



**Pilgrim Uniting Church**  
**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**  
**8.00am MORNING WORSHIP**



**COCU52A.PENTECOST 11A**

**20 August 2017**

**GREETING, WELCOME and COMMUNITY NEWS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 133)*

*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"*

We gather as the people of God,  
united through God's mercy.

**We gather as one people,  
to worship and praise our God.**

We gather, joyfully celebrating  
the oneness of our purpose.

**We gather, as people blessed by God:  
to worship and honour our God.**

We gather, renewed and refreshed by  
the ever-flowing stream of God's mercy.

**We gather as people wholly dedicated  
to the worship and glory of God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"*

**We recognise your presence  
in familiar faces and places and the unity amongst us.**

All of Joseph's brothers wept  
to find themselves together in the foreign land.

The heart of Jesus opened  
to the Canaanite woman, seeing her faith.

**Let us recognise your presence  
in unfamiliar faces and places and in the diversity amongst us.**

**Hymn: God, With Joy We Look Around Us**

*Music: Regent Square 8.7.8.7.8.7 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory")*

God, with joy we look around us

At your world's diversity.

Folk of every kind surround us

And you call your church to see:

All are made in your own image!  
All are people whom you love!

In the times we've hurt each other,  
Lord, we've hurt the ones you bless.  
Hating sister, cursing brother,  
We've denied what you express:  
All are made in your own image!  
All are people whom you love!

God, you sent a Saviour to us,  
Breaking walls that would divide.  
By your Spirit, now work through us  
As we witness side by side:  
All are made in your own image!  
All are people whom you love! *(Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2017)*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, we pray confidently to you,  
knowing that you understand us, from the inside out.  
Let us confess our lack of understanding.  
We know the times we search for you and do not find - you right before us.  
**Loving God, forgive us when we are still without understanding.**

We pay attention to the surface and disregard the heart of the matter.  
**Loving God, forgive us when we are still without understanding.**

We ignore your agents of change  
although their gift to us is to open our hearts.  
**Loving God, forgive us when we are still without understanding.**

Loving God,  
**forgive us when we misunderstand each other;  
when we do not seek greater understanding;  
when we would rather judge than understand.**

*A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves*

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Jesus embodies the forgiveness of God: at the heart of forgiveness is understanding. Jesus is one with us in the human condition, understanding us from the inside out. Therefore, take heart and know that we are loved, forgiven and understood. In this we are empowered to go and sin no more.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**BIBLE READINGS:** Genesis 45:1-15      Matthew 15: 21-28

**HYMN**              TIS 638 O Christ the healer we have come

**REFLECTION** Geoff Boyce

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

We pray for harmony wherever there is discord - within ourselves, in our close relationships, between nations. We pray for solidarity of purpose amongst advocates for justice and peace. We pray for everyone who works to celebrate difference whilst dissolving division.

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

Give us a vision of unity, God, as we recognise our common humanity and our interdependence upon one another and the earth.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN:** TiS 690              Beauty for Brokenness

*During the singing of this hymn, we will receive our offering for the work of the church in the world.*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bless our gifts to the work of unity in the world, O God.  
May what we have offered help bring people together,  
bridge divides and widen the embrace.

**How very good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE INVITATION**

#### **THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**

#### **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts. **We open our hearts to God.**

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 your gifts and calling are irrevocable and you bless us with life forever. You give life

to the earth and everything in it, and desire its peoples to live as one. In ancient times you worked through your servant, Joseph, sending him ahead of your people to preserve life and open up a way of salvation. You sent your own child, Jesus, among us, and when his eyes were opened by the pleas of a gentile woman, you made it known that no one would have to scrape for crumbs of mercy beneath your table. When he was killed, you raised him to life, and with him raised us all and seated us in honour at your banqueting table. As we gather with our sisters and brothers, with neighbours and strangers, at the table where Jesus is host, we lift our voices, filled with joy, joining them with the glad songs of every place and generation:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of truth and light,  
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.**

### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Meet us at this table, loving God, where this meal is a sign and symbol of your constant presence. Pour out your Spirit on the gifts made ready for us. May we understand that it is not just crumbs, but all of your justice offered in the bread so, as we eat, we may go to bring wholeness to all shattered by the world's fears. Help us to recognise that it is not just a few drops, but all of your grace poured into the cup so, as we drink, we will go to do what is right, opening doors to outsiders, gathering outcasts into our family. Amen. *Communion is shared*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give thanks that we have been nourished at this table, each of us and all of us together.

### **WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING** *Candles are extinguished*

Go to share the grace of Jesus, to love others just as we are loved. May God give us patience to listen to each other's cries, love to see in each other a brother or a sister, and faith to trust that the gifts of God are for us and for all. None are rejected and everyone is included in God's vision of unity.  
**We are sent out to love and to serve.**

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**  
*The sign of the peace is exchanged.*

*Everyone is invited to stay for a light continental breakfast following this service.*