

*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.*



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



## **9.30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

**Advent 1**

**27 November 2016**



**'Peace be with you and yours'**

*The **white poppy** is a flower used as a symbol of peace*

Reflection for the Advent season:

Transform us! Do *something* to us! Cause a change to take place in our hearts and in our relationships! Let our watching and waiting not be a waste – not because you don't show up, but because we don't! Call us to full and awake participation in the advent of peace and hope and justice! Make this, not a season, but a movement of watchfulness that advocates, and waiting that engages, and adoration that stomps its feet in restless resistance to a too slow and too comfortable Coming!

(Source: *Weavings Journal*)

## Lighting of the community candles

### Gathering

It doesn't matter whether or not you can have faith; whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.

We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas.

Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need to prepare for it.

We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born.

Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world.

Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.

(Cheryl Lawrie)

### Call to worship

Enter the waiting in hopefulness,  
setting aside all fear, letting trust build.  
Find the surprising presence of kindness,  
inviting truth without judgement,  
frail as a child and strong as all goodness.

Here is peace. Here is grace.

**Here we renew our hope together.**

**Song** TiS 132                      Holy, Holy, Holy

(words: J Burklo)

Holy, holy, holy, love now ascending  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to you.  
Holy, holy, holy, joy that has no ending  
Giving, forgiving, breathing life anew.

Holy, holy, holy, love without a limit  
Care that binds creation in sacred unity,  
Holy, holy, holy, birthing every minute,  
Christ, Love's revealer, sets our spirits free.

Holy, holy, holy, infinite compassion,  
Makes a place for every soul in God's eternal reign,  
Holy, holy, holy, truth beyond religion,  
Love that endures should nothing else remain.

Holy, holy, holy, raise your voice in singing,  
Join the cosmic chorus in praise of Love divine,  
Holy, holy, holy, God beyond all naming,  
Echoes our song in harmony sublime.

### **Welcome**

Grace to you, and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come. May this be a time and place of peace, that everyone who enters, enters in peace; and everyone who leaves, leaves in peace. This is a house of God. A place of peace. A place where we befriend one another. (*RMitchell*) Welcome to community, where we each play a part by being our best selves.

*Welcome to visitors, and community news.....*

### **Video: Through your eyes**

Get it together, that's what I say to me  
I put on the pressure, you could do better  
Be who you're supposed to be  
But that's when you came in, Right when I needed you  
All of the things that I was believin'  
Not one of them were true  
*You lifted my head up, I was keeping my head down*  
*I didn't know love, But I do now*  
Cause you stood right there,  
And then you broke apart the lies  
You told me I had something beautiful inside  
You brought to life the part of me I thought had died  
Cause you stood right there  
Until I saw me, I saw me, through your eyes  
Saw me, I saw me, through your eyes [x2]  
So, this is living, this is free  
Not keeping score, not anymore  
Not since you rescued me  
*You lifted my head up.....*  
Cause you stood right there  
And then you broke apart the lies.....

You love me even when I fall apart  
I can't explain it, that's just who you are  
Don't want perfection, you just want my heart  
Cause you stood right there  
and then you broke apart the lies....

*(performed by Britt Nicole)*

*A time for reflection*

### **Words of Assurance**

It has been said that God comes to us disguised as our own life. In this truth a door is opened and we see the way the Divine pulses in and through us. Here in this community of grace may we all find love and acceptance. **May it be so. Amen.**

### **Passing the Peace**

Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared friendship.

The peace of God is here... to stay (*Iona*). **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.

*A sign of peace is exchanged*

*Didgeridoo sounds brings us back into community, calling our attention to the first peoples of the land....*

### **Acknowledgement of country**

We acknowledge the Kurna people, traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the living Kurna today.

**Let us live in peace with First Nation Australians!**

### **Advent candle lighting**

1. We light a candle for Peace,  
for Reconciling Love that was, and is, and is to come (*candle is lit*)
2. We will light a candle for Mindfulness,  
for the Understanding Spirit that will ignite insights and wise discernment.
3. We will light a candle for Hope,  
for the mystery of Grace that will fulfil God's promises.
4. We will light a candle for Compassion  
for the Divine spark that resides within us and our neighbours.

**Prayers of who we are** SfP13 Gentle God (*song-as-prayer - spoken*)

Gentle God, when we are driven  
past the limits of our love,  
when our hurt would have a weapon  
and the hawk destroy the dove,  
**at the cost of seeming weak,  
help us turn the other cheek.**

Gentle Spirit, when our reason  
clouds in anger, twists in fear,  
when we strike instead of stroking,  
when we bruise and sting and smear,  
**cool our burning, take our pain,  
bring us to ourselves again.**

In the mirror of earth's madness  
let us see our ravaged face,  
in the turmoil of all people  
let compassion find a place,  
**touch our hearts to make amends,  
see our enemies as friends.**

Let our strength be in forgiving  
as forgiven we must be,  
one to one in costly loving,  
finding trust and growing free,  
**gentle God, be our release,  
gentle Spirit, teach us peace.**

**Early word**

**Bible reading:** Isaiah 2: 1-5

**Witness**

**Song:** It is time

*(Solo, please remain seated)*

It is time! Let the white poppies bloom  
and the blood of the past stain no more;  
it is time... for the sowing of seed  
that will outgrow the jungles of war,  
and the soul of the world will be healed,  
and the darkness give way to the sun,  
and the terror of nuclear night will be gone  
in a peace that will never be done!

*(Please join in, remain seated)*

It is time... that the white poppies grow  
through the hatreds and hurts that survive,  
it is time... for the tumbling of towers  
and the building of trust kept alive:  
    and the soul of the world will be healed,  
    and the darkness give way to the sun,  
    and the terror of nuclear night will be gone  
    in a peace that will never be done!

*(Please stand and join in the singing)*

It is time: let the white petals float  
over countries and cultures and lands;  
it is time...that the dreams that were lost  
be reclaimed by our hearts and our hands,  
    and the soul of the world will be healed,  
    and the darkness give way to the sun,  
    and the terror of nuclear night will be gone  
    in a peace that will never be done!

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### **Prayers for others: A Prayer for Peace**

Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression,  
and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence.

#### **We pray for your peace.**

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression,  
help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them.

#### **Grant us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.**

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle,  
help us to remember that you fed five thousand people  
with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

#### **Grant us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.**

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us  
not to speak up for the least among us,  
help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money  
changers.

#### **Grant us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.**

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and  
oppressive,  
help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you.

#### **Grant us compassion for all peoples.**

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world,  
help us to remember your sacrifice.

**Grant us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves  
in serving you and our neighbours**

### Advent song (a round)

- 1 Through darkest night, the hour grows late
- 2 We yearn for break of Christmas morn
- 3 'Til midnight hour we watch and wait
- 4 for hope's renewal, love reborn.

### Advent Round

With an appreciative nod to William Billings

Rick Asher

1. 2. 3.

Through dark - est night... the hour grows late, We yearn for break - of Christ - mas morn; 'Til

9

4.

mid - night hour... we watch and wait For hope's re - new - al, love re - born.

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### Prayer continues:

Walk with us, O God, as we answer the call to be peacemakers. May our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality increase, for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror.

**You show us the way and we follow. Transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice. Amen.**

*adapted from a prayer by Jack Knox, pastor of Salem (Oregon) Mennonite Church.  
Posted on *Glocal Christianity: the blog of Matt Stone*. <http://mattstone.blogs.com/>*

### Song: Give us a vision of peace, Lord, we pray

(Tune: Slane)

*The offering will be collected*

Give us a vision of peace, Lord, we pray,  
peace for tomorrow and peace for today,  
peace for this planet whose future we hold,  
peace for the children and peace for the old.

Give us a vision of peace that will be  
firm as a mountain and wide as the sea,  
peace in our prayers, in our praise and our pain,  
peace for the children who cry out in vain.

Give us a vision of peace, Lord of all,  
peace for the great one and peace for the small,  
peace in our labor and peace in our sleep,  
peace for the children, a promise to keep.

Give us a vision of peace for our age,  
peace for the healing of hatred and rage,  
peace for our living together as one,  
peace for the children when our life is done.

*(Words: Mary Kay Beall, © 1999 Hope Publishing Company)*

### **Offering prayer**

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.

**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts  
and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

*(Source: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona)*

### **Sending out**

May justice be like rain upon the earth. May love arise from the  
depths of our lives, love that will never let our neighbours go. In the  
centre of despair and difficulty, may surprising freshness and energies  
for creative change spring up. May the earth be restored with peace:  
in us, through us, sometimes despite us. May our lives be signs of  
peace, symbols of hope and carriers of grace.

Friends, go in peace to love and to serve; **We will seek peace and  
pursue it.**

*(Iona)*

*Blue advent candles to be handed out to people as they leave.*

This service was prepared by Rose Milton-Head, Petryn Thiele,  
Raelene Telfer and Sandy Boyce. Thanks to those who led the  
service. Thanks also to our musicians led by Jenny Ward on the piano  
and Graeme McIntosh who led the singing. Thanks to Reg Brown on  
A-V desk and Allan Forbes for his preparation of the A-V today.

*Please join us for morning tea in the Pilgrim Hall.*