

## Morialta UC Worship May 10th 2020

### From the Garden/ Mother's Day

**Jan Sillett, Rhonda Amber, Rev Bob, Chris Ayles (Reader)**

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

Welcome to our From the Garden service. I am Jan Sillett and along with Rhonda Amber, Chris Ayles and Reverend Bob Hutchinson it is our joy to present this service for you. We hope that all of the flower, fruit and vegetable and pot plant arrangements will bring you joy and that the words and prayers will bring you into our worship garden.



**Light the candle**

As we light the candle, we focus on our first "From the Garden" arrangement. It circles the candle as a wreath reflecting God's light and love for all creation. Where ever we are worshipping today may God's light shine upon us.

#### **Call to worship** (inspired by *John 15:1-8*)

Hello to where you are gathered this day. We at Morialta Uniting Church, welcome you to our worship time. We gather in God's name.

Hear the words of Jesus, 'I am the true vine, and God is the vine-grower... Abide in me as I abide in you. I am the vine; you are the branches.'

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are part of the vine, nourished by God, and you are welcome to worship at Morialta Church.

#### **Acknowledgement of land**

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out on this land by those who have cared for this Land since time beyond measure. We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come. May we be mindful of the calling God places on humanity to care for Creation. May we take the lead from the Kurna People whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them in God's Covenant.



**Our second arrangement** is of flowers and apples.

The apple has been associated with the creation story since Christianity began. You will notice that an apple is cut in half in front of the arrangements. If you are able, or perhaps later, cut across an apple to see the star that is formed in its centre. Each star is different and this star is especially for you to lead you to Christ as the bright star led others to the Christ child on that first Christmas day.

#### **Prayer of thanksgiving**

God of grace, in the story of creation, you made the earth a garden and entrusted it to us to till and to keep, a place of peace and beauty where we could walk with you.

In the story of redemption, the one who died for us was buried in a garden, and there you raised him up to greet us with new hope and risen life.

In the story of the Church, you tend us as a garden, a place of careful pruning and abundant harvest, where we can work with you. Meet us, we pray, in all the gardens where we go for nourishment, refreshment and prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Source acen.anglicancommunion)

#### **A prayer of confession: Creation Care**

I'm another in the long line of admirers.

Eve and Adam admiring the garden,

Abram staring, open-mouthed, at the stars,

Elijah running through a beautiful rain,

and David singing, always singing on the hillsides.

God's praises being sung through the ages,

praise to a Creator whose work stands the test of time.

This time, it's my turn.

I close the computer, open the back door  
and step into the garden.

My heart is a sounding board  
for the night sky, deep with stars.

The fragrance of today's rain still lingers,  
and the crickets are singing all night long.

It's God's earth and I care for it.

So what do we do about the  
parts per million invisible to the naked eye  
that change our atmosphere, thinning the ice cap,  
raising the oceans, transforming our weather?  
What about the beached whales, the bewildered polar bears,

the news of one more species never to be seen again?

Creation has cared for me, nurtured me,  
held me close and taught me to sing.  
I don't know what it will be today:  
a song of lament, a song of justice,  
a chant for peace, a chant for change,  
a hymn for hope, a hymn for healing?  
Open now my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will sing out your song.

**Song TIS 168 for the fruits of creation**  
**For the fruits of all creation,**  
**thanks be to God;**  
**for his gifts to every nation,**  
**thanks be to God;**  
**for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,**  
**silent growth while we are sleeping,**  
**future needs in earth's safe keeping,**  
**thanks be to God.**

**2**  
**In the just reward of labour,**  
**God's will is done;**  
**in the help we give our neighbour**  
**God's will is done;**  
**in our worldwide task of caring**  
**for the hungry and despairing,**  
**in the harvests we are sharing,**  
**God's will is done.**

**3**  
**For the harvests of the Spirit,**  
**thanks be to God;**  
**for the good we all inherit,**  
**thanks be to God;**  
**for the wonders that astound us,**  
**for the truths that still confound us,**  
**most of all, that love has found us,**  
**thanks be to God.**

#### **Communion**



O Divine Voice, You sing and the universe comes into being;  
O Divine Breath, You breathe and all things spring to life;

O Divine Word, You call and creation is sustained;  
 O Divine Flesh, You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation;  
 O Divine Spirit, You contain all that has been formed;  
 O Divine Life, You are the pulse of all that is;  
 And so, in faith and expectation, in wonder and celebration  
 we gather to remember this mystery:  
 In you all things live and move and have being,  
 In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry;  
 And so we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and devotion.  
 Amen.

The Lord is with us.  
 We lift our hearts to God.  
 We give thanks to God.

We acknowledge that our worship today is taking place in many different locations and we are mindful of the things which are absent — the tangible physical presence of the whole community, the physical distribution of the elements among the gathered people. At the same time we are thankful for the community of the ongoing presence of Christ and the body of Christ separated by distance, yet one in Christ.

We also acknowledge today that there may be some of you 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. Even in, and especially these difficult times, Christ communes with us. Christ comes among us and feeds us with his word and sacraments.  
 Let us pray together 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**

**Setting apart the elements**

**Invocation of Spirit**





The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
And the Lord's glory covers the earth  
as the waters over the sea.  
The trees of the field clap their hands,  
the birds of the air sing songs of praise  
And if we should fail to express our worship,  
even the rocks and stones would cry out!  
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices



Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth  
you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us.  
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross,  
Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it.  
Then he passed it among them saying:  
This is my body, broken for you.  
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

***(invite people to take their bread, and break it)***  
*The bread is broken in the sight of the people.*



Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,  
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,  
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.  
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,  
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.  
Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my life, my blood shed for you.  
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

*The cup of wine is held up in the sight of the people.(invite people to pour or take their cup and lift)*



***(Hold cup and bread)***

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,  
Mindful of how you laid your life down,  
so that we and creation could be born anew;  
Mindful of how you took your life up again,  
so that we and creation could be filled with the life abundant;  
Mindful that we cannot earn or purchase this privilege,  
but that it is your grace which beckons us,  
and your grace which ensures that all creation may be one and whole.  
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,  
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's life.  
May your Spirit work in we, who are children of earth,  
so that we may be transformed into Christ's body,  
carrying his life, his care, and his love to all creation. Amen.

We break bread together and sharing in the drinking of the cup together

The gifts of God for the people of God

*The Sacrament is shared*

### **Communion Prayer**

God of the feast, we thank you for satisfying us at your table with the body and life of Jesus Christ. In the strength of this meal, refreshed by your Holy Spirit, send us into a hungry world with food and love and Good News to share. © The Anglican Church of Australia This text may be reproduced for use in worship in the Anglican Church of Australia

In this moment and in this meal, we have remembered  
That the whole creation is held in the hand of God  
and that the whole creation is filled with the life of God;  
and that the whole creation is flooded with the Spirit of God;

*Written by John van de Laar © Sacredise 2007. (adapted)*

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**Song** Let us sing TIS 154 Great is your faithfulness

**Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,  
in you no shadow of turning we see;  
you never fail and your love is unchanging:  
as you have been you for ever will be.**

**Great is your faithfulness.  
great is your faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies we see;  
all we have needed your hand has provided:  
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.**

**2**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in unspoken witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**3**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,  
your living presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
these are the blessings your love will provide.**



What a joy it is to focus on our next arrangement. This beautiful arrangement created by Rhonda Amber is full of colour. Rhonda finds peace in her garden in troubled times, lonely times and sad times. Caring for her garden gives her peace within. Whilst finding it difficult to speak about and share her faith, through her flowers her faith speaks and is communicated. As Rhonda shares her God given gift let us look at the beautiful arrangement that she has created. It reflects the colours of the images in our reading today from Psalms. Light, fire, flames, grass, wine, bread, trees, mountains, sun, animals and darkness are all reflected in its presentation. Let us listen to Chris as he presents our reading.

**Reading Psalm 104 God the Creator and Provider**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,<sup>2</sup> wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your<sup>[a]</sup> chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your<sup>[b]</sup> chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

<sup>4</sup> you make the winds your<sup>[c]</sup> messengers, fire and flame your<sup>[d]</sup> ministers.

<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use,<sup>[f]</sup>

to bring forth food from the earth,<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the human heart,

oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

<sup>19</sup> You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.

<sup>23</sup> People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

**Song 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.**

**2**

**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.**

**3**

**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.**

What a blessing it is to be able to tend our gardens. In this time of social isolation, I have found joy in my garden and its many surprises. Russell also finds joy in his garden let us enjoy his YouTube and become swept into his knowledge and love of plants.

Russell's YouTube clip



Russell has discovered many surprises in his greenhouse. Thankyou for sharing with us.



One of my recent surprises was a pumpkin which grew untended and unnoticed in my garden for many weeks. This was the inspiration for the pumpkin arrangement that we will focus on during our offering prayer. I saw the pumpkin as a gift from God. Let us respond to his gifts with our offerings today. There is information on our website for e-offerings.

### **Our Offering prayer**

God of Great gifts, we give you these gifts today knowing that you are the Father of gifts. You mother us constantly providing for us, caring for us.

As we have been abundantly provided for, so we give abundantly to the work that you give us to do, the work of the church, the care for those who are poor.

Accept these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Prayers for others**

*Intercessions: Garden theme*

Bless the garden of your Church, O God.

Guide those who plant and tend it.

Protect the young, strengthen the flourishing,  
and make us fruitful  
in ministry and mission.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the gardens of the world,  
the soil and rain and sunshine,  
and the work of all who sow and reap.  
Give abundant harvests,  
and teach us to share them with justice.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the gardens of our community,  
the shelter of families, the fragrance of friendship.  
In all our care for one another,  
make us grow in wisdom and love,  
in gentleness, kindness and truth.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give tender care to all who are struggling  
through weakness, sickness, grief or change.  
Show us your grace at work  
in the times when growth is painful  
or when death is near.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give eternal life to all whom you love,  
through Jesus Christ, the true vine.  
Give us grace to abide in him as fruitful branches,  
and bring us at last with all your saints to resurrection life.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen



Rhonda's fruit arrangement with vines gathers all into God's garden. Rhonda has added some white chrysanthemums in front of the basket to acknowledge and thank mothers and carers everywhere on this special day.

Our church family are all very special to us and we feel very privileged to create our floral arrangements each week. The flower roster is always open to new members who would like to express their commitment to God through flowers. As we give thanks for gardens you might like to hold or look at a flower or plant that helps you to grow closer to the garden of our Church.

### **A Thanksgiving for Gardens**

God of grace, in the story of creation, you made the earth a garden  
and entrusted it to us to till and to keep, a place of peace and beauty  
where we could walk with you.

In the story of redemption, the one who died for us was buried in a garden,  
and there you raised him up to greet us with new hope and risen life.

In the story of the Church, you tend us as a garden, a place of careful pruning and abundant harvest,  
where we can work with you.

Meet us, we pray, in all the gardens where we go for nourishment, refreshment and prayer,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Rhonda and I and many others get much joy from their gardens and from sharing our gardens with others. Some of our gardens are large, others are small and for some a community garden or shared footpath verge provide the joy of changing seasons and the changing carpet of coloured flowers and leaves. They remind us of the parable of the mustard seed.

#### **Matthew 13 31-32**

*<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*



The last arrangements that Rhonda and I would like to highlight express our shared joy. From a small seed or cutting our gardens have grown and whilst this year we cannot share a small arrangement for you to take home, as we usually do, we hope that sharing God's garden through our arrangements will give you joy.

#### **TIS 152 Joyful Joyful**

**Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;**



hearts unfold like flowers before you  
 opening to the sun above.  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
 drive the dark of doubt away;  
 giver of immortal gladness,  
 fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
 earth and heav'n reflect your rays,  
 stars and angels sing around you,  
 centre of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
 singing bird and flowing fountain  
 call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,  
 ever blessing, ever blest,  
 well-spring of the joy of living,  
 ocean-depth of happy rest.  
 You our Father, Christ our brother,  
 all are yours who live in love;  
 teach us how to love each other,  
 lift us to your joy above.

### Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.  
 May the wind be always at your back.  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
 the rains fall soft upon your fields  
 and until we meet again,  
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

