

Pilgrim Uniting Church



12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
MID WEEK WORSHIP

COCU 57A



We remember: At supper, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and shared it with his friends, saying: This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember me. After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and shared it with his friends, saying: This is my life poured out for you. Take and drink it, and remember me. The bread and the cup are symbols for us of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace and a sharing in God's life.

Prayer

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognise the risen Christ in our midst, and that our spirits may be refreshed as we live in the light of Christ's presence with us now.

The bread of life/the cup of compassion are shared.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING *Candles are extinguished*

In the prayers and the praise,
in the words and the wonder:

we are given enough joy to live each day.

In the justice for the oppressed,
in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

**we are given enough compassion
to use in service each day.**

In the promises made to all,
in the mercy offered to each:

we are given enough grace to share each day.

Christ goes before us into the day and the week ahead.

Let us go in peace, to love and serve in the world.

In the Spirit of Christ. Amen!

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

The sign of the peace is exchanged *Service led by Rev Sandy Boyce (Deacon).*

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

WELCOME and GREETING

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

GATHERING WORDS

We gather to meet with God - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and to seek God's presence, to bring before God all our days, and every part of our lives. Draw near to us, O God, as we draw near to you.

We pause at this time to rest in God's company. We quieten our minds, and open our hearts to the silent presence of the Spirit of Christ. We open ourselves to go deeper into the mystery of faith, where God's love is revealed to all who call, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

For silent contemplation: Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right. *A silence is kept*

Let us open ourselves to the process of becoming more whole: of living more fully; of giving and forgiving more freely; of understanding more completely the meaning of our lives here on this earth. *(Adapt. THaley)*

OPENING PRAYER

With open arms you welcome all who call on your name - those who acknowledge you as Lord, and look to you in faith. No-one stands outside the circle of your mercy and love. We come to offer our worship - to declare that you are our God, and that we are your people. Through the presence of your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see you here; open our minds to receive your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing your praise. For you alone are God - worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE (PRAYERS OF CONFESSION)

Holy One, we pray for the wanderers.

We have been among them: seeking your path, wondering where to turn next. Like the Hebrew people of old, we have found ourselves in the wilderness, wondering how we will survive.

We pray for the discarded.

We have been among them: not chosen for the team, left behind by friends, rejected by those we have loved. We have wondered how we will live, and how we will find a way to quench our thirst for love and acceptance.

We pray for the lost.

We have been among them: unsure of our direction, unwilling to ask for assistance, or unable to find a guide. We have wondered how we can sustain hope, how we will find our way through it all.

We pray for the restored.

We have been among them: finding a place of welcome, where we find love and acceptance, secure in our identity as your beloved children.

A silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear these words of enduring hope: our lives are always held within the cherishing of God. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. May we hear the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Loving God, we pray for the wanderers, the discarded, the lost.....

We offer our prayers for the world: This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

We pray, inspired by the prayer of Jesus:

**O God, you love us like a good parent,
and are present in every aspect of our existence
May your nature become known and respected by all
May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice**

**be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way
Give us all that we really need to live every day for you
And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures
Keep us from doing those things which are not of you,
and cause us always to be centred on your love
For you are the true reality in this our now, and in all our future.
In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen. DSorrill**

COMMUNION

“Agape” is the New Testament Greek work for “self-giving love”. In the Christian tradition Agape recalls the meals that Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry, and the meals of table fellowship of the early church when they shared fellowship with the risen Christ and with one another and rejoiced in what God was doing in their midst.

In this Agape liturgy, anyone may lead.



When Jesus sat at tables and broke bread with tax collectors, lawyers, rich elites, and poor peasants, he proclaimed that God’s gracious love and abiding presence knows no bounds. All are welcome and worthy.

At this table we give thanks for justice, love, peace and freedom.

At this table we give thanks for friendship and community.

At this table, we celebrate that all find a place of belonging.

We remember that Jesus is here, present with us. On the table we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of Jesus who said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”.

Bread, a symbol of Jesus who said, “I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world”.

Wine, a symbol of God’s new covenant with humanity, and a remembrance of Jesus’ suffering on the cross.

A cross, to remind us that Jesus said, “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another”.