INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 2015

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE
Pilgrim Uniting Church
Welcome to the International Workers Memorial Day Service where we will remember and honour those who have lost their lives at work.

We recognise those who have been here before, and continue to remember and honour loved ones who have lost their lives at work. We recognise and welcome those for whom this is the first time at this service, and for whom grief and loss may be expressed in raw emotions and heavy hearts.

We recognise that for young people, memories of loved ones may have been kept alive through stories told and re-told, and that these stories enable love to endure and flourish.

We come today believing that all human life is valuable, and that the truth and integrity and hopefulness that resides in each life, lives on.

We are today surrounded by love. Let us find strength in each other’s company, and in the company of God who journeys with us.
The Gift of Grace

(please remain seated)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved and set me free
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

The gift of grace has blessed our days
and touched our lives with peace;
this grace has journeyed shadowed ways
and brings love's sweet release.

The gift of grace will hold our pain
and calm our deepest fears;
this grace comes now as gentle rain
to share our grief and tears.

The gift of grace has come as care
to bless our lives anew;
this grace will every sorrow share
and shine like morning dew.

The gift of grace will always flow
and weave a healing space;
this grace has depths we've yet to know
as life's new path we trace.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved and set me free
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.
Prayer

God of love, we come today with heavy hearts that a life has prematurely ended. There was a time “before” and now we live in the time that is “after.” We feel our hearts have been turned inside out, and our lives upside down. There are so many questions that go around and around in our minds, and yet we find no easy answers. Why has this happened to us? Why did this happen at all? Why has this life ended, and when will there be an end to the sorrow? When will the pain be bearable? How will we find strength to face each new day?

A silence is kept.

Music for Reflection

God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven’s sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.

God of compassion, shelter us when we are engulfed in sorrow and overcome with distress. Be our strong refuge in the whirlwind of sadness and pain. Help us reach the place of peace where we can live with our loss. Give wisdom to our family, friends and colleagues as they support us and grant us strength to face each day. Grant us hope, and confidence that we will recover the joy that has been lost, and come to a place of trusting you for all that lies ahead.

Amen.

Reflecting on the Families

Andrea Madeley

Voice of Industrial Death (VOID)
Young Impressions

When a worker loses his or her life, there are often children within that family who not only lose someone they love, they also lose their childhood.

Today we will listen. Today they will have a chance to deliver their own message in their own special way.

Lighting of the Candles

We light our first candle, a single candle that the deepest darkness cannot conquer. Small and insignificant but a sign of hope. Let it speak to us of the tiny flame of hope buried within us, the stubborn little light that refuses to be extinguished, by all that life has thrown at it. The candle is placed on the table.

Music for Reflection

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us, let my doubts and my darkness speak to me. Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us, let our hearts always welcome your love.

We light our second candle, a companion to the first. Equally small, equally insignificant, but witnessing to hope that another light brings. Let it speak to us of the lights of companionship, of families or friends or strangers. Of kindesses found in unexpected places that restored our hope in human nature. The candle is placed on the table.
Music for Reflection

Come and fill our hearts with your peace
You alone O Lord are holy
come and fill our hearts with your peace
Alleluia!

Reading Matthew 5:1-12

The Hon John Rau
Deputy Premier ~ Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations

Reflection

Craig Bossie
Executive Officer
Chaplaincy Services SA

Silent Tears

Each day as evening starts to set
The ache builds in her chest
She knows that she must go to bed
And try to get some rest

She hugs her tear stained pillow close
When no one is around.
And cried for the one that she had lost.
And screams without a sound.

Others see her in the day
And think she is doing well.
But every day as evening sets
She enters her own hell.

She has not healed her pain at all.
Ore quietened her fears.
So every night alone in bed
She sheds those silent tears.

I still had so much I wanted to say to you.
And I don’t want to forget
How your voice sounds.
Prayers for Workers and Workplaces

Today we come trusting in God’s love for the whole world and confident in this love we pray...

Terry Miller  
Asbestos Victims Association (AVA)

We remember those who have died due to a workplace accident or injury and those who have died due to exposure to asbestos or another dangerous substance. We give thanks for the lives of these workers. We thank you for all they contributed to the community as workers, friends, workmates and as family members. Today we also remember and celebrate their lives – their personalities, their character, even their idiosyncrasies – all the things that made them special and unique.

Lord hear us

Michelle Rath  
Voice of Industrial Death (VOID)

We remember all who have died in workplaces around the world. We pray for those whose lives have been considered less important than profits to be made, and for those who have been knowingly placed in harm’s way. We pray for the safety and well-being of workers, and for workplaces where workers are valued and respected, and treated with fairness and dignity.

Lord hear us

Ian Sheppard  
Asbestos Disease Society of South Australia (ADSSA)

We pray for all who are responsible for ensuring workplace safety – for union leaders, government officials and members of parliament, inspectors, employers, victims’ associations and health and safety representatives. Give them wisdom, foresight and courage as they seek to improve worker safety.

Lord hear us

Joe Szakacs  
SA Unions

We pray for our community that workplace safety becomes a greater priority. Help us all to see that accidents are not something that happen to others but something that we all need to be aware of and that we need to strive to overcome. We pray that safety information will always be available, be studied and become part of work practice. We ask that our safety laws, codes and guidelines are strong and effective, and help ensure that accidents are prevented.
The Candle Lighting Ceremony

Rev Sandy Boyce will lead the ‘Lighting of the Candles’ with a candle in honour of Jesus Christ who died doing God’s work.

Family and friends are invited to move toward the altar to light a candle in the memory of someone they wish to remember today.
Prayers for Ourselves and Other People

Living God,
We pray for the families, friends and workmates of those who have died.
We pray that they will be comforted by treasured memories of loved ones
even as they grieve their loss.
We pray for those who face the future with uncertainty or anxiety –
those who fear it,
who despair of it,
or who feel they have no future.
We pray for those in the troubled places of our world –
those who long for peace,
an end to conflict and a time of harmony,
but who in their hearts have given up hoping.
We pray for emergency workers, medical personnel, journalists, volunteers
and others who work in the midst of civil wars and unrest,
We pray for those who work in the midst of natural disasters
and other tragedies where their own lives are often at risk.
We pray for those whose lives are lost in what appear to be routine work schedules,
including flight cabin crews and café workers
We pray for those who face trauma and upheaval in their lives –
what seemed secure swept from under them,
what they had hoped for denied them,
what they had trusted in proven false.
We pray for those who doubt their ability to cope with what life may bring –
those overwhelmed by pressures,
paralysed by fears,
crushed by sorrows.
We pray for those faced with difficult decisions –
circumstances beyond their control,
unexpected dangers,
awkward choices.

Living God,
Reach out to all for whom the future seems uncertain or unwelcome,
and bring the assurance that even in the darkest moments,
the greatest challenges,
the most worrying times,
you are there working out your purpose,
able to bring light out of darkness,
hope out of despair,
joy out of sorrow,
and good out of evil.
Grant the confidence that there is nothing in heaven or earth,
in life or death,
in the present or the future,
that is finally able to separate us from your love.
The Lord’s Prayer

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us all to pray:
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.

Minds Playing Tricks

I thought I saw you in the crowd
He walked like you, his stance so proud
His hair the same - his profile too
I really thought, it could be you
Then I remembered that you were gone
My heart fell flat as I walked on.
I see your face wherever I go
I guess I just thought that you should know.
I still hear you laugh and I see your smile
Though you’ve been gone for a while
I miss you more than words can say
I wish it had been you that I saw today.
Closing Hymn

The love we share is born of grace;
it’s beauty shines on every face;
the love we feel and daily give,
melts hurt and offers hope to live.
The love we share is blessed with peace as hate and war their conflicts cease
~ the love we show in all we do stirs hope and springs with life anew.

The love we share is touched with pain
as grieving hearts weep once again;
the love we risk and freely bear
heals wounds with oil of grace and care.

The love we share will grow and flower;
it’s seeds of joy will gently shower;
the love we trust and seek to show,
links peace and hope as blessings flow.

The love we share will shed its light;
it’s brightness gilds the darkest night;
the love we name and vow to hold
awakens faith and dreams untold.
The love we share will always sing;
it’s music soars with joyous ring;
the love we cast and scatter free,

Blessing

And now let us return to our homes and friends and family.
May the love you have given to others return to warm you
like a cloak of cherishing
and the gentle life that you have shared
breathe over you too like a kindly companion.
May the wisdom that has flowed from your heart
be like living water for you in the days to come
and the gifts of your mind carry you gently through each day
as in a litany of understanding.
And may God the Creator go on creating within you,
may you know Christ as companion as you travel through each day
and the Holy Spirit give to you endless gifts of peace.

Amen
(adapted, Dorothy McRae-McMahon)
BOUND 4 HEAVEN WITH OUR 6 BLUE NAVIGATORS

Please join us now by making your way outside for the release of the 6 beautiful doves to be immediately followed by the release of the Memorial Balloons.

The dove symbolises all things graceful, peaceful and loving.

Dear friends, these are no ordinary doves. These little creatures are working today with a very specific and important job to do.

Please collect your balloon on the way out and remember to tie the name-card to the string so our little ‘workers’ will know which direction to guide them as they move their way through the sky.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BALLOON RELEASE

THANK YOU...

South Australian Council of Churches
The Pilgrim Uniting Church

With special thanks to...

Vocalist
Phoebe

Organist
Norm Inlgis

Flowers