

Pilgrim UC (usual banner heading, hearing loop etc)

## FINDING GOD TOGETHER

The image God has shaped within us, mysteriously, incredibly, is a reflection of God's own Being. It is best seen in the multiple refractions of our variegated humanity, in the prismatic kaleidoscopes of our shared life, our interconnectedness, our being with each other. We seek God, we long for God and, thankfully, God is not far off, not hidden. We need only remember that God is most easily found when we find God together, and when we are humble enough to look even in the faces we find most strange and unfamiliar. *(John van de Laar, Sacredise)*

### A Call to Worship

To the God of life, let us bring ourselves:

East: some weary, some energetic

West: some contented, some disquieted

### We bring who we truly are

To the God of truth, let us bring ourselves:

East: some trusting, some doubting

West: our questions and our certainties

### We bring who we truly are

To the God of light, let us bring ourselves:

East: our achievements, our failures

West: our public selves, our hidden selves

### We bring who we truly are

To the God of hope, let us bring ourselves:

East: our dreams and visions

West: our despair, our yearnings

### We bring who we truly are

To the God of all Creation, let us bring ourselves:

we broken, we blessed

made in God's image, loved beyond measure

### We bring who we truly are

Let us offer our worship

and be open to God's light and life among us. *(Source: Craig Mitchell, 2018)*

**Song:** Gifts of the Spirit HaND39 *(Words: Helen Wiltshire; tune Cresswell)*

Please insert words

**Acknowledgement of Land:** UCA President's Survival Day Message

**Welcome**

## BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST TOGETHER

**Reading:** 1 Cor 12: 12-27

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink. For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. If the foot were to say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, "Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? As it is, God has put every different part in the body just as it's meant to be. There would not be a body if it were all only one part! As it is, there are many parts but one body. So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Nor can the head say to the feet, "Well, I don't need you!" We cannot do without the parts of the body that seem to be weaker; and those

parts that we think aren't worth very much are the ones which we treat with greater care and the parts of the body which don't look very nice are treated with special modesty, which the more beautiful parts do not need. God has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honour to those parts that need it. And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

## Early Word

### Blessing the Body

This blessing takes one look at you and all it can say is - holy.  
Holy hands. Holy face. Holy feet. Holy everything in between.  
Holy even in pain. Holy even when weary.  
In brokenness, holy. In shame, holy still.  
Holy in delight. Holy in distress. Holy when being born.  
Holy when we lay it down at the hour of our death.  
So, friend, open your eyes (holy eyes).  
For one moment see what this blessing sees,  
this blessing that knows how you have been formed  
and knit together in wonder and in love.  
Welcome this blessing that folds its hands  
in prayer when it meets you;  
receive this blessing that wants to kneel  
in reverence before you:  
you who are temple, sanctuary, home for God in this world. *(Jan Richardson)*

## Response

**Music:** Duo by Secret Garden *(for personal reflection)*

Joy is a meeting place, of deep intentionality and of self forgetting, the bodily alchemy of what lies inside us in communion with what formerly seemed outside, but is now neither, but become a living frontier, a voice speaking between us and the world: dance, laughter, affection, skin touching skin, singing in the car, music in the street, the sheer intoxicating beauty of the world inhabited as an edge between what we previously thought was us and what we thought was other than us.

Joy may be made by practiced, hard-won achievement as much as by an unlooked for, passing act of grace arriving out of nowhere; joy is a measure of our relationship not only to life but to death and our living with death, joy is the act of giving ourselves away before we need to or are asked to, joy is practiced generosity. If joy is a deep form of love, it is also the raw engagement with the passing seasonality of existence, the fleeting presence of those we love understood as gift, going in and out of our lives, faces, voices, memory, aromas of the first spring day or a wood fire in winter, the last breath of a dying parent as they create a rare, raw, beautiful frontier between loving presence and a new and now blossoming absence.

To feel a full and untrammelled joy is to have become fully generous; to allow our selves to be joyful is to have walked through the doorway of fear, the dropping away of the anxious worried self felt like a thankful death itself, a disappearance, a giving away, overheard in the laughter of friendship, the vulnerability of happiness felt suddenly as a strength, a solace and a source, the claiming of our place in the living conversation, the sheer privilege of being in the presence of the ocean, the sense of having danced to the music, in the rain, under the sky or with a well loved, familiar face - I was here and you were here and together we made a world.

(Source: 'Joy' From *Consolations: The Solace, Nourishment and Underlying Meaning of Everyday Words*. © David Whyte 2015 )

**Song:** Within HaND 87 *(Words: Helen Wiltshire; tune: O Waly Waly)*

## THE BODY OF CHRIST: SENT TOGETHER

**Reading:** Luke 4:14-21

### Witness

**Song:** The Summons

*(offering is collected)*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*(John L. Bell & Graham Maule)*

*(please remain standing if you are able)*

### **Prayer of dedication**

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. **Amen.**

*(Source: Daniel Hayward)*

### **Prayers for others**

We imagine a world where peace and justice  
are the ordinary realities of life.

East: We dream of a planet where giving and sharing  
are second nature to all people.

West: We envision an earth where joy and celebration  
fill the news and our lives.

#### **It may seem like a delusion**

**- but we have an incredible hope!**

We hope in the One who has come  
who proclaimed such a world,  
and who gave his life for it.

East: We hope in the One who is always coming,  
surprising us with the presence,  
and the restoring work of God.

West: We hope in the One who will come  
in every age, to every generation,  
until this dream has come true.

**We have an incredible hope, O God, and we praise your it. Amen.**

*(John van de Laar, Sacredise)*

*Silent prayers are offered for our world and her people, and our place in it.*

By your Holy Spirit, O God, warm the lives of those we name in the silence of our hearts; celebrate with those open to your abundance; bring comfort to those among us and around us who are hurting, and encouragement to those for whom the light of life shines less brightly. Amen.

*(Jeff Shrowder)*

**Song: As a Fire is Meant for Burning** *(words Ruth Duck, tune: Beach Spring: Come and Find the Quiet Centre)*

As a fire is meant for burning  
with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission,  
giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs,  
but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations,  
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;  
we are pilgrims on the way.  
we are seekers; we are givers;  
we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle loving actions,  
we would show that Christ is light,  
in a humble listening spirit,  
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime  
is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness  
mid earth's peoples many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens  
when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance  
of God's new and glorious dawn.

### **Words of mission/blessing**

Marcus Borg passed away 4 years ago, 21st January 2015. His favourite benediction: "Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind." *(H. Amiel)*

You are the body of Christ.

May you have the heart of Christ,  
tender for mercy.

May you have the eyes of Christ  
to see a world in need.

May you have the feet of Christ  
to bring good news.

Go in peace! And God go with you. *(posted on Literature & Liturgy. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>)*

### **And also with you!**

*Passing of the peace*

*This service was prepared by Rose Milton-Head and Sandy Boyce. Grateful thanks to the team of helpers - musicians who faithfully lead our music each week (this week led by Norm Inglis), Don Bell who led us in our singing, David Davis on the A-V desk, Peter Russell and Allan Forbes who give time to support the A-V needs in the service each week. The witness is uploaded to the website each week (look under 'hear here') so you can listen to it again if you wish. Thanks also to those who help in large and small ways in the service - setting up (thanks Robert!) and packing up, welcoming at the door, reading, collecting the offering, and a myriad of other ways. Thanks to the office team - Robin Buller and Julie Bradley - who format and print the service each week.*

*If you want to be involved in any way, small or large, feel free to chat with one of the Ministers or Denise Griffen who coordinates the worship roster for 9.30am.*

**This part is not to be printed in the service but is for reference only for the worship planners**

Voice 1 (led from front): Christ is like a single body, which has many parts;

Voice 2 (led from front): it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts.

Voice 1 (led from front): In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit,

Voice 2 (led from front): and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink. For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts.

Voice 3 (from the pews) If the foot were to say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body.

Voice 4 (from the pews) And if the ear were to say, "Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body.

Voice 5 (from the pews) If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear?

Voice 3 (from the pews) And if it were only an ear, how could it smell?

Voice 4: As it is, God has put every different part in the body just as it's meant to be.

Voice 5: There would not be a body if it were all only one part!

Voice 3: As it is, there are many parts but one body.

Voice 4: So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"

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Voice 5: and the parts of the body which don't look very nice are treated with special modesty, which the more beautiful parts do not need.

Voice 1: God has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honour to those parts that need it.

Voice 2: And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another.

Voice 1: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

Voice 2: All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.