



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday, 24th February 2019

Epiphany 7
COCU15C

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.

Encompassing Love

Community candles are lit

Gathering

A call to worship is an invitation to gather
we regulars and we newcomers
we willing and we reluctant
we skeptics and we believers

**We hear the invitation to gather
as one community in Christ**

A call to worship is an invitation to gratitude
we thankful and we grumpy
we full of heart and we empty of hope
we bereft and we blessed

**We hear the invitation to gratitude
as one community in Christ**

A call to worship is an invitation to listen
we receptive and we closed off
we eager and we unwilling
we followers and we stragglers

**We hear the invitation to listen
as one community in Christ**

A call to worship is an invitation to give
we carefree and we calculating
we gracious and we cautious
we prosperous and we poor



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

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We hear the invitation to offering
as one community in Christ
to be gathered by God as one body
to be grateful to God as beloved children
to listen to God as willing followers
to give to God as humble stewards
Let us bring our worship.

(Craig Mitchell, 2019)

Song: Great God, your love has called us here
(Words: Brian Wren, tune: Veni Immanuel)

1. Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your loving likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.
2. We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.
3. Great God, in Christ you call our name,
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat,
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Land

Prayers of who we are

God, source of love, we gather here, in the company of your people
that we may know you better and love you with a fresh love,
and know ourselves to be beloved of you.
We come together to challenge one another
to bear the cost and know the joys of love,
to celebrate its presence,
to become love in the service of others,
to become love in the pursuit of justice,
and the resistance of evil.
At the same time we recognize our humanity.
We bear the joy and pain of love.
We see love and loss in one another's eyes,
and by them, to be both convicted and freed.

We are grateful for the many people who give shape and substance to the 9.30am services, including Raelene Telfer and Sandy Boyce who prepared the liturgy, Judy Homburg who played the piano, and the team of musicians, Alison McDougall who led the singing, David Davis on the A-V desk, Allan Forbes who helped with the powerpoint, Robert Born who helps with the set up and those who help with the pack up, the welcomer, those who help with the offering and reading, and all the others who contribute in large and small ways. Chat with one of the Ministers or Denise Griffen if you'd like to be involved.

The twelve sons of Jacob (later named Israel)

Born of Leah -

1. **Reuben** – 'first born, excelling in rank and power, unstable as water, deceived father'
2. **Simeon** – 'weapon of violence, anger'
3. **Levi** -- 'weapon of violence, anger'
4. **Judah** – 'praised leader, staff pay respect, has obedience of people, negotiator'
5. **Issachar** – 'strong donkey, slave of forced labor'
6. **Zebulun** – 'haven of ships'

Born of Bilhah (Leah's maid)

7. **Dan** – 'judge of people, snake/viper'
8. **Naphtali** – 'doe, bearer of fawns'

Born of Rachel (younger sister of Leah, died at Benjamin's birth)

9. **Joseph** – 'dreamer, great ruler of land, blessings of God, fruitful bough'
10. **Benjamin** – youngest, loved of Jacob and Joseph, 'ravenous wolf, devouring prey'

Born of Zilpah (Rachel's maid)

11. **Gad** – 'raided by raiders, joined them'
12. **Asher** – 'rich with food'

Song: TiS 417 Loving Spirit

Reading: Luke 6: 27-38

Song: HaND 30 Love made visible (Words: Helen Wiltshire, Tune: Hermitage)
(the offering will be received during this song)

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| 1.
Joy is love made visible,
laughter, tears and smiling eyes;
joy is love as inner glow,
spreading warmth from wisdom's flow. | 4.
Work is love made visible,
passions, dreams and artistry;
work is love as human skill,
talents born of heart and will. |
| 2.
Time is love made visible,
days and years of kindly care;
time is love as space to be,
giving life and energy. | 5.
Food is love made visible,
meals to share with gathered friends;
food is love as welcome space,
where a traveller finds a place. |
| 3.
Touch is love made visible,
hands to hold the pain we bear;
touch is love as sweet caress,
healing balm of gentleness. | 6.
May our love be visible,
born of words and actions clear;
may our love be gentle grace,
shining in each shadowed place. |

Offering prayer

We give thanks for all we have received, O God: gifts of love and time, money and abilities. Into these bowls and into this place, we return a portion of these gifts. Bless those who receive them, just as we are blessed in the act of sharing them. **Amen.**

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table, and those which wing their way electronically from our banks to the church's account.

Benediction

Go with a tender and grateful heart, remembering that you may be the only gospel that your neighbour reads this week. So, in all you say and do, spread the grace of god, the love of Jesus and the friendship of the holy spirit. You are blessed by the grace, love and friendship of our Creator, and now you are commissioned to share it by being a blessing in this world. **Amen.**

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is exchanged.

Out of our darkness we come to you for light;
out of our sorrows we come to you for joy;
out of our doubts we come to you for assurance;
out of our worries we come to you for peace;
out of our failures we come to you for forgiveness.
We come, conscious of our need for forgiveness
for words spoken which we cannot take back
for actions that have hurt others and harmed ourselves.
for opportunities missed that we now regret
and foolish and wilful decisions that have affected others.

A silence is kept

Open yourself.
Open yourself to the love and presence of God.
Open yourself to God's action within you.
Open yourself to God's action in this place.

It is for our healing.

It is for the healing of relationships.

It is for the healing of God's world.

May love bind us to one another so we might better serve the world.

We are not alone, for we journey together in the spirit of love.

(Source: Gretta Vosper, Christine Sine, Colin Sinclair)

Song: HaND 80 Grace and peace (v.1 solo, please join in v.2 and v.3)

(Words: Helen Wiltshire, Tune: Christus Der Ist)

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| 1 May grace and peace enfold you
within God's loving care;
may grace and peace embrace you
within the breath of prayer. | 2 May grace and peace uphold you
in times of loss and pain;
may grace and peace restore you
to hope and life again. |
| 3 May grace and peace go with you
and be a light to guide;
may grace and peace now bless you
and in your heart abide. | |

Exploration of a story of love and forgiveness (Gen 45: 3-11, 15)

The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, within and around us, we revere you:

We seek to live life as you would want us to do:

with love and respect for all people

and all things in the universe.

May we find each day sufficient for our needs.

And find forgiveness when we do wrong,

just as we forgive those who do wrong to us.

In times of trouble, may we centre our lives in you.

For your being is love,

which comes with strength and with beauty.

Throughout eternity. Amen.

(Margaret Rolfe)