

Pilgrim Uniting Church



12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
MID WEEK WORSHIP

COCU 38C/ Easter 7C



The prayer of consecration

Send your Holy Spirit to grace this bread and this cup, that they may become the life of Christ within us, and bless our lives with God's gentle healing. As we take this bread and drink from this cup, may we be sustained to go forth to share words of hope and acts of compassion in the world. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

This was just a cup filled with wine, this was just ordinary bread, baked for guests until Jesus took them: took and drank from the cup, even though it was his cup of pain, filled with the agony of the world; took and broke the bread – even though his body was too young to be broken. Our lives would be ordinary lives unless the bread, unless the wine, is poured into them: and the mystery of grace takes place. Come, not because you fully understand, but because you need to reach out and receive the life that is offered to you. *Ann Siddall*
The bread, broken. The cup, love poured out.
The gifts of God for the people of God. *Communion is shared*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Coming here has not changed our situations, but strength, hope, grace and love have been poured into us for the journeys we return to. Holy is this time, holy is this meal, holy is this sacred space we have set apart, and holy is the life we are returned to, to be broken and poured out for others. *Amen. Ann Siddall*

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

The candles are extinguished

May the hand of the Spirit bless you and all peoples, and keep us well. May the face of the Spirit shine upon you and all peoples, and love us well.

May the counsel of the Spirit guide you and all peoples, and bring us to everlasting peace, for our world today and always. *Amen.*

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**
The sign of peace is shared.

Service led by Rev Sandy Boyce (Deacon).

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

WELCOME AND GREETING

*Come to a sacred space with open heart and mind;
come willing to explore and seek a living faith.
In this new space, we long to gain
a faith that touches joy and pain.*

(Helen Wiltshire)

A reflection on Psalm 97

There is a power beyond us and within us that draws us to a better higher humanity: there is something that calls us to reach beyond the smaller view to the larger life; that would have us step through and over our stress to find the joy; that reminds us again that beyond our emptiness there is a new energy, that after our losses there are seeds of a new tomorrow. All of you who search for the God of the bigger life – the God that is in you and the God who lifts you out of yourselves – all of you who have an awareness of the God of the greater life, rejoice! Rejoice that you are part of this greater life and part of its expanded joy. *(Frances Macnab)*
A silence is kept

“Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny....To work out our identity in God.” *(Thomas Merton)*

Let us find ourselves in the company of God, and know ourselves as God knows us. *A silence is kept.*

We are never alone. We are part of the rhythm of the universe, and held in God's eternal love. May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

READING AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God,
God who is Love,
God who is Christ,
God who is Spirit, Help us be your prayer of love in the world.

Prayers are shared This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

We see the hope that lies among us, that God is with us, offering the vision of the world where there will be no more mourning and crying and pain. God is making all things new. We live into that hope, and offer our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Our tradition says at the Last Supper Jesus, sharing bread and wine, invited the disciples to share his journey.
Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.
Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our unity with one another,
and with all those who have gone before us in this place.
Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our communion with the earth
and our inter-connection with the broken ones of the world.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

We are reminded again of the tradition that surrounds this story. Long ago, on the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it: 'This bread is broken, as my body will be'. And he handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat: 'Remember all that I have been to you'.

Long ago, on that same night, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends: 'This wine is poured out, as my life will be. Remember me and give thanks for all I have given'.

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.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, who shields the lives of those who love you. You laid the foundation of the world, and will come in glory to bring all things to fulfilment. Wrapped in thunder clouds and throned on justice, you led your people by fire into the land of promise. In your child, Jesus, you came to us as the promised descendant of David, with a love that revealed your glory even in suffering and death. When you raised him from the grave, the strongholds of death were shaken, and the chains of captivity were broken, freeing everyone to follow him into oneness with you. Now you are in us, and we are in you, and the waters of life wash our wounds and satisfy our deepest thirst.

So, we lift our voices, filled with joy, joining them with the glad songs of every place and generation, all creation praising your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**