**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***8.00am MORNING WORSHIP***

**COCU35C Easter 5C 24th April 2016**

**WELCOME, GREETING and COMMUNITY SHARING**  
We come to worship God. May our time together in this sacred space renew our hope. May the music we hear lift our spirits. May the words we speak invigorate us. May the sight of faces new and familiar, restore us in faith. May today there be peace within and between us. *(Rex AE Hunt, adapted)*

**PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 148**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 148)*

Mysterious God, you are still surprising humanity   
with the glories of outer space and the heavenly realms.  
**We come to worship you,**   
**and to give thanks for the glories revealed to us.**

Creative God, you are still weaving through all creation’s wonders,   
**We come to praise and bless you**   
**for the loving and diverse ways you reveal yourself to us.**   
Breath of God, you are still breathing into us the miracle of life itself,

drawing us into a deeper relationship with you.   
**We come together in worship - along with all creation -**   
**to praise and celebrate you, O God.**

**HYMN** O God of earth and space (tune: Leoni, TiS 125)

(Julie, can you put this in boxes - 2 across the page).   
O God of earth and space,

of sea and fire and air,

Your providence surrounds us here

and everywhere.

Where faithfulness is shown,

where love and truth abound,

Where beauty graces human life,

there you are found.

Inspirer of all thought!

Creative force of art!

The melody on every tongue,

in every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,

where sin is overthrown,

Where justice fused with mercy rules,

there you are known.

Give us the courage clear,

to make the earth a home,

For all to live in harmony,

in Christ’s shalom. *JPHuber/C3ccc*

**THE PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE**  
We have come to this sacred place of peace and quiet, because we are people of faith. We come as ordinary people, each with strengths and each with weaknesses, aware of our shortcomings. We come knowing our human frailty as well as strength.Our lives set before us many tasks. We are not always equal to them. Too often we fall short of our best expectations of ourselves: we do not know enough, we are not always patient, we do not wait for wisdom, we lack vision. And yet, here we are, not always perfect, not always wise, but always human, gloriously and miraculously alive and breathing, wondrously and mysteriously human.   
God of enfolding love: come to us in your fullness and grace, and work through our lives for your praise. *A silence is kept.*  
  
**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**  
With gentleness, God speaks to us; with graciousness, God forgives us;  
with joy, God embraces us. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**  
God of grace, open our spirits to hear your word to us:  
**May we trust your wisdom and seek your guidance**  
**as we hear your words of truth. Amen.**

**BIBLE READINGS** Acts 11:1-18 John 13:31-35

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN** TiS #411 Filled with the Spirit’s power

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

*Prayers are offered* (This is my prayer/**this is our prayer)**  
  
**Prayer for ANZAC Day**  
God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy. We remember those who in time of war faithfully service their country, and remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service. Help us to remember those left behind, who waited in vain for the return of a loved one. Help us to remember the mateship, agony, courage and compassion of war service, but save us from ever glorifying the horror and tragedy of war. Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither learn war any more. *A silence is held.*

*(the following prayer is offered for silent contemplation)*  
Timeless God, Christ of the Cross, Spirit of Peace, in a minute’s silence, may we find ourselves awakened to what it meant to walk in the shoes of those we remember. May we seek the joys that sustained them in the trials that they faced. May we find the courage that empowered them in the suffering they endured. May we be inspired to love like the sacrifice that they made. May we learn the lessons which will lead to such things never occurring again. May we decide to be better in ourselves, that the world may be better with us in it. May we learn the ways of justice, and that violence and oppression and war may cease. May the world change for the better. *(c) Jon Humphries*  
  
May we have in us the compassion of Christ, who taught us to pray:

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** TiS 217 Love Divine, all loves excelling (v1&v4)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We who take much for granted, pool our resources and our hopes, and ask God to bless them, that we may be part of shaping a world of justice, where there is enough for all. Amen

**COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**   
We believe in a world full of God, where bread becomes a feast,   
and wine an ever flowing covenant, and a table a celebration with the lost   
**We live in the company of grace and love**  
  
We believe in a world full of God, where every pain fractures bread, every cry spills wine, and every table is a place God waits  
**We live in the company of grace and love**  
  
We believe in a world full of God, where pain and grief and tears will be things of the past, where God is making everything new, where the peoples of the world will gather together at a feast prepared for the world.   
**We live in the company of grace and love**

**THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God be with you/ **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts/ **We lift them to God.**  
Let us give thanks to God. I**t is right to give our thanks and praise…..**  
It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have made your home in our midst and called us to be your people. You revealed yourself through your law and prophets and taught your people to live in your love. In Jesus, we have been loved as you would have us love. When he was crucified, you raised him to new life and, through your Holy Spirit, you have brought us the message by which we are saved. Though we cannot yet go where Christ has gone, you are preparing a new heaven and earth, where there will be no more death, no more mourning or crying or pain. There, all who thirst will be generously satisfied from your spring of the water of life. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:  
**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**   
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
*The bread is broken*  
We break the bread for the brokenness of the world.   
**We give thanks that in Christ we may find community.**   
*The cup is lifted.*

This is the cup of peace and of new life for all. A sign of love for the community of hope. A sign of reconciliation with God.

**A reminder of the call** **to live fully,** **to love wastefully, and**

**to be all that we can be.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup, and upon those who, by faith, come to your Table. As we taste the broken Bread, may we draw strength to serve a fractured world. As we drink of the gift of grace, may we become robust in our giving to others. As we open our hands to you, may we go to hand out justice to the lost, the little, the least.

The bread of life. The cup of compassion.  
Gifts of God for the people of God. *Communion is shared*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Divine Presence in all of life, we give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place.   
**May we continue to be truly thankful in all we do and in all we become, and offer ourselves in service to others. Amen.**

**WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING**

*The candles are extinguished*  
(from Rev 21: 1-6): John’s vision: I saw a completely revamped heaven and a radically reconstructed earth. The first heaven, the first earth and the sea were all but a memory. I heard a loud voice saying: “See, God has moved in and set up home among ordinary people. God will live with them and be their God, and the people will gladly belong to the God who lives right in their midst. God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be abolished forever; pain and grief and tears will be things of the past. All these things have been made obsolete. Look, I am making everything new — absolutely everything! I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and I am the end. To all who are thirsty I offer deep draughts of crystal-clear water. I will give it freely, the ultimate thirst-quencher, bubbling up from the springs of life-giving water.” *(Nathan Nettleton,* [LaughingBird.net](http://LaughingBird.net)*)*

Go now, wherever the Spirit of God leads you. Show all people that you are Christ’s disciples by loving one another just as he has loved you. And may God be your beginning and your end; May Christ Jesus make his home among you; And may the Holy Spirit give you a vision of the all-embracing love and goodness of God. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen. *The sign of the peace is exchanged*