

The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church. Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of God,

who created us,

and holds the world in divine embrace

In the name of the Son

who came into the world,

and reconciles us with God.

In the name of the Holy Spirit

who join us with all Christians

in a movement towards peace:

We come together to offer our thanks and praise.

(Sheilagh Kesting)

HYMN

GREETING and WELCOME

Blurb re passing of the peace

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O God, who makes all things new: new stars, new dust, new life;
take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God,

the rough parts of me made smooth;

the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit,

I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen. *(Pamela C. Hawkins)*

A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God does not limit us to the stories by which the world knows us. God sees much more in us than the labels we give ourselves. God, grant us courage to defy all expectations – especially our own – and in your love become all of who we are. *(Cheryl Lawrie)*

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us listen to the stories of the faith of our ancestors.

Let us open our minds to God's teaching;
and tune our ear to God's word. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Joshua 5: 9-12

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

PSALM 32

1 Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven and whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For while I held my tongue

my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

4 For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

5 I will acknowledge my sin unto thee and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

6 I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

7 For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found
but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.

8 Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

9 I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go
and I will guide thee with mine eye.

10 Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding whose mouths must be held with bit and
bridle, lest they fall upon thee.

11 Great plagues remain for the ungodly but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on
every side.

12 Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son: and / to the / Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be world without / end. / A / men

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN

During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received. Remain standing for the dedication prayer.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With joy and hope, we offer our gifts that others might be swept up in your divine embrace. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Our God, we are one body, one church, called to your world, and to each other in love and service.

When one part rejoices, we all rejoice. When one part suffers, we all suffer. Today we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Australia, faithfully reaching out over many years to connect with churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific as missionaries, volunteers, workers of many types. We are thankful for their passion. Today we give thanks for our brothers and sisters across the globe, faithfully reaching back over many years to connect with us, providing hospitality, insight, gifts of generosity and wisdom and nurture. We are thankful for their passion. God give us eyes to see you at work in the world and courage to join you and your people building your kingdom (*Week 4, Lent Event*)

And let us reflect in silence on the words of Martin Luther King Jr: "We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear."

A time of silence to offer silent prayers for others.

Through Christ you are reconciling the whole world to yourself, O God.

Accept our prayers in the warm embrace of your compassion,

We ask this through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*printed inside cover of hymn book*)

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

COMMISSIONING

God sends us forth,

to proclaim the message of reconciliation.

Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome others.

We will embrace the prodigals with joy.

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

We will go to bring hope to all we meet.

And as you go, may God hold you in divine embrace
Christ Jesus be your companion and teacher on the way;
And the Holy Spirit encircle you with songs of joy and freedom.
*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the 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

Presiding Minister	Rev Sandy Boyce
Scripture Reader	Peter Trevaskas
Organist & Choir Director	Peter Kelsall

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Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge after the service.