



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday 31st March 2019

Lent 4
COCU22C

*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.*

Lost and Found



*"The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started,
and know the place for the first time."* T.S.Eliot



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Uniting Church

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GATHERING

LIGHTING COMMUNITY CANDLES

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

CALL TO GATHER

Listen to the breathing around you – are you taking in life?

We don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

To the lost and alone - don't give up hope.

We are at home with our God waiting for our return.

“People were bringing little babies to Jesus for him to touch them and bless them. When the disciples saw this they got cranky and told the people to go away and take their children with them. But Jesus called them back and said, “Let the little children come to me, don't send them away, for the blessings of God belong to such as these. ¹⁷ Take it from me”, he said, “anyone who will not receive the reign of God like a little child will never enter it.” [Luke 18:15-17]

A SONG FROM OUR CHILDHOOD

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

BEING LOST

In childhood, many of us experienced feelings of safety and love – others were taken down paths of loss and grief ... and *lostness*. Rebecca Usher said:

“Everywhere I go, everywhere I turn, which ever path I take, I am still lost.

I don't know where home is. I feel empty like I don't belong.
I don't fit in, I'm lost in this world, I'm lost inside my self.”

“Not all those who wander are lost.” [JRR Tolkien]

Jesus said: “I assure you that I myself am the door for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know my own and my own know me.”

We listen as members of our community share something of their experiences of feeling lost, or having taken the wrong path, of being waylaid at wayside stops, or knowing the wonderful feeling of returning to the safety and familiarity of 'home'.

SONG: SPG4 95 Within our darkest night

3 Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

4 Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Refrain

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.

5 Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Refrain

SONG: TIS 690 Beauty for Brokenness
1950-

Graham Kendrick

BENEDICTION

May grace flow freely in our life together

May love take us on a journey of compassion

May faith grant us courage to explore new landscapes. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

This service was prepared and led by Noel Holmes, Elizabeth Tolhurst and Greg Elsdon and was based upon a 'Fresh Firsts' service, originally compiled by Helen Wiltshire.

Thanks to Jenny Ward and the musicians who enrich our worship week after week, to Don Bell for leading our singing and to our sound technician who looked after all things technical.

table and then form a circle at the front of the church where extra seats are available for those who would like to use them.

OFFERING PRAYER

May we as a gathered people have wisdom to use these gifts wisely and well in service to those who are most vulnerable, most in need of home and of tenderness.

In our journeying,
may we be honest in our searching and live with our questioning.
We are challenged to face our shadows - may we walk with wisdom.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

In our daily lives, we offer kindness and compassion to those we meet:

we think of young people as they navigate today's world.
we think of older people, coping with change and failing health
we think of people in need of nurture, gentleness, care and social justice

This is my prayer / **this is our prayer**

SONG: HaND 33 The Love we share *[see above – v.2 only]*

CLOSING PRAYER

Love is never confined to this holy place,
love is found in ordinary and surprising places.

May we face our challenges with courage and with hopefulness and grace
trusting this community to travel with us.
We name this day as the gift it is,

- 1 Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.
- 2 Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

Refrain

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.

Continued next page...

and rejoice in its possibilities. Amen.

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

We are the lost:
some of us have lost confidence,
some of us have lost health,
some of us have lost our faith,
we are the lost.

Prayerful silence

Yet we journey with hope
risking the new,
sharing vulnerability,
seeking that which is life-giving,
living the questions

Prayerful silence

We are those who journey in hope.
We are the lost – and the finders of peace.
Amen.

SONG: SPG4 95 Within our darkest night

BEING FOUND

A READING FROM OUR GOSPEL TRADITION Luke 15: 1-3, 11b -32

WITNESS

SONG: HaND 33 The Love we share

Words: Helen Wiltshire, Music: Norman Inglis 2014

During this song you are invited to bring your offerings to the communion

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1
The love we share is born of grace;
its beauty shines on every face;
the love we feel and daily give,
melts hurt and offers hope to live.
The love we share is blessed with peace
as hate and war their conflicts cease;
the love we show in all we do
stirs hope and springs with life anew.</p> | <p>2
The love we share is touched with pain
as grieving hearts weep once again;
the love we risk and freely bear
heals wounds with oil of grace and care.
The love we share will grow and flower;
its seeds of joy will gently shower;
the love we trust and seek to show,
links peace and hope as blessings flow.</p> |
|--|--|

- 3
The love we share will shed its light;
its brightness gilds the darkest night;
the love we name and vow to hold
awakens faith and dreams untold.
The love we share will always sing;
its music soars with joyous ring;
the love we cast and scatter free,
endures for all eternity.