**Easter 5C 24th April, 2016**

*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 *(based on Psalm 148)*

Mysterious God, you are still surprising humanity   
with the glories of outer space and the heavenly realms.  
**We come to worship you,   
and to give thanks for the glories revealed to us.**

Creative God, you are still weaving through all creation’s wonders,   
**We come to praise and bless you   
for the loving and diverse ways you reveal yourself to us.**   
  
Breath of God, you are still breathing into us the miracle of life itself,

drawing us into a deeper relationship with you.   
**We come together in worship - along with all creation -   
to praise and celebrate you, O God.**

HYMN

WELCOME

May today there be peace within and between us.

God’s peace be with you. **And also with you!**

A prayer for ANZAC Day

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy. We remember those who in time of war faithfully service their country, and remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service. Help us to remember those left behind, who waited in vain for the return of a loved one. Help us to remember the mateship, agony, courage and compassion of war service, but save us from ever glorifying the horror and tragedy of war. Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither learn war any more. Amen.

*(the following prayer if offered for silent contemplation) Note: it won’t be read out*Timeless God, Christ of the Cross, Spirit of Peace,  
In a minute’s silence take us into compassion and understanding.  
In a minute’s silence may we find ourselves awakened to what it meant to walk in the shoes of those we remember.  
In a minute’s silence may we seek the joys that sustained them in the trials that they faced.  
In a minute’s silence may we find the courage that empowered them in the suffering they endured.  
In a minute’s silence may we be inspired to love like the sacrifice that they made.  
In a minute’s silence may we comprehend the ripples of pain that bounce around the world in response to such disturbance.  
In a minute’s silence may we learn the lessons which will lead to such things never occurring again.  
In a minute’s silence may we decide to be better in ourselves, that the world may be better with us in it.  
In a minute’s silence may the world change for the better.  
In a minute’s silence may all this be so.  
In a minute’s silence we pray. Amen. *(c) Jon Humphries*  
  
*A silence is held*  
Peter, after the minute’s silence, could there be some music played, or a solo, or a choir setting? Maybe a ‘teaser’ from Evensong the next day?

Or here’s a suggestion:   
Hymn for ANZAC Day

Honour the dead, our country’s fighting brave,

honour our children left in foreign grave,

where poppies blow and sorrow seeds her flowers,  
honour the crosses marked forever ours.

Weep for the places ravaged with our blood,

weep for the young bones buried in the mud,

weep for the powers of violence and greed,

weep for the deals done in the name of need.

Honour the brave whose conscience was their call,

answered no bugle, went against the wall,

suffered in prisons of contempt and shame,

branded as cowards, in our country’s name.

Weep for the waste of all that might have been,

weep for the cost that war has made obscene,

weep for the homes that ache with human pain,

weep that we ever sanction war again.

Honour the dream for which our nation bled,

held now in trust to justify the dead,

honour their vision on this solemn day:

peace known in freedom, peace the only way.

Music: © Colin Gibson 2005 Words: © Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: ANZAC 2005

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR3d11ITCVs  
  
PRAYER OF THE DAY  
We gather in your presence, O God, and sense the divine life within, between and beyond, and we give thanks. We sit side-by-side, stranger and neighbour, in your presence, and in the presence of what is holy in each of us and all around us. Our experiences with the pain, sadness and unfairness of life mingle with our delight and joy. We are grateful for autumn rain, and for the bird song that beckons us to a slower pace…to listen, to appreciate, to wonder….to be at peace with ourselves in the harried and troubled world in which we live. Loving God, your presence brings us comfort and reassurance, and so we choose happiness and joy this day. We choose happiness as a posture toward life and each other and even ourselves, and because it bears good fruit, and in doing so, we are able to be light in the dark places. We gives thanks to you, O God, source of life and hope. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION   
God of Life, you know us and accept us as we are: in the times when we have failed in our relationship with you and with each other; in the times when we have passively accepted injustice done to others; in the times when we have enjoyed your creativity around us, but have been afraid to ask for our own healing. You invite us into freedom and life in all its fullness and call us away from all that would keep us from truly living. *A time of silence is kept.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

With gentleness, God speaks to us;   
with graciousness, God forgives us;  
with joy, God embraces us.   
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of light and life, be with us as we read and hear the Scriptures. Reveal your presence to us as we make ourselves present to you. Amen.   
  
FIRST READING Acts 11:1-18

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

PSALM 148

*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 Revelation 21:1-6

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 John.

**Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING John 13:31-35

The gospel of the Lord/ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN Help us to help each other, Lord CP 461?

Sermon

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

Hymn We have a gospel to proclaim CP 612?

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

# *Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring our offerings: our time, our talents, our treasures. May these gifts be used with wisdom and justice in the church, and its mission in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God:   
May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief

and the sadness of our loss:

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return:

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men, whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,

calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity:

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free:

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace:

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,

and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the brokenness, suspicion and hatred in this world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future, for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray for ourselves, and those we love, and the concerns we share   
*(a time of silence is held)*  
  
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 SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

HYMN

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Hear again the words Jesus said to his disciples: ‘This is what I ask you to do: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you must love each other’.

**We love because Christ first loved us**.

So go now as ambassadors for Christ, and proclaim with your lives God’s message of love, peace and reconciliation.   
May God bless you and keep you, may God’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, may you know the eye of God on you with the gift of peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. 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*

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church*

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Soloist

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

Assistant Organist Christopher Bridge

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

Copyright material © ST5772

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

***after the service.***