

We praise you, gracious God, sovereign in grace and love,  
**for all things come from you.**

We praise you for Jesus Christ, the living Word;  
**crucified and risen, the beginning of a new creation.**

We praise you for the Spirit, pledge and foretaste of the future,  
**that we might not lose the way as we look for the renewal of all creation.**

Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, **we praise you.**

With all the saints before us and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south, **we praise you.**

And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet, in this mystery are close to us, we join the unending chorus of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of truth and light,  
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.**

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the life of Christ, vibrant with life, healing, renewing, and making us whole. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

The bread, broken. The cup, love poured out.

The gifts of God for all those whom God loves. *Communion is shared.*

**Words of mission, and benediction** (*candles are extinguished*)

Let us go out and share the gifts of joy and love with others, knowing that the love of God, the peace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit are going with us. Go out, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

**Passing of the peace.**

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.** *The peace is shared.*



**Pilgrim Uniting Church**  
**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**  
**MID WEEK WORSHIP**

COCU38B.Easter7B



*Welcome to this time of worship, of gentle reflection, and caring community.*

**Welcome and greeting**

**A Call to Worship** based on Psalm 1 © Joan Stott

With joy and delight we gather to praise God!

With reverence and awe, we approach God.

**We give thanks that God understands us, and does not want us to be that which we were never created to become!**

Creating God, you call us to worship you as your children, made in your image, with a divine spark within each of us.

**We give thanks that God understands us, and encourages us to grow in our knowledge of God's awesome holiness.**

Glorious God, you invite us to sink our roots deep into your love and holiness, and to grow stronger each day in our faith in you.

**We give thanks that God understands us, and that the fruits we bear are consistent with what God created us to become. Amen.**

**Prayers of Praise and Thankfulness** © Joan Stott 2012, adapted

Faithful God, you shower us with love and mercy, and we praise you. We also give thanks that we need never be independent of anyone else, but that we need each other, even with all our failings; but we especially need you and the warmth of your love and the light of your Holy Presence, to help us to grow and fully become your people.

Nurturing God, we give you our praise and thanks that you created deep down within our inner being a yearning for holiness, and a yearning for the guidance we need for right living, and to follow the paths that lead to fullness of life.

Holy God, we give thanks that you call us to holy living and to choosing our priorities in ways that give honour and glory to you. Strengthen and sustain us O God, when we are tempted to choose the questionable paths in life that lead us away from your presence; and guide and direct us into those paths that lead to truth and beauty, found only in you and in your nurturing care of your beloved children. We ask that you will bless us in our life-renewing decisions and choices. Amen.

**Prayer of who we are** *(using phrases from the prayer of praise and thankfulness)*

A student asked, "Teacher, I am extremely discouraged by all that is happening in the world. What should I do?" The teacher responded, "Encourage others." Much of our unhappiness is not the result of what we are not getting but the result of what we are not giving. Eckhart Tolle wrote, "Whatever you think the world is withholding from you, you are withholding from the world."

I travelled to Nong Khai, Thailand on the Laotian border. I received a necklace of flowers from a man for no reason other than I was a guest in his village. I did nothing to earn or deserve that gift. I was told that necklace was equivalent to a month's wages for him. I didn't feel worthy or deserving of such an extravagant gift. My worthiness wasn't even a question this man was asking. He was simply living from his truest self. I was grateful for his generous gift but what I really longed for was the freedom in this man's heart that allowed him to give so selflessly, generously, extravagantly. I longed for the pure joy he exuded. This man possessed absolutely nothing in life by our standards but he had everything my soul hungered for. *(Rev Steve Koski, First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon)*  
*We keep a silence as we reflect upon the truth of our lives.*

**Words of assurance**

O God, you encourage us to allow our roots to grow down into your own Holy Being, so that we are nourished from the rich resources of your love - a love that help us to grow into the people we were created to become.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Readings and reflection**

**Prayers for others** - *prayers are offered by the people*

Each prayer concluded with: This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

World affirming God, we live in an in-between place - embracing eternal life, and with our feet firmly planted on this fragile earth. Help us to remake the world in your image through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Communion**

*The invitation*

*We remember...*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you/**and also with you**

Lift up your hearts/**we lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**