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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

11.00am
Choral Eucharist

Sunday, 1st September 2019
Pentecost 12
COCU54C

*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.*

COMMUNION SETTING Short Service Thomas Tallis c. 1505-1585

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open our lips O Lord:
And we shall declare your praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 569 Sing praise to God who reigns above

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

*Those who wish to do so may share a sign of peace with those immediately around them using words such as 'God's Peace be with you / **and also with you**'. Please respect those who wish to use the time for quiet contemplation.*

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OPENING PRAYER

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which life would be robbed of joy.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown that we cannot behold
filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space that draws us
beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:

for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
and share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:

for life, and one more day to love,
for opportunity, and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbours and one more person to love and by whom be loved,
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

(adapted, "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Despite all the ways we speak of sin – failures, mistakes, intended acts - Scripture tells us that we, like our ancestors in faith, are often stubborn, hard-hearted and follow our own ways. But, if we pause to listen to God, to make space for God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, and reorient our lives to the ways of God, God will fill our lives with forgiveness and hope.

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

KYRIE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is merciful and slow to anger.

God welcomes us when we turn our lives to God.

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

The children will leave at this time for special activities in the Lounge.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G major

attrib. J.S. Bach 1685-1750

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.

Presiding Minister

Rev Sandy Boyce

Guest Preacher

Rev Liellie McLaughlin

Scripture Reader

John Pope

Organist & Choir Director

Peter Kelsall

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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

THE CONSECRATION

Compassionate God, pour your gracious Spirit on us, and on these, your simple gifts. Fill us with the broken bread that we might be made whole; touch our parched lips with the cup of salvation, so we might proclaim your gospel. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

May the Bread that is broken make us whole, so we may speak peace to a world which has been fed violence and death. *The bread is broken.*
May the Cup that is shared open our hearts to the pain of those around us, so we may bring healing and hope. *The cup is lifted*
The gifts of God for the people of God.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward in double file down the centre aisle to receive the elements, and return by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please indicate to the ushers who will arrange for communion to be brought to you. There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the glasses. Please place empty glasses in the baskets.

COMMUNION MOTET

Ave verum corpus

William Byrd 1543-1623

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Fed and renewed by the life of Christ in us, and in company with God's Spirit, we are able to carry God's love and compassion into the world.

Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 620 Where cross the crowded ways of life

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

As our time our worship concludes, our time of service begins. As we go, let us be open to all the blessings that surround us and may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in our spirit. Let us carry with us the knowledge that we are recipients of God's gifts of grace and mercy, to be shared with others, near and far. Let us go forward into this day: compassionate of heart, gentle in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, generous in love. And may the blessing of the eternal God be upon you, now and always. **Amen!**

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.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May what we read, and hear, and understand, bring us closer to God. Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 2: 4-13

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

PSALM 81: 1, 11-17

- 1 Sing we merrily unto God our strength
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
- 11 I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt
open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it.
- 12 But my people would not hear my voice
and Israel would not obey me.
- 13 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lusts
and let them follow their own imaginations.
- 14 O that my people would have hearkened unto me
for if Israel had walked in my ways,
- 15 I should soon have put down their enemies
and turned my hand against their adversaries.
- 16 The haters of the Lord should have been found liars
but their time should have endured for ever.
- 17 He should have fed them also with the finest wheat-flour
and with honey out of the stony rock should I have satisfied thee.

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 Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

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

Please stand for and face the gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING Luke 14: 1, 7-14

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN 381 Author of faith, eternal Word

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 411 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May we welcome your gifts with thanksgiving, Loving God. May we share you gifts with grace, so others might be touched by your love, healed by your touch, fed and nourished by your compassion as well as the fruit of your creation. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

(Thom Shuman)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of mercy and love, we seek to serve you in our world.
We pray for desert people, who live in a dry, parched land,
who lack water, who travel constantly so that they might live.
Give them living water. Let the deserts bloom into flower.
We pray that those who work on climate change
may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be halted or reversed.
We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a
weapon of war in countries where resources are scarce.

God of mercy and love we seek to serve you in our world

We pray for countries where justice seems far away,
where human rights are ignored.
Let us remind those in power that prisoners are not forgotten.
We pray that the dignity of life is respected
and remember those who have lost that dignity
through age or infirmity or neglect.
We pray for situations
where the sex of a baby may lead to abandonment,
where women are not offered the same opportunities,
or are actively demeaned or mutilated.
May we act to challenge injustice
and seek to affirm your love for all humankind.

God of mercy and love we seek to serve you in our world

We pray for those who have no peace –
for those who are troubled and torn apart by lack of self esteem
for those who torment and victimise the vulnerable.
We pray for men and women affected by violence in the home
and for those who live by violence.
We pray for those who are trafficked
and for those who organise and profit from selling other humans.

May they learn of your love
and somehow come to newness of life
even in the midst of despair.

God of mercy and love we seek to serve you in our world

Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate
lack of basic human resources, dehumanising practices,
or the use of violence to disempower your people.
Give us strength to act and challenge hatred,
and instead bring your justice and mercy.

In your name we humbly ask that we may be a channel for your peace
and love. **Amen.**

(Source: UK Methodist Church website)

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

At this table we welcome old and young. All are welcome here.

THE NARRATIVE

THE GREAT 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.

With a simple Word, Creator of the Universe,
you caused chaos to tremble with fear,
as mountains stretched to touch the clouds,
and rivers cascaded through barren deserts.

With a single Breath, life was given to our ancestors,
who stood up straight to walk through your Garden.
But the spirit of sin put out its hand and crippled us;
death enslaved us with its unjust and cruel grip.

You touched the lips of the prophets, appointing them to call us home,
but our ancestors could not lift their heads to see;
we would not turn our hearts to listen.

Yet you would not leave us hopeless,
but sent Jesus to set us free.

With all the company of heaven and earth we offer our praise:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS