

*This church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
9:30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Pentecost 9

14th August 2011

Stepping into New Territory

Lighting of the candles

The invitation

A Call to Worship

We have moved through the open doors in hope of finding a place of belonging.

Love is possible.

We cross the boundaries that divide us by ages and stages, ethnicities and genders, hurts and disagreements.

Love is possible.

We open our hearts and ready our hands to reach out to one another and discover One who is within and beyond us.

Love is possible.

And so we gather as the people of God, united through God's mercy.

We gather as one people, to worship and praise God.

We gather, renewed and refreshed by the ever-flowing stream of God's mercy.

We gather, as people blessed by God.

Song: SPG4 27 Gloria

Welcome

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people who God placed as the traditional custodians of the country on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land.

Prayers of who we are – a personal meditation

Holy God, how good it is indeed, when people live in harmony and good will; yet somehow, this does not seem to be the ‘normal’ pattern of community or even family living or lifestyle. Unfortunately too, it does not seem to be the ‘normal’ pattern of life within the faith community – where our vulnerabilities are often tested. Yet this is God’s way: that we should live at peace and in loving acceptance with each other.

We have confidence to pause and reflect on our life and relationships, in the company of God.

A silence is kept

Song: SPG4 62 Moment of unity

In Jesus Christ, centuries of prejudice and legalism were swept away when he reached out and accepted people as they were - accepted them as loved fellow human beings. We know that to follow in the way of the Christ demands an utterly new way of seeing people and being with them unconditionally, but the journey from heart to eyes and hands and feet can be long and difficult. We have confidence to pause and reflect on our life and relationships, in the company of God.

A silence is kept

Song: SPG4 62 Moment of unity

Words of assurance:

In company with God, we have confidence to know ourselves as beloved. Grace and mercy are ours!

Thanks be to God!

Song: SPG4 82 Take my gifts

Early word

A telling of the story

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out

and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15: 21-28)

Witness Geoff Boyce

Time for reflection

Song: SfP 3 Body of Christ

Prayers for others

Introduction

A silence is kept.

O Christ, before us, beside us and behind us,
we see the needs of many.

How can we begin to respond?

Guide us, we pray.

Give us the faith to believe that we can make a difference.

Help us to set an example to our community,
cutting through prejudice

and speaking out for the voiceless among us.

Show us when we need to stop and listen more carefully,

so that those who hardly dare to cry out

can be embraced in love and justice.

We bring to mind people and places around the world this day,
and offer our silent prayers.

A time of silence is kept.

We pray for the church and the world, O God,
that we all may be moved to compassion.

**Bring your healing to the nations,
as well as to individuals.**

Expand the hope of all people,
so that we care more deeply
and give more freely to each other.

**This we pray in faith,
and in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Song: SPG4 20 Embracing all our destiny
The offering will be collected during this song

Offering prayer

God of love, you do long for us all to share in your joy in the world of beauty and wonder, and your questing spirit does long for a world more joyful and humane. May this offering of money, and the offering of our lives – our time, our talents, our willingness to respond to others who cry out for our attention – bring joy into the lives of others. **Amen.**

Blessing

We leave this place to encounter the Unknown, attentive to the hints of the holy in glances and averted eyes, smiles and frowns, restful hands and shaky bodies, laughing and weeping, leaving and coming near. May the God of all be with us as we go.

Go into this week blessed and refreshed by
the grace and mercy of God,
the healing love of Jesus Christ
the sure and certain presence of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Song: SFP4 71 Shalom

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**
Passing the peace.

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This service was prepared by Pat Baker, Ruth Farrent and Sandy Boyce.

The music was led by Jenny Ward and Pilgrim musicians.

Graeme McIntosh led the singing.

Ruth Farrent wrote and performed the modern adaptation of the Gospel reading.

Please join us for fellowship, coffee, tea or water in the hall after this service.