**9.30 am Order of Service for 14 April, 2013**

**Transforming my life** *Fisherman**picture insert*

**Cantor TiS 673 “I see the Lord before my eyes”**

**Acknowledgement:**

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the first inhabitants of this place.  
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today and we pledge ourselves to walk with them.

**Welcome to this community**

**We light the Christ candle and candles for others**

**Song: “God grant that we may be transformed”**  *(words on screen)*

**An Invitation to worship**

Day by day, God leads us:  
**CE: to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
CW: to the green, lush lawns of grace.**  
L: Day by day, Jesus calls us:  
**CE: to pour out ourselves in service,  
CW: to anoint the stranger with hope.**L: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:  
**CE: the community we could be,  
CW: the family we are called to become** *Thom Shuman*

**Early Word – ‘Aha’ moments in life**

**Prayer for new beginnings**

Forgive us, O God, when we fail to reach out and accompany:

those who are going through difficult times;   
those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us:. the call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort wherever you need us to bind up the wounds of the victims of today’s society.

**J**esus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us:the call to reveal, in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to make any changes for good in their lives.

Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us:.the call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded but as gifts to be shared.   
In your name, we pray. Amen *Moira Laidlaw*

**Song SfP 5 “By gracious powers”** *Paul picture insert*

**Bible reading Acts 9: 1-20**  Paul’s dramatic calling and conversion

**We watch “The Light”** *Simon Crookson*

**Transformation 1 - Paul and Ananias**

**Song TiS 181, “Come O God of all the earth ” verses 2, 3, 5**

**Bible Reading John 21:1-19**

**Transformation 2 - Peter and John**

**We remember times of transformation:**  
Of Jesus in the garden

appearing to Mary and calling her by name...

**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of Jesus appearing to the disciples and saying, 'Peace be with you'...  
**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of Jesus appearing to Thomas and saying, 'Do not doubt, but believe'...  
**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus, talking to his followers...  
**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of Jesus sharing breakfast on the beach with some companions   
**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of Jesus confronting Saul on the road to Damascus..

**Holy Spirit, transform my life**Of the voice to Ananias insisting he meet with Saul…

**Holy Spirit, transform my life**

**Song TiS 572:** **“O thou who camest from above”**

*Please move to the front of the church, bring your offering, and form a circle around the communion table. Each take a glass with its contrasting words, plus a daffodil bulb to plant for Spring Festival. People who prefer to sit rather than stand are invited to move to a front pew.*

**Share in small groups the contrast between the first word and the last word on the small glass you are holding. From you own life, what story of transforming, enlightening, understanding or recovery comes to mind?**

**Hymn TiS 688** **“Come to be our hope O Jesus”**

**Prayers** *Please pray in small groups*

We pray for ourselves

*(We sing “Come to be our hope” first line)*

We pray for others

*(We sing “Come to be our hope” first line)*

We pray for the world

*(We sing “Come to be our hope” first line)*

**Benediction**

As we prepare to leave this sacred space  
where we have worshipped together,  
let us return to our lives enlivened and renewed...

We extinguish these candles,  
knowing the light of the risen One is within us,  
and we carry it forth from this place.

As we go, may we know ourselves to be blessed with   
the goodness and mercy of God,  
the comfort and love of Jesus Christ,  
the insight and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Song SfP 12 :** **“For you, deep stillness”**

**Passing of the peace amongst us**

*The service was prepared by Jeff Telfer, Raelene Telfer and Hilary Carpenter,*

*Judy Homburg and Ruth Farrent led the musicians.*

*You are most welcome to conversation and refreshments in the Pilgrim Hall*

*CAL licence*

**The Light** *by Simon Crookson*

**Description**

A police lieutenant during the Red Scare of the 1950s suddenly rejects his former oppressive ways, but realises the biggest struggle will be to convince everyone else he’s truly a changed man. The Light is a story with, at its core, a conflicted, engaging protagonist with a simple desire - to be accepted - and I think that's something we can all identify with at some point in our lives. I think this story, visualised in the world of the early fifties, can bring to life the zeitgeist of that period, just as Mad Men did with the following decade. Populated with strong yet human supporting characters, it revolves around a clear dramatic and thematic through-line and proposes a simple question - "can a man truly change?" and I would love to see that played out and answered on film. As we follow Merle, from bully with a badge to hanger-on and speaker at The Way, dreaming of jazz and freedom, we witness a seismic shift, both in one man and in a people. The Light is the story of a man with a past that he’s trying to forget, and a society that might not want to let him.

**Biblical Connection**

The Light is a retelling of the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:1-31, from Pharisee to vocal champion of The Way. The story, and more specifically the character of Saul, fascinates me and always has. What drew me in was not just the conversion itself, but the fact that Saul seemed tragically doomed to be forever followed by his past. He knows “The Way” is the way of righteousness, he is finally a good man on a true path, but the Hellenistic Jews, even some of the disciples he wants to join, just can’t accept that this man is truly changed, and he is shipped away to Tarsus. Saul's world shares so many parallels with the world around us today, but even more so, the McCarthyite period and the climate of suspicion and distrust that permeated that era, when you were either “with us or against us” and when a person could find themselves condemned for years by an action, a word, real, rumoured or regretted. The Light shares many themes with the original story, and some plot-points, but is also its own story, taking place in its own unique, vibrant world.