



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

11.00am
Choral Worship

Sunday, 24th February 2019

Epiphany 7
COCU15C

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



THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

Let all the earth tremble before God

Let us worship our Creator and our Sustainer.

HYMN 557 Praise to the Holiest in the height



12 Flinders Street
GPO Box 116, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 08 8212 3295
Fax: 08 8212 9637
E-mail: office@pilgrim.org.au

www.pilgrim.org.au | facebook.com/pilgrimunitingchurch

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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.

PRAYER OF PRAISE and THANKSGIVING

Inspirational God, we gather this day to praise your holy name, and to give thanks for your trustworthy guidance throughout our life; and for the way you reveal your wisdom and justice to us.

We give thanks for our spiritual ancestors who have given witness to your life and love.

Together as one people, we offer our prayers of thanks that you are a God who is always willing to be involved with us, and who offers us daily blessings.

We celebrate that we are connected to you with bonds of love and trust, and we open ourselves to grow in wisdom and deepen our knowledge of you. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, Lord, what we are:
we are not the people we like others to think we are;
we are afraid to admit even to ourselves
what lies in the depths of our souls.

**But we do not want to hide our true selves from you.
We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you still love us.**

Give us the courage to hear what you long to tell us,
and the courage to see ourselves as you see us.
With humility we ask: pick us up, set us right,
restore us to relationship with each other based on love and generosity,
that we may share the abundance of creation,
and find life abundant for ourselves.

A time of silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

'The works of God's hands are faithful and just;
all God's precepts are trustworthy'.

**The freedom offered in Christ is ours today!
Thanks be to God.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

Exsultate justi L.Viadana c.1560-1627
Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous. Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings
with loud shouts. Psalm 33: 1-3

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 438 Go forth for God

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

The Creativity of God is never confined to this sacred place.
We move into the week ahead,
enjoying and sharing the hospitality of God.
Go forward into this day and all the days ahead
replenished by the grace and mercy of God,
blessed by the healing love of Jesus,
energised by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

POSTLUDE Psalm-Prelude Op. 32 no. 2
Herbert Howells 1892-1983

'But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth and shall
be refreshed in the multitude of peace.' Psalm 37: 11

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church

Presiding Minister	Rev Dr Greg Elsdon
Scripture Reader	Alison McDougall
Organist & Choir Director	Peter Kelsall

*The Choir of Pilgrim Church
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Please join us in the Lounge at the rear of the church for light refreshments.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Now the green blade riseth
French trad. Arr. Simon Lindley b. 1948

Please stand for and face the gospel.

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord.

GOSPEL READING Luke 6: 27-38

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

HYMN 428 'Forgive our sins as we forgive'

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 461 Help us to help each other, Lord

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.
Please remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in good causes.
Let our belief in the future find full expression
in our daily attitude of mind. **Amen.**

(F.Macnab)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We feel the call and the challenge to be part of God's healing,
life-giving presence, both in our community and around the world.
**May we see beyond ourselves and beyond the chasm of miles, language
and culture.**

May we live out our desire to see God's will done on earth as it is in
heaven.

May our prayer for our neighbours not end in this moment,
but continue day by day, moment by moment, in our actions.

May our prayers, through God's grace,
become for us the way we are connected with all creation.

May our prayers transform our lives, and our community.

And may all our words and deeds, all of our being,

be an offering to God. May it be so. Amen.

[from 'World at Prayer' website]

*The children are invited to go with Jenny to the Lounge for special
activities.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,

Stir our spirit, stretch our minds, grant us vision.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;

Grant us wisdom in choices, grant us courage for the journey. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37: 1-11, 39-40

- 1 Fret not thyself because of the ungodly
neither be thou envious against the evil doers.
- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass
and be withered even as the green herb.
- 3 Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- 4 Delight thou in the Lord and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.
- 5 Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him
and he shall bring it to pass.
- 6 He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.
- 7 Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him
but grieve not thyself at him, whose way doth prosper, against the
man that doeth after evil counsels.
- 8 Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure
fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.
- 9 Wicked doers shall be rooted out
and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.
- 10 Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone
thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.
- 11 But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth
and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.
- 39 But the salvation of the righteous cometh of the Lord
who is also their strength in the time of trouble.
- 40 And the Lord shall stand by them, and save them he shall deliver
them from the ungodly, and shall save them, because they put their
trust in him.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:

and / to the / Holy / Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be
world without / end. A / - / men.**