

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

52B 19 August 2018

WELCOME and GREETING and COMMUNITY NEWS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

HYMN Come and Seek the Way of Wisdom

(Words: Ruth Duck; Tune: PICARDY TIS 497)

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced, when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

At its best, prayer is gentle communion with the Sacred: it is an opportunity to enter more deeply into the present moment, to step aside from the busyness and distractions of life, to bring our attention to the centre of ourselves, to the place where the Holy dwells in each of us. Let us pray.

Mystery at the centre of all life, Spirit saturating the material,
Sacred Presence, elusive, hidden, Eternal Now,
encountered in darkness and dreams, in moments of emptiness and joy,
in the warmth of friendship and tenderness of intimacy, in faith shared and Scripture read,
in the stillness of the soul, with love, we gaze upon You.

Father, Mother, Lover, Triune God - you are all in all;
our wholeness and protection;
You are everything to us.

By your invitation of grace, we lay down before you
the burdens we carry, the suffering we endure,
the issues with which we wrestle, and the memories of past wrongs,
hurts, shame and failures.

We confess our wrongs:
our craving for earthly things,
our insatiable need for worldly status, power and wealth,
our words of malice and meanness, our shallow thoughts,
and our pretence that we are better than we are.

Hear the words of Jesus: 'Go, and sin no more.'

May God have mercy upon you, grant you forgiveness, time for the amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

May we know the embrace of God's divine presence. A time of silence is held.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, God is gracious and merciful. We are made for life with the Risen Christ, for fellowship with all the saints. We are bearers of the Divine image. May God nourish you with the peace and calm of God's Silence and open you to the Mystery that lies within creation. May the darkness that envelops the universe be to us a comfort, a reminder that all things rest in God, and that God makes a dwelling-place in us. **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

READINGS Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58

REFLECTION

HYMN Summoned by the God who made us

(Words: Sisters of St. Benedict 1991; Tune: NETTLETON TiS 392)

Summoned by the God who made us
Rich in our diversity,
Gathered in the name of Jesus,
Richer still in unity:

Chorus:
Let us bring the gifts that differ
And, in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One of faith and love and praise

Radiant risen from the water;
Robed in holiness and light,
Male and female in God's image
Male and female God's delight: Chorus

Trust the goodness of creation;
Trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised
Sprung from seed of what has been. Chorus

Bring the hopes of every nation;
Bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice:
Let it sound through time and space. Chorus

Draw together at one table
All the human family;
Shape a circle ever wider
And a people ever free.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Prayers are shared, concluding with: This is my prayer/This is our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "O God of Earth and Space" (Words: JPHuber; Tune: 'Leoni', 125 TiS)

Note: could arrange the verses in boxes?

O God of earth and space,
of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here
and everywhere.

In fruit and grain and tree,

in shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells,
now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,
where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life,
there you are found.

Inspirer of all thought!
Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue,
in every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,
where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules,
there you are known.

Give us the courage clear,
to make the earth a home,
For all to live in harmony,
in Christ's shalom.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

These offerings represent so much work and thought; so many hours and days of our lives. May our sharing always be generous, and may giving grant us wisdom, that we and our gifts may be used for the good things of God. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

REFLECTIONS ON THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

Bread too like us has its birth in violence. The seed that fell into the ground died, and came forth as wheat is now ground into new form and flour is sifted and changed into loaves for rising. We break this bread with reverence and give it to each other for eating just as another person once broke those loaves with us and asked us not to forget. We haven't!
If there is any command we have been religiously obedient to it is this command of not forgetting. Do this in my memory! Do it again and again!

Jesus, we have.....

We have broken bread with tears in our eyes and we've broken it when our hearts felt nothing, but we have broken it just as you asked us to do. We are still trying to understand what it means. But we haven't forgotten.

And the wine? It too is born out of pain. After days of ripening, the grapes are crushed and squeezed into unfamiliar form waiting in barrels and vats and finally, bottles to be accepted, loved, believed in. And this wine also we drink carefully with more reverence than usual. It is in honour of that same person the One who asked us not to forget.

And we haven't!

O God, if there's anything we've been faithful to, it's this not forgetting request.....

It is especially to remind each other not to forget that we meet.

It is especially to celebrate the life that comes out of death. *(Source: Rev Scott McKenna)*

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.

God of eternity, who laid the foundations of the universe, in whose hand the cosmos evolves through matter pregnant with consciousness, we give You thanks for life's beauty, for radiant sunsets, erupting volcanoes, for waters still and turbulent, for sacred mountains and peaceful gardens and all the fecundity of Earth's womb.

We praise You for all human life, for humanity's diversity and differences, for the rich texture of colour, creed and culture, for the treasure of human love, for friends, family and loved ones, for the heartfelt joy and meaning they bring to us and for the opportunities of caring and be cared for.

Above all, we thank you for the revelation of yourself in the rabbi from Nazareth, in the mystic narratives of Scripture, in the Spirit dwelling within each of us. Holy God, You are everything, all in all: You are in us and we are in You. Though the life of Jesus was poured out on a cross, he was raised to new life, and now offers himself to us as the bread of heaven, so that all who eat and drink with him might live forever as one with him.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

For this simple meal, drawn from earth and made with human hands, we thank you and ask that you make it become for us a sign and symbol of your gracious presence in all things, all times, all places. Amen. *Communion is shared*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We remember that we live in a world of many wonders. We thank you for our slowly growing understanding of the great joy of living. Thank you for refreshing us at this table with your presence, full of joy and wonder. Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

(the candles are extinguished)

Go out, nourished by the Bread of Heaven, the Bread of Life, and walk in the ways of wisdom.

And may God give you a wise and discerning mind.

May Christ Jesus fill you with life in all its fullness.

And may the Holy Spirit overflow in you in songs of joy and praise forever.

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.