**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***8.00am MORNING WORSHIP***

**COCU56A 17th September, 2017**

**WELCOME and GREETING and COMMUNITY NEWS**

**PSALM 114**

*At first glance, this amazing psalm seems to be a whimsical record of Israel’s defining moments in history, and the way God guided and blessed Israel’s peoples over countless generations. Throughout the words of this psalm, all creation delights and celebrates God’s majestic powers over creation with unlikely actions and patterns of behaviour. Yet this psalm also has a very clear message that God’s purposes will be fulfilled; that God is supreme over all that has been created; and that when God chooses to act, God does become involved in the affairs of people. The psalm also reminds us that as powerful and immovable as mountains and hills appear to be, before God they are just dust; and before God the mighty waters of creation are just a series of water drops.*

When we were led out of the land of slavery - the people of Israel, coming out from under the foreign thumb - the land of Judah became a sacred place, the land of Israel came under sovereign rule. The wild sea took one look, and turned tail and ran, the Jordan river backed off and headed the other way. The mountains skipped like a rock wallaby; the hills were as jumpy as a kelpie pup. What was it that made the wild sea turn tail? What was it that made the Jordan back off? What made the mountains quiver and jump? What made the hills shudder and shake?
**It was awe of you, LORD, God of our ancestors. The whole earth trembles in your presence. For you are the one who melts rocks into pools of water; the one who brings springs bubbling up from hard baked ground**. *©2002 Nathan Nettleton*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends of God, believe this: God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved! May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.
So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;

come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling. Friends of God, let us worship!

**HYMN** "Wake, now my senses" *(Tune: Slane, 10 10 10 10, TIS #547)*

Wake, now my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new,
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honour the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer your limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbour both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now my conscience, with justice your guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.

Wake, now my vision of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care. *TJS Mikelson*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We are invited to bring ourselves out into the open space of God’s loving kindness; to seek the light of God’s forgiveness so that we might be free

of the enclosure of regret, guilt and shame, and know joy. *A silence is kept.*

**WORD OF ASSURANCE** *(incorporating Romans 14:7-8)*
Hear the good news! As St. Paul has written, we do not live to ourselves alone. "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So then, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. It is to this end that Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.” To be at one with Christ is to live in the assurance that we are not alone. **God is with us! Our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**BIBLE READINGS**: Exodus 14:19-31 Matthew 18:21-35

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN** TiS 648 Help us accept each other

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Loving God, we know the times we feel exposed and vulnerable to lesser ways of being. We pray for those who are caught in vicious cycles that have no grace in them. We pray for those who feel diminished in their personhood through illness, dis-ease, division, conflict and difference.

*Prayers are offered* (this is my prayer/**this is our prayer**)

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**
**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.**

**HYMN** Touch the earth lightly TiS 668

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Bless these offerings, the fruit of our labour. Bless, too, the fruit of our lives. As we bring our gifts, awaken in us compassion for those in need, particularly those who cry out for justice and peace. Amen.

**COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**

This is the table, not of the church but of Christ.

It is made ready for those who love, and want to love more.

**THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift up our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Indeed it is right, for in God we live and move and have our being.

We give thanks for Christ who informs our living:

the compassion of Jesus which changes our hearts,

the clear speaking of Jesus which contradicts our harmless generalities,

the life and death of Jesus which teach us to live, to die, to trust new life.

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.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the life of Christ - his life in us, and through us your life for the world. Renewed by his life and recreated in his image, may we set our minds on fulfilling your purpose for us and this world of which we are a part. Amen.
Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread (*the bread is broken)*

The cup which we bless is our communion in the life of Christ
*(the cup is raised)*

The gifts of God for the people of God. *Communion is shared*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Creator God, enable us to offer your blessing in our loving, and your peace in our serving. Jesus, Son of the living God, lead us into the demands of our lives with hope, so that we meet with you in our homes, our work, our places of learning. Emboldening Spirit, show us how you are active in those with whom we live and work and play. Amen. *(c) Julie Hulme*

**WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING**
*The candles are extinguished.*
God be with you, as light and guide.

Christ be with you, embracing you with free gift of grace.

Spirit be with you, leading you into abundant life.

God’s peace be with you.***And also with you.***
*The sign of the peace is exchanged*

