

Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

8.00am MORNING WORSHIP

57B 23rd September 2018

WELCOME and GREETING and COMMUNITY NEWS

PSALM OF THE DAY

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Psalm 1*)

Come, let us delight in the law of the Lord.

Our joy is found in the love of God and neighbour.

Come, let us be nourished by the Living Water.

Together, we will worship the One who enables us to thrive.

(Source: Amy Loving, The Worship Closet)

HYMN Like a tree beside the waters
Like a tree beside the waters
Nurtured by your loving care
We, O God, your sons and daughters,
Your enduring witness bear.

Like a tree beside the river,
Drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever
Recreate our hopes and dreams.

Through the storms of life sustain us
by the wisdom of your grace,
may the changing of the seasons
Find us in your warm embrace.

(Words: James F.D. Martin; Tune: Silver Creek. Alternative tune: Hyfrydol first section)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Great God, You are the proper noun for mystery*

We seek to place a familiar face upon You
yet you always elude us.

You are more than our definitions,
more than we can imagine, beyond what we can be.

In Jesus we name the Christ, it is as if we have seen you.

His is life truly lived in your Spirit.

His is life lost in you, and therefore,
life truly gained and saved.

We scarcely know what we say
when we call him Saviour,

but we are before you because we trust his witness,
and the witness of our own spirit, that you are truly God.

You have given us life, and for this we thank you. Amen.

("God is the proper noun for mystery..." is a saying of David Tacey in Beyond Literal Belief, Garret Publishing 2015)*

CONFESSION

Reading: James 3: 13 - 4:3, 7-8a

O God, we live our lives as best we can - dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. *A silence is held*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(inspired by James 3)

When we come before God in humility and honesty,
God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing.

Thanks be to God!

(Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual)

BIBLE READINGS Proverbs 31: 10-13 Mark 9: 30-37

HYMN

Holy Wisdom, lamp of learning,
Bless the light that reason lends.
Teach us judgment as we kindle
Sparks of thought your Spirit sends.
Sanctify our search for knowledge
And the truth that sets us free.
Come illumine mind and spirit
Joined in deepest unity.

Vine of truth, in you we flourish;
By your grace we learn and grow.
May the word of Christ among us
Shape our life, our search to know.
Joined to Christ in living, dying,
May we help the church convey
Witness to the saving gospel,
Bearing fruit of faith today.

(Words: Ruth Duck; Music: Beach Springs)

REFLECTION

HYMN Of Women, and Women's Hopes, we sing
Of women, and of women's hopes we sing:
of sharing in creation's nurturing,
of bearing and of birthing new belief,
of passion for the promises of life.

We praise God whose image is our own,
the mystery within our flesh and bone,
the woman-spirit moving through all time
in prophecy, Magnificat and dream.

We labour for the commonwealth of God,
and equal as disciples, walk the road,
in work and status, asking what is just,
for sisters of the family of Christ.

Forgiving what is past, we seek the new:
a finer justice, and a peace more true,
the promise of empowering for our day
when men and women roll the stone away.

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Tune: Sursum Corda, Smith)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Prayers are offered: this is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The offering will be collected in silence, as we offer our time, gifts and talents along with our gifts of money for the work of the church in the world

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For all your gifts we are truly thankful, Loving God. We pray that our gifts will be used to shape a world where everyone has all that they need, and all can be truly thankful. Amen.

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanks and praise, glory and honour, are rightly yours, O God.

For you alone are worthy. In time beyond our dreaming, you brought forth light out of darkness, and in the love of Christ your chosen One you set woman and man at the heart of your creation. And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with the choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.

We glorify you, God of holiness, that by your love and mercy,
you sent Jesus to live among us,

walking the paths of the world with us.

In the midst of conflicts and divisions,

he seeks to attract us with his gentle peace;

in facing the walls of rejection we build,

he would tear them down with his gracious acceptance of all people;

in taking up his cross,

he became the servant of all,

and when death thought he was in its selfish grasp at last,

he was raised to new life by you,

the promise of the resurrection for all.

Though we may not always understand,

we remember his willingness to be last,

we celebrate his triumph over death,

and we proclaim that he is the bread of life:

Christ has died;

Christ has been raised;

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit upon those who gather in this place, in these moments, and upon the gifts of your feast. As we bring our famished souls to your Table, strengthen us with the bread of life, so we might go forth to offer hope and grace to the needy around us; as we open our parched hearts to you, fill us with the servant spirit of the cup, so that, setting aside our thirst for greatness, we might offer our lives in service, taking peace and reconciliation to the brokenness of our world.

And when we come to the end of our journey, gathering by the eternal streams of living water with all those who have gone before and come after, we will delight in your glory and grace through all eternity, our glad songs of thanksgiving offered to you always, God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen. *(Source: Thom Shuman)*

Communion is shared

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT *(inspired by Mark 9:33-37)*

God of unsearchable mystery and light,

your weakness is greater than our strength,

your foolishness brings all our cleverness to naught,
your gentleness confounds the power we would claim.
You call first to be last and last to be first,
servant to be leader and ruler to be underling of all.
Pour into our hearts the wisdom of your Word and Spirit,
that we may know your purpose and live to your glory. Amen.

(Source: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers)

COMMISSION and BENEDICTION

(inspired by James 3:13-4:3)

Go out, clothed in strength and dignity.
Submit yourselves to God and resist evil.
Delight in the Lord's teaching,
open your hands to the poor,
and let your actions arise from the wisdom of God.
And may God draw near to you and strengthen you;
May Christ Jesus teach you the ways of simplicity;
and may the Holy Spirit fill you with wisdom
and make you fruitful in peace and righteousness.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

(source: Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net)

A sign of peace is exchanged.