

Pilgrim Uniting Church

12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

MID WEEK WORSHIP

COCU 65B

Welcome to this time of worship, of gentle reflection, and caring community.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

As we come to this Table of healing and gentleness, we pray that you would send your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and of the cup, and on we who have gathered here. As we reach out our hands for the bread which has been broken for us, we seek to encourage others to discover your love; as we drink of the Spirit of Christ, may we no longer plead ignorance, but with full awareness, and open hearts, go forth to serve all your children. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD *Communion is shared*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks to you, God. We see you in our lives and in the lives of others - and know that you are good. You call us, know us, guide us. No matter what happens in our lives, you have never, nor will you ever, abandon us. Be with us as we seek to understand and embody your goodness in the world. **Amen**

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Candles are extinguished

We have gathered, we have broken bread,
we have shared in the continuing story of faith.

And now we go to share in God's mission in the world.

We go, to follow in the footsteps
of those who have gone before us in Christ.
To serve God in sincerity and faithfulness.
To teach those who come after us to trust in God.

And may God protect you along the way;
May Christ Jesus keep you alert and prepared;
And may the Holy Spirit fuel the lamp that guides your path.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen. *(Source: Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net)*
God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is exchanged

WELCOME and GREETING

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

OPENING PRAYER

God has gathered us to this place, where we hear those stories which show us what the reign of God is like.

God summons us to this place, where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.

God will send us from this place, to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God. *(Source: Thom Shuman)*

May it be so! Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

Howard Thurman, a civil rights warrior was asked by a reporter how he managed to survive the hostility and hate finding the strength to keep fighting for equality and justice. He replied, "My Mama kept telling me I was a beloved child of God and I believed her. There was nothing anyone could say or do that would change that. I believed her. So, even when the whole world seemed to be against me. I trusted and had the audacity to believe God was FOR me. If God was FOR me, I had nothing to fear." God is FOR you. Let that soak in. There's a beautiful sentence in the Bible that says, "There is nothing, nothing in all creation, nothing in life or death, that can ever separate you from Divine Love." Nothing.

Where might we find the resiliency for these times we are living in? By returning, reconnecting and resting in the truth of who we are as God's Beloved and that God is FOR us.

Your spiritual core...the core of who you are at the deepest level...is Love, a Love that is FOR you and stronger than anything that can be against you. When you trust the goodness of who you are at the deepest level, you can't help embody that goodness in the world and fight to protect the goodness of others. L.R. Knott wrote, "The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

Today's To-Be list: "God is Love, you are created in the image of Love, Love is FOR you, but..."

No. Stop. Don't say it. Don't think it. For, today, just sit with this deepest of all truths, the eternal truth that God is Love and you are created in the image of Love. Sit with it and let it sink in until there's nothing more to be said. *A time of silence is held.*

Carry this breath prayer with you today -

Breathing in: God is FOR me. Breathing out: I will be FOR others.

(reflection by Rev Steve Koski)

READINGS AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

There is within each one of us
a potential for goodness beyond our imagining;
for giving which seeks no reward; for listening without judgement;
for loving unconditionally. *(Elisabeth Kubler-Ross)*

Let us offer our prayers: This is my prayer/**this is our prayer.**

Teach us the love that stays faithful for the long haul, Jesus:
the persistence that will not give up, and the grace to trust your faithfulness, even when we cannot see results.

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

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.

EUCCHARIST

The invitation

The narrative of the last supper

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

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One whose faithfulness never ends.

People of God, give thanks to God.

We offer our praise and thanksgiving to the One whose love is eternal.

You alone are holy, God of all time, and blessed is Jesus Christ.
When our spiritual ancestors had walked away from your gracious love, you revealed yourself in the life of Christ.
When our spiritual ancestors were no longer willing to listen, your Word of hope came among us, to live your love in our midst.
When our spiritual ancestors foolishly clung to sin's deadly ways, Jesus showed us the reign of God.

As we remember his death and resurrection for us,
we tell those who come after us
of that mystery we call faith:

Christ died: **the witness that love is stronger than hate;**
Christ was raised: **the witness that life is stronger than death;**
Christ will witness to us: **that hope is stronger than grief.**