Pilgrim 9:30 June 25th 2017

"The church is not a gathering of the like-minded bound together by friendship or ideological and political convictions. It is a shoulder-to-shoulder gathering of very diverse people who come to hear a common word, break a common bread, confess a common creed, offer mutual forgiveness, and be joined in a common heart with a common hope for the fulfilment of the mystery of God.” *(David L. Miller, Augsburg Fortress Bible Study guide)*

Acknowledge the 40 years of UCA

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here to give thanks for the faithfulness of our ancestors in faith

**For God has given us gifts of faithfulness.**

We are here to celebrate the gift of diverse ministries that give life to community

**For God has given us gifts for ministry**

We are here to ask a blessing on the future as we move in confidence into a new day.

**For God has given us the gift of hope, a hope that will carry us into a new day.**

In this still, singular moment we become ready, ready to take with us our stories from the past, and ready to look into the future, a future filled with promise for us, and for all. We come to encounter the promises of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Song: Come and fill our hearts (Taize) SPoG #4 12**

Welcome

Acknowledgment of land

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Kaurna people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Kaurna people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Kaurna Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation

CANDLE LITURGY

In prayerfulness We light this candle for our heritage in the Congregational tradition, with its commitment to freedom and to the power of the priesthood of all believers

 **We stand in that great tradition. And we affirm that the Uniting Church has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

In prayerfulness We light this candle for our heritage in the Methodist tradition, with its commitment to social justice and its enthusiasm in communicating the gospel.

**We stand in that great tradition. And we affirm that the Uniting Church has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

 In prayerfulness We light this candle for our heritage in the Presbyterian tradition, with its respect for scholarship and its deep understanding of the nature of the church.

**We stand in that great tradition. And we affirm that the Uniting Church has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

 In prayerfulness We light this fourth candle to celebrate that many others, from different traditions, or who have been born since 1977, are now a vital part of the Uniting Church tradition. **We stand in that great tradition. And we affirm that the Uniting Church has moved on in its journey as a pilgrim people of God.**

 In prayerfulness We light this fifth candle in hope, for a future beckoning to us from the far horizons, the shape of which we are yet to know. We have confidence that God accompanies us on our journey into this unfolding future.

 *Silence*

 In Christ we are one.

 **In Christ everything is made new. Thanks be to God!**

**Song: For the music of Creation SfP #11**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READINGS**

**Ibn ‘Arabi** *- 12th century CE Sunni Scholar and Sufi Mystic and Poet*

Dearly beloved! I have called you so often and you have not heard me.

I have shown myself to you so often and you have not seen me.

I have made myself fragrance so often, and you have not smelled me,

savorous food, and you have not tasted me. Why can you not reach me through the object you touch or breathe me through sweet perfumes? Why do you not see me? Why do you not hear me? Why? Why? Why?

**Matthew 10:24-39**

In this is the word of the Lord*.*

**Response: Thanks be to God**

**Music interlude**

**Hildegard von Bingen** *- 12th century CE Rhineland Benedictine and Mystic*

Now in the people that were meant to be green there is no more life of any kind. There is only shrivelled barrenness. The winds are burdened by the utterly awful stink of evil, selfish goings-on. Thunderstorms menace. The air belches out the filthy uncleanliness of the peoples. The earth should not be injured! The earth must not be destroyed.

**Witness Rev Brian Phillips**

**Time of silence for personal reflection**

*“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” God of sparrows and elephants, of earth and sky ,of the great and the small, you stand with us when we are hurting, when we are frightened, when there is danger. Help us know you are with us today, loving us and caring for us even when we do not see you or hear you or feel you. Help us to trust in you so that we can live boldly and joyfully, and do our work for you faithfully. Amen.*

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

**Song: Seeing God SPoG 4 #69**

During the singing of this hymn our offering for the work and mission of Pilgrim Uniting Church will be received.

Please remain standing for the Dedication

**DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

**Song TiS 755 “You shall go out with joy.”**

**Blessing**

**Where are we going? (*A prayer for the next 40 years)***

Where are we going?

**Wherever that may be, we will travel with the One who walks beside us.**

Let us not dwell nor sit.

**Rather let us walk the path of life, faith and love**.

We listen to the voice of the past.

We dream for the future.

**We embrace God’s *NOW*!**

May the God who was, and is, and will be, draw us in and send us out!

May the Peace and love of Christ urge you onwards.

May the Passion of the Spirit guide and sustain you.

**Amen!**

(Rev Bob Hutchinson 2017)