

BENEDICTION

Go in peace; and may God's breath stream within you.
May God's breath renew you.
May God's breath invigorate you.
Walk with confidence into this day.

(Traditional Jewish Blessing)

Amen. May it be so.

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,
or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE Toccata Quinta Georg Muffat 1653-1704

Thank you to the many people involved in the
preparation and leadership of this combined service.

Presiding Ministers: Rev Dr Greg Elsdon
 Rev Sandy Boyce

Preacher: Rev Prof Andrew Dutney

Bible Readers: Ian Gillespie & Genty Stevens

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

Assistant Organist: Christopher Bridge
 Alexander Paine

Jenny Ward (Piano), Margaret Chittleborough (Bassoon),
Genevieve Bassani (Flute), Jeff Telfer (Clarinet), Don Bell (Guitar),
Graham Brice & Ruth Farrent (Percussion), Norm Inglis (Organ) and Alison
McDougall (Song Leader).

The Choir of Pilgrim Church
Members of the 9.30am Community Music ensemble

*Everyone is welcome for coffee, tea and conversation in the Hall
prior to the Meeting of the Congregation, which will commence at 11:40am.*



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

10:00am Combined Worship Service

Sunday, 25th November 2018

Reign of Christ / Christ the King
COCU67B

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church. To receive
most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their hearing aid to T-setting.*



THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

*Please stand as the Bible and symbols of our life as a congregation are brought
to the table.*

CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING OF CANDLES

This is the place
and this is the time;
here and now God waits
to break into our experience:

**To change our minds,
to change our lives,
to change our ways;**

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To make us see the world
and the whole of life
in a new light;

**To fill us with hope,
joy, and certainty
for the future.**

This is the place.
as are all places;
this is the time,
as are all times.

**O God of this place,
and every place,
God of this time,
and all time,
here and now,
we praise you.**

HYMN 563 Rejoice! The Lord is King

(Charles Wesley 1707-1788)

(Alan Gaunt)

1. REJOICE! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore:

Refrain:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2. Jesus the Savior reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took His seat above:
Refrain

3. His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

Refrain

4. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Refrain

5. Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!

WELCOME AND GREETING

*Those who wish to do so may share a sign of peace with those
immediately around them using words such as 'God's Peace be with you'
and also with you'. Please respect those who wish to use the time for
quiet contemplation.*

**Clear away the cobwebs of complex histories
Tangled thoughts, and messy motives,
And help us all to flourish, living your love in our daily lives.**
Loving God, you challenge us to be a place of welcome,
a Church without walls,
offering your love, care and compassion
to those who need it most.

**Lord, help us to be people of courage,
That our Church may be a witness to your vision of how we should live
together. Amen.**
(Source: World Mission Council)

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 398 Christ triumphant, ever reigning *(Michael Seward b. 1932)*

1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

Refrain:

Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

3. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-
treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross

defeated,
sinners justified:

Refrain

2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:

Refrain

4. Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

Refrain

Refrain

5. So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

Refrain

We will live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Together with all the people of God, we will serve the world for which Christ died. And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

(Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia from Uniting in Worship 2 Creeds & Statements of Faith No.5)

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all places and climes,
we are glad to thank you for our friends
and partners in faith and vision throughout the world,
for people with the strength of character
to survive in difficult circumstances,
and to live out their faith
in joy and thanksgiving for all your gifts.

God of all people and nations,
Hear our prayers for the people and churches of the world
**who stand firm in the face of injustice and,
with imagination and determination,
share a spirit of adventure which can lead to miracles.**

time for silent prayer and reflection

Generous God, we give thanks for the life of faith,
and being able to share it freely.

**We pray for your people,
who face persecution,
and help them to offer love freely
to one and to all, no matter their faith or religion.**

Loving Christ, born in simplicity,
may your Living Stones be salt to all,
that both hope and justice may be real;
that prejudice and bigotry be banished.
**Awaken all people from complacency
and give us courage to invest in peace.**

time for silent prayer and reflection

God who is always close,
we remember our neighbours,
And pray for all you churches and peoples.
You promise us your Holy Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit,**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND
We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Kaurua people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Kaurua people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Kaurua Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

(adapted from the Preamble to the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all blessings,
source of all life,

giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

for the breath that sustains life,

for the food of this earth that nurtures life,

for the love of family and friends

without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty that the eye can see,

for the joy that the ear may hear,

for the unknown that we cannot behold

filling the universe with wonder,

for the expanse of space that draws us

beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:

for families who nurture our becoming,

for friends who love us by choice,

for companions at work who share our burdens and daily tasks,

for strangers who welcome us into their midst,

for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,

for children who lighten our moments with delight,

for the unborn who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:

for life and one more day to love,

for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,

for neighbours and one more person to love and by whom to be loved,

for your grace and one more experience of your presence,

for your promise:

to be with us, to be our God,

and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,

we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,

through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

[Source: Adapted from "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson, Reprinted with the permission of the author.]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION/PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

The word of Love is perfect, reviving the soul
the wisdom of God is solid, enlightening those who are open. ...
But who can see themselves clearly enough?
Save me from my own hidden faults.
Don't let me be insulting; don't let nastiness come over me. ...
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

(Psalm 19.7, 12-13, 14)

God of love, may we think and speak
in harmony with your graciousness.
May we speak only what is truthful and loving,
what is born of your grace in us.
May we speak with compassion and humility
in blessing, not cursing, in reverence, not pride.
Give us wisdom to see ourselves honestly,
to know our own faults,
to see your light in us and all that hides it,
and the same in others as well.
Keep us from blaming born of a fearful ego,
but let us speak your encouragement and truth.
May the words we speak and the thoughts we harbor
reflect your tender compassion,
your forgiveness of us and all people,
O God, our truth and our love. Amen.

(Steve Garraas-Holmes – adapted)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has opened our ears and our hearts
to know God's love and forgiveness.
There is nothing we need to do other than love one another and love God,
for all things come from God's love.
Let us live our lives knowing we have been forgiven
and we are restored to God.
Live in the way of Christ. **Amen.**

(Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell – adapted)

ANTHEM Jubilate in B flat C.V. Stanford 1852-1924

The children are invited to leave for activities in the East Chapel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of life and hope, we sense your presence in this place.
Awaken us again to the mysteries that humble us,
to truth waiting to be revealed afresh to us
and to illumine our minds, that we may give ourselves
in honesty and openness to the larger life before us.
May it be so!

Words: Leith Fisher & Douglas Galbraith
Music: "Cradle Song" - James Scott Skinner

Unison

God, our gifts we lay be - fore you, gifts of hand and heart and mind;
these we of - fer to a - dore you; may you ev - er in us find
will - ing hands for cost - ly giv - ing, spi - rit's faith - ful, spi - rit's true,
sha - ping in our dai - ly liv - ing gifts of worth to hon - our you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We make our offerings, small and large, with the hope and confidence
that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think,
and all we hope, will take root in this world
and be the source of new expressions
of God's love, of God's justice,
of God's character, of God's mission, and of God's reign.
May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven
through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. **Amen.**

(adapted from a prayer on Mustard Seed)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.

3. In countless tongues your glory we declare.
A thousand accents rise as one in prayer,
your listening ear to every voice inclines,
each soul is precious in your grand designs.
4. Root out, O Lord, our prejudice and fear,
and bid us to the stranger's heart draw near.
Veneers of difference may we pierce, and see
one single undivided family.

SERMON Rev Prof Andrew Dutney

SONG God, our gifts we lay before you

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.
Please remain standing if you are able for the Dedication and Affirmation*

1. God, our gifts we lay before you,
gifts of hand and heart and mind;
these we offer to adore you;
may you ever in us find
willing hands for costly giving,
spirits faithful, spirits true,
shaping in our daily living
gifts of worth to honour you.
2. Jesus Christ, these gifts now hallow,
differently bestowed on each,
gifts to guide or gifts to follow,
gifts to help us learn, or teach;
save us talents from exploiting,
tempted to impress or score;
use them for your Body binding,
offered to enrich the whole.

3. Spirit of the Son and Father,
stir the gifts we will not own,
fearful they may lead us
further
into regions still unknown.
Help us love beyond our limits,
seeing Christ in all we meet;
strengthen our reluctant
spirits,
make our offering complete.

PSALM FOR THE DAY: Psalm 132: 1-12

- 1 O Lord, remember in David's favour all the hardships he endured;
- 2 **how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,**
- 3 I will not enter my house or get into my bed;
- 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,
- 5 until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling-place for the Mighty One of Jacob.'
- 6 We heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- 7 **'Let us go to his dwelling-place; let us worship at his footstool.'**
- 8 Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting-place,
you and the ark of your might.
- 9 **Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.**
- 10 For your servant David's sake
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
- 11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back:
'One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
- 12 **If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, for evermore, shall sit on your throne.'**

EPISTLE READING: Revelation 1: 4b-8

In this is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM King of glory, King of peace
J.S. Bach 1685-1750, arr. W.H. Harris 1883-1973

Please stand for the reading of the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John.
Glory to you, Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 18: 33-37

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SONG Lord of the Nations

Words: Nini LaBrooy, Music: Woodlands (Walter Greatorrex 1877-1949)

1. Lord of the nations, bless this ancient land,
where cultures meet and merge on every hand.
Let hearts diverse with common purpose beat,
let barriers crumble and discord retreat.
2. Your children, Lord, we come from every race,
diverse traditions and beliefs we trace.
Our feet may march to many a different drum,
but yours the resting place to which they come.