*The 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 hearing aid to T-setting.*

**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***9.30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP***

**Pentecost 11 20th August 2017**

*The community candles are lit*
**Song***:* All are welcome

If God is the source of life:
I worship God by living.

If God is the source of love:
I worship God by loving.

If God is the ground of being:
I worship God by having the courage
to be more fully human;
the embodiment of the divine.

(*Source: John Shelby Spong*)

Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,

and words are strong and true,

where all God’s children dare to seek

to dream God’s reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God’s grace;

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found

in water, wine and wheat:

a banquet hall on holy ground

where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,

is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,

and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger

bear the image of God’s face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger.

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,

prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place. *(Text: Marty Haugen; Tune: TWO OAKS)*

**Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country**

**Prayers of who we are**

Amid all the noise in our lives,

we take this moment to sit in silence:

to give thanks for another day;

to give thanks for the gift of life. (*Silence*)

*Music for Reflection (‘Come and find the quiet centre’)*

In God’s company and in company with each other,
we recognise we come with our own needs -
our need for love, for community, for meaning, for connection, for grace.

Sometimes these needs lie dormant, hidden - and we are unaware.

Sometimes these needs catch our every breath,
and we seek consolation, and relief from the burdens we carry. (*Silence*)

*Music for Reflection (‘Come and find the quiet centre’)*

God in our midst, come close to us,

as we make space to draw close to you,

We long to open ourselves to the process of becoming more whole:

of living more fully;

of understanding more completely

the meaning of our lives here on this earth.

*Music for Reflection (‘Come and find the quiet centre’)*

Friends, come with what you have:

For you who grieve this day

know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.

**Loved by one another,**

**we discover God's love for us.**

Come with what you have:

For you who come with gladness

know that your melody will find harmony.

**Accepting God's love for us,**

**we are called to love one another.**

Come with what you have:

For you weighed down by too many 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs'

know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.

**Loved by one another,**

**we discover God's love for us.**

Come with what you have:

For you who have the answers,

know that new questions await you.

**Accepting God's love for us,**

**we are called to love one another.**

Come with what you have:

For you who come seeking,

know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.

**Loved by one another,**

**we discover God's love for us.** *(Source: Katherine Hawker, posted on Outside the Box)*

**Song**: TiS 693 Come as you are (*please remain seated*)

**Reading from the Tradition**

The story from the tradition for this morning is about what happens when we meet each other on the same level, no one having authority or power over anyone else. Just people to people, working it out together. Joseph, son of Jacob, has been sold into slavery by his brothers. To his good fortune, he is elevated to a very high status within the ruling house of Egypt. Joseph’s formerly rather high and mighty brothers must go to Egypt, hat in hand, seeking help from this foreign power during a time of desperate famine in their own country. Joseph, ‘greatly honoured’, is the one in authority who is ready and willing to receive his brothers - who were once his mortal enemies, to respond to their plea for help to survive. He reveals himself to them and together they weep with reunion. Joseph and Benjamin wrap themselves in an embrace of equals, brothers (literally) in arms. Joseph’s tears dissolve the barrier between the brothers and those who had been enemies can now declare with the psalm for today, “How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”

**Genesis 45: 1-15**

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?

How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?

When human loving fails and every hope is gone,

Your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.
*(Words: Ruth Duck)*

**Witness** Geoff Boyce

**Prayers for Others**
Chasms pervade our lives:
**E: Chasms of communication**

**W: Chasms between good and evil**

**E: Chasms of social or economic difference**
**W: Chasms between wise and imprudent choice**

Can any two persons ever hear each other across a great chasm that divides them?

(*a time for prayerful reflection \*for our personal relationships \* in our community \* in our nation \*in our world - the gong will sound for the four foci*)

Show us the bridges, O God, which can unite countries and families and neighbours. Grant us the ears to listen to the wisdom that will lessen schisms of religion, race and attitude. Draw us toward right and just choices as we live from day to day.

**God - heart of the world:**

**revealed through every aspect of creation:**

 **understood through our awareness.**

**May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly**

 **so that your love is reflected in the way we live.**

**May we always be thankful for the food we eat**

 **and the friends we have.**

**May we forgive those who transgress against us**

 **and be forgiven for our own.**

**In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat**

**and not be compromised by hesitation.**

**Through our freedom, may your justice**

**be seen and heard and experienced**

 **forever and ever. Amen.** (*A Shared Prayer, Sherri Wienberg)*

Song: TiS 690 Beauty for Brokenness

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

*The Uniting Church in Australia sets an open table for communion, which means that anyone can participate in the symbolic meal. All are welcome*

Those who gather at this table have chosen to follow a story

the story of God, who loves

who, from an eternal well of love,

created all that lives - created humans for love,

and invited us into a relationship for life: full, rich, life.

The story is a story of human turning away, and returning,

of prophets calling, men and women singing,

God forgiving and restoring, again and again.

The story of this table, this meal,

is the story of Jesus, who we follow;

who was born under a special star,

inhabited by the Sacred Spirit.

Jesus looked at women and welcomed, men, and healed,

children, and delighted.

The story of Jesus is a story of love, of grace,

of peace and justice and courage.

On the night when he was betrayed - for not all understood, or accepted -

he took the bread they were to eat, gave thanks and broke it.

He looked at his friends and said, this is my body, breaking for you

Eat, and whenever you eat, remember me.

At the end of the meal he took a cup and gave thanks.

He said, this cup is a new covenant made through the spilling of my blood.

drink, and whenever you drink, remember me.

We pray that the Spirit, ever present, will bless this bread and this wine,

will bless us, making these gifts the body of Christ in us.

“The holiest thing we have to offer the world is a ‘broken-open’ heart, emptied of fear and vengeance, filled with forgiveness and a willingness to take the risks of love”.
(The Politics of the Brokenhearted, Parker Palmer )

**Breaking Open the Bread and Distributing the Meal**

*Listen as the bread breaks open; without breaking open it cannot be shared. As a symbol of the body of Christ, what does this breaking open mean to you? As a community that knows itself to be the body of Christ in this time and place, what does the breaking open mean to you?*
The bread, broken - that our lives may be made whole.

The cup, love poured out - that our lives may be filled up.

*Please make your way to one of the communion stations.*

*Tear off a piece of bread from the loaf that someone is holding for you.*

*Dip it into the cup, and eat the bread.*

*Take the loaf and hold it for the next person.*

*When they have taken, dipped, and eaten...*

*Hand them the loaf so they can have a turn serving the next person.*

*The juice is non-alcoholic.*

*There are gluten-free wafers at every station.*

*If you see someone unable to come to a station...bring them communion.*
*At the end, the communion elements are brought to the central community table,*

*and we will gather around in a large circle.*

The story is told again and again with this re-enacting at tables all over the world.

It is a world still yearning for justice,for courage, peace and love.

May the story we have enacted here shape our living beyond this moment;

May the Christ we have remembered be our Wisdom Guide,

may the Creator scatter seeds and birth ever new, renewing, life,

and may the Spirit breathe in us and through us, peace, deep peace.

Amen *(Communion liturgy: Rev Sarah Agnew, August 2017)*

**Words of mission and benediction**

We take a risk and we place ourselves

at the service of the Gospel

knowing that to do so

will involve us in a struggle
that is both inner and outer,

knowing that we have come

to a point where we cannot

make sense of life without God.

We take a risk today,

by leaving this community

to go and create community,

knowing that to do so

will put us in conflict

with those who seek their own interest.

We take a risk today

that in going our separate ways,

You, Jesus Christ, come with us

and that is all that matters.

**Send us out now. We are ready to journey with You. Amen.** *(source unknown)*

The peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you**

(*we share together a sign of peace)*

*The service was prepared by Rev Sandy Boyce, Geoff Boyce and Rev Ian Giles. The musicians enhanced our worship with music for contemplation and music for community. Carol and Peter Dungey prepared the communion. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Hall after the service.*