

*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



## Uniting Church Anniversary



Sunday 23rd June, 2013  
10.30am

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

### INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Please stand as the symbols of our life as a congregation are brought to the table – the Bible, the candle and the cross, and bread and wine.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here to give thanks for the faithfulness of our ancestors in faith

**For God has given us gifts of faithfulness.**

We are here to celebrate the gift of diverse ministries that give life to community

**For God has given us gifts for ministry**

We are here to ask a blessing on the future as we move in confidence into a new day.

**For God has given us the gift of hope, a hope that will carry us into a new day.**

In this still singular moment we become ready, ready to take with us our stories from the past, and ready to look into the future, a future filled with promise for us, and for all.

We come to encounter the promises of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### HYMN

(in previous years, this has been All creatures of our God and King CP 250/  
TiS 100, Father Lord of all creation CP 418/TiS 631)

### WELCOME

Acknowledgement of Land

A statement by the President of the Uniting Church in Australia (if Andrew prepares one!)

### CANDLE LITURGY

In prayerfulness

We light this candle for our heritage in the Congregational tradition, with its

commitment to freedom and to the power of the priesthood of all believers

**We stand in that great tradition.**

**And we affirm that the Uniting Church**

**has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

In prayerfulness

We light this candle for our heritage in the Methodist tradition, with its commitment to social justice and its enthusiasm in communicating the gospel.

**We stand in that great tradition.**

**And we affirm that the Uniting Church**

**has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

In prayerfulness

We light this candle for our heritage in the Presbyterian tradition, with its respect for scholarship and its deep understanding of the nature of the church.

**We stand in that great tradition.**

**And we affirm that the Uniting Church**

**has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

In prayerfulness

We light this fourth candle to celebrate that many others, from different traditions, or who have been born since 1977, are now a vital part of the Uniting Church tradition.

**We stand in that great tradition.**

**And we affirm that the Uniting Church**

**has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

In prayerfulness

We light this fifth candle in hope, for a future beckoning to us from the far horizons, the shape of which we are yet to know. We have confidence that God accompanies us on our journey into this unfolding future.

*Silence*

In Christ we are one.

**In Christ everything is made new.**

**Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord of our days, we come to you as many and as one. With many histories and one history, with many tomorrows and one tomorrow, with many ministries and one ministry.

Call us together in faith; trusting that where we are now is where you would have us be. Knowing, deep down, and despite our confusion, that all is well and all manner of things shall be well.

Call us together in hope; believing that there is a new day for the world. Stir us into action, that we may be participants in bringing good news to bear on a troubled creation.

Call us together in love; embracing the different steps in our common journey so that, together, we may be a sign and symbol of your active presence in the world. Lord of our days, we come to you as many and as one.

Called together by you in faith, hope and love, we commit ourselves to ministry and look towards tomorrow. Amen.

Words: Susan Wickham and Leanne Jenksi

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We who are one, confess the times we have been many. Times we have dispersed into our individual lives and forgotten to pray for, and care for, each other. Forgive us if we have lost the dream of your life.

**Bring to us your surprising grace, Jesus Christ.**

We who are one body, confess the times we have fragmented into areas of interest, and competed against each other for power, money and influence. Forgive us if we have lost the dream of your life.

**Bring to us your surprising grace, Jesus Christ.**

We who are one in community confess the times we have been exclusive; times we have thrown out the welcome mat for those who are like ourselves, but shut the door fast in the face of those different from ourselves.

Forgive us if we have lost the dream of your life.

**Bring to us your surprising grace, Jesus Christ.**

We who are gathered here as one community gathered in Christ's name

And the Spirit surround us all with grace. **Amen.**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ postlude, or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church*

Acknowledgements

We express appreciation to all those who prepared or participated in this service today.

Liturgists	Rev Jana Norman, Rev Sandy Boyce
Guest Preacher	
Bible Readers	Jeff Telfer Margaret Boyce
Organist and Choir Director	Peter Kelsall
Assistant organist	Norm Inglis
Pianist	Jenny Ward

The Choir of Pilgrim Church  
9.30 Community Singers  
9.30 Community Musicians

Hymns are from:  
Common Praise (CP)  
Here in this Place (HTP)  
Songs for Pilgrims (SfP)  
Songs for the People of God 4 (SPG4)

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**We commit ourselves in this our Pilgrim congregation;  
for by your love it is here  
that you have called us to serve.  
And we commit ourselves to live in faith  
beyond this building and this body;  
for we believe we are partners with you  
in the ministry of reconciliation in your world. Amen.**

Helen Alexander

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Come in your fullness  
We bring our longings  
Lifegiving Lord, hear our prayer**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

(can we use the NZ prayer)

#### HYMN:

(in past: Go forth for God CP 438; Filled with the Spirit's power CP 425;  
Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer CP 455, TiS 569)

#### WORDS OF MISSION

Call us on to the adventure of your passionate life, O God.  
**Carry us past the boundaries, the near horizons of our small dreams.**

Paint our world in vivid colours so that we see a whole new vision  
of your possibilities.  
**Hold the cup of living water to our lips and breathe into our souls  
the life of your Spirit.**

May we be those who dare to take into our hands your cross of courage,  
justice, hope and love and plant it as the tree of life, abroad in all the earth.  
We ask this in the name of the One who walks this way before us to the end  
of time. **Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Christ and the world.  
And may God the creator go on creating within us.  
God in Jesus Christ, sit at table in our midst

confess the times our own desires and priorities have swamped the legacy  
of hope and the vision of peace and of justice we have inherited from our  
ancestors in faith. Forgive us if we have lost the dream of your life.  
**Bring to us your surprising grace, Jesus Christ.**

*A silence is kept*

**Kyrie? Eg Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie (S.Monreiiro, Brazil)**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The faithfulness of God is stronger than our doubt.  
The compassion of Christ is stronger than our guilt.  
The Spirit of love surrounds us here and now to make us whole.  
**Thanks be to God!**

#### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we read and listen and discuss these ancient words, may  
your Spirit rest upon us.  
**Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing,  
and in our living. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Galatians 3: 23-29

In this is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

##### Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.  
**Everything inside me thirsts for God, for you, the living God. When shall  
the drought break so I can be with you, face to face?**

I've had nothing but tears to sustain me; day and night it's been the same. I  
can't shut out the jeers and taunts, 'Where is this God of yours?'  
**My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me  
continually, "Where is your God?"**

Cherished memories flood my mind, memories of past celebrations. I can  
still hear the laughter and joyous singing, the crowds celebrating your

goodness.

**Why do I feel so defeated? Why am I so anxious and agitated?  
I tell myself not to give up hope, for you are my God and my help, and I'll  
be glad of that again.**

I feel so defeated inside; I try to remind myself of your goodness as I walk  
along the beach to the river mouth and look towards the mountains.

**Deep calls to deep, and II I hear is the roar of waves and churning water.  
I feel like chaos is breaking over me and sucking me down, deeper and  
deeper.**

Every day I read of your steadfast love, LORD; and every night I sing your  
songs and pray to you as the God of my life.

**I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I feel let  
down?**

**Why must I walk about mournfully because others make my life a  
misery?"**

My wounds are deep and painful but the torture goes on; over and over I  
hear the taunts, "Where is this God of yours?" Why do I feel so defeated?

**Why am I so anxious and agitated? I tell myself not to give up hope, for  
you are my God and my help and I'll be glad of that again.**

*(adapted, Nathan Nettleton, Laughing Bird resources)*

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 8: 26-39

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HYMN: Gifts of the Spirit – Helen Wiltshire;**

WITNESS

Hymn Living Spirit, Holy Fire (words used in Pentecost service,  
9.30am)

1.  
Living Spirit, holy fire  
burning bright to light our way  
Blaze among us and inspire  
lives that praise you day by day  
*(repeat)*

2.  
Warm us, draw your people near,  
when our love draws weak or cold.  
Free our frozen hearts from fear,  
that each story may be told.

3.  
Melt away the masks we wear,  
hiding what we know and feel.  
Risking growth, we want to share  
love in action, love that's real.

4.  
Open hearts; affirm us all  
many splendored one in you  
we embrace the work, the call:  
You are making all things new.

*Please remain standing for the Dedication and Affirmation*

DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Generous God, the gathering of gifts reminds us of your eternal grace and  
creativity. May these resources be used wisely and abundantly to renew this  
world and its people. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**God of pilgrim faith,  
as we are called together to be your people,  
we will seek to live by the values and hope  
of Christ Jesus whom we follow.**

**We will honour one another, and seek to be an inclusive community  
in which each one is given justice, dignity and love.**

**As your spirit prompts us,**

**We will seek to discern your will for us  
and act on your call in our lives.**

**We shall be open to discovering your purposes for us  
in all aspects of our personal and corporate life.**

**We commit ourselves to a deepening  
of our knowledge and love of you:**

**in relationship and solidarity with one another,  
through worship together and shared reflection,  
through faithful action in the wider community,  
and in honest fellowship.**