

*This church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*



Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
9:30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP



Sunday 10 August 2014

Walking on Water ***Becoming Boat People***



Gathering Song: *Come and find the quiet centre* (SfP 7)
The Eye of the Storm

Lighting the candles during the song.

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Your Spirit brought life to this land and blessed your Kaurna people, traditional custodians of these plains. Before explorers and settlers came to this land, your Spirit was in this place. Your life giving Spirit connects us to one another. May we, in community, celebrate your Spirit within and among us.

Call to Worship (Psalm 85: 8-9)

People of God,
open your hearts and minds!

Listen carefully to what God is saying,
for he comes to us today speaking peace,
and offering life to all who love him,
and honour him with their hearts and lives.

Let us worship together.

Early Word

Prayers of who we are

We have made excuses to avoid discerning the plain words of Scripture
We have learned the stories of Jesus and his love and compassion

But we have refused to let that love transform our lives.

SfP 31

**Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let our hearts always welcome your love.**

We have heard the teaching to *do what is just, love compassion and walk humbly with God*

But we have made excuses to ignore these plain words and have kept our privileges for ourselves.

SfP 31

**Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let our hearts always welcome your love.**

We have sought to trivialise Scripture by focussing on the words and refusing to learn the truth behind them. We read how Jesus told his disciples, "You feed these people"

But we have only seen the miracle and failed to hear the call to us to feed those around us.

SfP 31

**Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.**

you to try us again next week.

Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus loaded all the disciples into the same boat and pushed them off, telling them to go across the sea while he dismissed the crowds of people he had just fed. After sending the crowds on their way, he climbed up the mountain so that he could be alone to pray. As the night closed in, he was still there. The boat was now a long way out from land, battling a head wind and getting badly bashed up by the waves.

Just a few hours before sunrise, Jesus came striding towards them, striding towards them over the raging sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost, and panicked, screaming in terror. Jesus spoke up straight away, and said, "Get a grip on yourselves; can't you see who I am?! You've got nothing to worry about."

Peter called back, "Lord, if it is you, give the order for me to come out to you on the water."

Jesus said, "Come on then."

So Peter jumped overboard, and began walking on the stormy water by himself. He managed a few steps, but faced with the violent wind and angry waves, he lost his nerve. As he began to go under, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and grabbed hold of him, saying, "Your faith is gutless! Why did you get cold feet?!"

As soon as they were all back in the boat, the storm dropped. Those in the boat fell to their knees before Jesus, saying, "Fair dinkum, you are the Son of God."

Adapted by Malcolm Cowan from Nathan Nettleton © 2002 LaughingBird.net

**We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.**

**Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
Amen.**

Sir Francis Drake

Commission & Benediction

Friends, Jesus calls us to step out on to the water with him, to leave the safety of our boats, and to walk toward him in faith, joining him in the work he is already doing in our world. And when the wind and waves get high and threaten to overwhelm us, we remember his words:

"Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here."

So let us go with faith, to follow where Jesus leads, confident that his love and presence go with us.

The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us share the peace with each other.

**Please join us after the service for morning tea/coffee and
conversation in the Hall**

This service was prepared by Peter and Di Russell.

*Thanks to everyone who participated in the service, especially the musicians, the song leader
and members of Cluster 5.*

The 9.30am service is different every week. If this one didn't grab you, we'd love

**Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let our hearts always welcome your love.**

We read of the wondrous riches of the New Jerusalem
**But prefer not to know of the eternal and infinite grace for all
people that inspires the description.**

SfP 31

**Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ your light shines within us,
Let our hearts always welcome your love.**

Words of Assurance

The faithfulness of God is stronger than our doubt.
The compassion of Christ is stronger than our guilt.
The Spirit of love surrounds us here and now to make us whole.

Song: *The love of God comes close* (SfP 44)

Reading: Matthew 14: 22-33

Witness: (adapted from a sermon by Nathan Nettleton)

Prayers for Others

We come to God with our prayers for other people. Let us pray.
It is not much use, Holy Friend, praying for our world-wide neighbours unless we trust you with our own lives and, what is harder, completely trust you with the lives of our loved ones. Therefore we pray that you will embolden us to both pray and live by our faith.

**Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we
love ourselves.** *P.T.O.*

Holy Friend, we pray for those far away neighbours who are in conflict: in the Middle East and Africa, South East Asia and Central America, Indonesia and the Philippines.

**Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we
love ourselves.**

Holy Friend, we pray for mistreated neighbours: suffering from extortion and injustice, political or religious oppression, cruel economic exploitation, or domestic tyranny. And we especially pray for the asylum seekers and refugees who can find no home.

**Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we
love ourselves.**

Holy Friend, we pray for neglected neighbours: homeless, misjudged, persecuted and hungry; or consigned to unremitting poverty, hard labour,

and a short life span.

Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for near-at-hand neighbours: at work, in our street, in supermarkets, banks, schools and hospitals; all who are in trouble and at their wits' end.

Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for our bruised and weeping neighbours: those just made redundant, pained by divorce, grieving over a delinquent child or weeping hot tears at a grave side.

Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Holy Friend, we pray for the neighbours in our church: the weak and the strong, the shy and the outgoing, the leaders and the followers, the newcomers and the familiar faces, those bearing secret burdens and those buoyant with happiness.

Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Through Christ Jesus. Amen!

Bruce Prewer (adapted)

Song: *Stillness* (Helen Wiltshire HAND 67)

1. When the storm has lost its thunder,
when the wind has ceased to blow,
we see skies in cloudless wonder
touching earth with golden glow.
To this place of awe and stillness,
we are called by sacredness.
2. When our minds have ceased their chatter,
when we break the chains of time,
we recall the things that matter,
present to a joy sublime.
In this space of inner stillness,
God as light our lives will bless.
3. When we dwell with inner stillness,
life is blessed by love and grace;
when our lives know shadowed sadness,
we find healing in this space.
In the gift of inner stillness,
peace and hope our lives will bless.
4. When the silence comes unbidden,

life is touched by love profound;
faith is like a treasure hidden
deep within love's holy ground.
In the depths of inner stillness,
God as Love our lives will bless.

Our Offering

As we listen to the music, let us acknowledge the blessings that come to us from God as we step out boldly in faith and make our courageous offering to the ministry and mission of Pilgrim.

Offering Prayer

God of all creation who gives and holds nothing back, bless these gifts that we offer up to you this morning. Help us not just to give, but also to live more boldly and more generously. Grant in us the faith to step out of the places in our lives where we are so cautious and anxious that we miss the joy that comes from the kingdom-living Jesus taught. Help us to walk on water - strong in our faith and keeping our eyes on Christ.

Amen.

United Methodist Church

Song: *Jesus calls us* (TIS 589)

1. Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his voice is sounding
saying, 'Christian, follow me'.
2. As, of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Jesus, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Please remain standing

Prayer

Disturb us, Lord, when