

**Pilgrim Uniting Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

8.00am MORNING WORSHIP

Lent 4C COCU22C

31st March 2019

(image: Forgiving Father, by Indian artist Frank Wesley)

WELCOME and COMMUNITY SHARING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

GREETING and GATHERING

This is the season of turning. We are called on this journey to turn our lives to the ways of God, to turn away from all those things that have harmed us, and others, and to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy. We come to worship God. God calls us here.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of God,
who created us,
who holds us and the whole world in divine embrace
In the name of the Son
who came into the world, who reconciles us with God.
In the name of the Holy Spirit
who fills us with eternal life,
who links us with all Christians and incites us to peace,
we come together to offer our thanks and praise.

(Source: Sheilagh Kesting, Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday)

HYMN TIS 693 Come as you are

PSALM OF THE DAY

THE PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

We come, knowing you welcome us as we are:
persons who know both good and bad influences, effects, and choices.

We come knowing our human frailty as well as strength.

We are sinners... we are not only sinners

We are weak... we are not only weak

We fail... we are not always failures

We have destroyed... also we have loved

A silence is kept

You, God, do not limit us to the stories by which the world knows us

You see much more in us than the labels we give ourselves

Give us courage to defy all expectations - especially our own,
and in your love become all of who we are. Amen.

(Source: Cheryl Lawrie, Hold This Space)



Forgiving Father

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of grace, open our spirits to hear your word to us:
**May we trust your wisdom and seek your guidance
as we hear your words of truth. Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

REFLECTION

HYMN TIS 684 Love will be our Lenten calling

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Prayers are offered (This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**)

May we have in us the compassion of Christ, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN TIS 179 Praise with joy *(During the singing, our offering will be received)*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We who take much for granted, pool our resources and our hopes, and ask God to bless them,
that we may be part of shaping a world of justice, where there is enough for all. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

We believe in a world full of God
Where bread becomes a feast
And wine an ever flowing covenant
And a table a celebration with the lost
We live in the company of grace and love

We believe in a world full of God
Where every pain fractures bread
Every cry spills wine
And every table is a place God waits
We live in the company of grace and love

We believe in a world full of God
Where we, the lost of the world
Can turn and make our way home
Where God anticipates our return
Into arms that are outstretched
Round a table that is beckoning
And towards a feast that is prepared for the world
We live in the company of grace and love

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you/ **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts/ **We lift them to God.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.....**

Imaginative God, you created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You breathed into us the breath of life, and we are formed in your image. When we turned away, and our love failed, your steadfast love remained.....

Holy are you, God of prodigals, and blessed is Jesus Christ, in whom there is no deceit. He shared the gifts of grace and peace; telling us stories of families reunited. He invites us to the way of reconciliation and new life so we might see others in a new way; going to the cross and dying, we receive with joy the good news of his risen life among us. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of compassion and light
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The bread is lifted

We break the bread for the brokenness of the world.

We give thanks that in Christ we may find community.

The cup is lifted.

This is the cup of peace and of new life for all. A sign of love for the community of hope. A sign of reconciliation with God.

**A reminder of the call to live fully, to love wastefully,
and to be all that we can be.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup. We find the healing we hunger for in the bread which is broken for us. At this table of peace and joy, in the deep richness of grace's cup, we receive new sight, so we can see our sisters and brothers in a new way, not strangers, but siblings, not outsiders, but members of the family. And on the very day when all time will end, we will gather with your family around your table, our voices singing through all eternity glad songs to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen. *(Thom Shuman)*

The bread of life. The cup of compassion.

Gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Divine Presence in all of life, we give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place.

May we continue to be truly thankful in all we do and in all we become, and offer ourselves in service to others. Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

The candles are extinguished

(2 Corinthians 5: 17-21) If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

May it be so!

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

The sign of the peace is exchanged

