Companion
teacher and healer
friend of the grieving,
suffering, the poor
Stand with your people

whisper among us
promise of mercy
goodness for all

Spirit of Comfort
blow through Creation
stir up new life, breathe
peace through our world
Healer of hearts, and
hope for tomorrow
weave all our sorrows
into new dawn

Here we give thanks for
life in its fullness
blessings received
your gifts to us all
Make us a people
filled with compassion
selflessly giving
serving your world

(Craig Mitchell, 2010 May be used in worship with acknowledgement)

Prayer

In this moment, in this time and in this place we pray

(God), We do not want to be a people of fear. / We want to be a people of courage / We do not want to be a people / Who protect only our own safety / We want to be people / Who protect our neighbours' safety. / We do not want to be people of greed: / We want to be people of generosity. / We are your people God, / We want to be giving and loving and respectful, / Wherever we are, / We do not want to be people of fear: / We want to be people of courage. May it be so!) *Amen.*

Prayer by Barbara Glasson, president of the Methodist Conference, Britain (Adapted by Sojourners, June 2020)

Song Spirit of Peace

When people despair, we would bring hope
In the shadow of fear, we would show faith
When hatred divides, we would renew
To people alone, we would bring love
Spirit of love: Spirit send love
Spirit of love: Spirit send love

When people are bound, we would make free
In the darkness of doubt, we would affirm
Where others escape, may we endure
When people make war, we would bring peace
Spirit of peace: Spirit send peace
Spirit of peace: Spirit send peace

Bible reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon

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'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

Dedication of offering & prayer

Spirit of God,
brooding over the waters of our chaos,
inspire us to generous living.
Breath of God,
inspiring communication among strangers,
Make us channels of your peace,
May we give and live – in deep thankfulness.

Take all that we offer – our gifts and our very selves – and use them to make known your great works of justice among all people, and proclaim the good news of your never-ending love.
In the name of the Christ, who calms our deepest fears, we pray. Amen.



Holy Communion

The Invitation

This table is not set for an illustrious banquet, it is sparsely set – one cup, one plate. It is food at its simplest – bread and wine – but it is an extravagant feast.

This meal is not the exclusive domain of a knowing few.
Jesus invited all to the feast of peace.
Jesus risked everything in compassion.
Jesus promised to make himself known in the breaking of bread..

Here at this table, love proves stronger than death.

God of our present season of winter, and of all seasons, in calm waters and in turbulent waters of life, together with all creation we sing:

Holy, holy, holy, Re-creating God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Story

We recall the story of the last supper, when Jesus and his friends were gathered around a table. After they had finished eating, Jesus took some bread, prayed a prayer of thanks to God, broke the bread, then gave it to his friends saying, 'This is my body broken for you, do this to remember me.'

And then he took a cup, and after once again giving thanks to God, he gave it to his friends saying, 'Drink from this cup all of you, this is the sign of a new covenant between you and God, do this and remember me.'

Let us therefore break bread together.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

So we pray: Come Holy Spirit, in this act of eating bread and drinking wine, flow in and around us. Open our eyes truly to the brokenness of the world, our hearts with love and respect for our neighbours. Motivate us with courage to become the hands and feet of God, partnering with others, and ready us to take our role as agents of change and reconciliation.

The Lord's Prayer: In Communion we join ourselves to all your people and we pray:

***O God of all and in all,
hallowed be your name,
may your way of love 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 you reign in the glory that is love,
now and forever. Amen.***

We eat this bread and acknowledge our place in a fractured, suffering and beautiful world *The bread is broken*

We drink this cup as an act of faith, believing that brokenness is not the end of the story, but that forgiveness is real and the active healing power of life reconciles and re-creates all things anew.

The cup is lifted

So the table is set and the meal is ready, come take your place, come with your questions and with your answers, come with your flaws and imperfections, come because you love a little and are open to loving more.

Distribution

All is ready now, receive the gifts of God. “The Bread of Life.” “The Cup of Compassion” .(take this time to break and eat and drink together where you are)

Prayer after communion

We thank you, God of compassion, that you have nourished us with the bread of life and the wine of hope. As in Christ your love flowed out to those around him, so may your love flow through us to others as we too are open to others. May hope be released in all of us. Through Jesus our hope and our life. Amen.

(Communion from Neryl McCallum; Rex Hunt, William Loader)

Prayer of intercession

We bring our prayers of for others (and ourselves):

Timeless God, in this era of widespread Covid -19 trauma, and increasing economic devastation, firstly we honour and pray for the helping hands of many: those at the coalface: medical, policing, scientists, food providers, - and many more .. Those we know and those we do not know – we hold them in our prayer. May we always choose to follow closely the measures of safety for the benefit of others and ourselves.

Just as Jesus extended his hand to Peter, may we join in with others to extend a helping hand to those trapped in waters of chaos in their lives. Those nearby and those further out.

We pray for truth- telling and healing from racism in our own country and in the wider world. and that this begins with me

We pray for those suffering from violence – at home or elsewhere. May they be enabled to step out of the boat and the waters of victimisation and find trusted hands to help them.

May those fleeing violence, war and starvation encounter individuals, communities and countries standing out from the crowd who share your welcoming heart. and practical love. For those who suffer from extortion and injustice, political or religious oppression, cruel economic exploitation, or domestic tyranny. For those who seek asylum and refuge who can find no home.

We pray for – those who are sick, frightened, confused, lonely. Those we know and those we don't know.

We pray for near-at-hand neighbours: at work, in our street, in supermarkets, banks, schools and hospitals; all who are in trouble and at their wit's end. For our bruised and weeping neighbours: those just made redundant, pained by divorce, grieving over a wayward child or weeping hot tears at a grave side.

Holy Friend, we pray for the neighbours in our church: the weak and the strong, the shy and the outgoing, the leaders and the followers, the newcomers and the familiar faces, those bearing secret burdens and those buoyant with happiness.

May we trust your way and love our neighbour as ourselves. Amen.

(“World News this Week in Prayer”)-

reflection: O God in Jesus You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand
I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine
Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now:
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger

Song TIS 421 Where the Spirit is

Where the Spirit is there's freedom.
Where the Spirit is, there is life!

1
Not by the world can our freedom be nourished,
not by our things, only by Spirit.
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit,
drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!

Refrain

2
Heaven on earth, here we live free to
love and to share, carried by joy.
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit,
daring today to taste of God's future!

Refrain

3
Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened,
imaging God, reflecting Jesus.
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit:
heaven is here, time made eternal!

Refrain

Commissioning and Blessing

Give thanks to God who lives in the whirlwind and calms the storms.
Give thanks to God who is with us when we sink in despair and lifts us into joy again
Give thanks to God that we have received this good news.
Give thanks to God that we are sent to bear the good news to others.