**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***8.00am MORNING WORSHIP***

**Lent 3A 19th March 2017**

**WELCOME and COMMUNITY SHARING**

**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.

**PSALM of the DAY**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**  
Compassionate and merciful God - we call upon you this day with wonder at the extent of your love, grateful for your presence with us in our daily living.  We come desiring to be closer to you. Bless our worship and our prayer and our songs - that you may be glorified and that we may be strengthened. We ask these things in the name of Christ. Amen.

**HYMN** Come away from rush and hurry

1 Come away from rush and hurry

to the stillness of God's peace;

from our vain ambition's worry,

come to Christ to find release.

Come away from noise and clamour,

life's demands and frenzied pace;

come to join the people gathered

here to seek and find God's face.

2 In the pastures of God's goodness

we lie down to rest our soul.

From the waters of God's mercy

we drink deeply, are made whole.

At the table of God's presence

all the saints are richly fed.

With the oil of God's anointing

into service we are led.

3 Come, then, children, with your burdens -

life's confusions, fears and pain.

Leave them at the cross of Jesus;

take instead his kingdom's reign.

Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them -

he alone will satisfy.

All our longings find attainment

when to self we gladly die. (Lyrics: Marva J. Dawn; tune: Beaches)

**THE PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE**  
O God, we come trusting you with our lives, and with the assurance that in all the moments of our lives, you offer forgiveness and grace, and touch us with healing power. 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.*A silence is kept.*

*Repentance - conversion of the heart - does not mean being filled and tormented by guilt. Instead, it means being ready to admit our responsibility for our actions and our need for forgiveness, and having a firm desire to change our life: to turn away from ourselves in prayer and in love. Repentance means, above all, a constant, patient, growing in love. It means our willingness to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit in us and to embrace fully the gift of our salvation.**(Irma Zaleski The Way of Repentance 1999)*

**WORD OF ASSURANCE**

We know that God calls us into the ways of wholeness and healing and shows us another way to live.   
**We receive God’s forgiveness.** **Thanks be to God!**

**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** Exodus 17:1-7 John 4: 5-42

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN** TiS #684 Love will be our Lenten calling

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Loving God, thank you for steadfast love that does not falter and is not far

from those who feel alone. You are with us, your wisdom provides for us,

and we are restored in every moment to be your people, a light to the world. We offer our prayers for others.

*Prayers are offered* (This is my prayer/**this is our prayer)**  
  
Be our source of light and truth, gracious God. Stir in us the wisdom to discern the spirit within our world and its ways. May our love calm the spirit of fear. May our courage release the spirit of bondage. May our hope disperse the spirit of gloom. May our spirits be one with your spirit, and may we have in us the mind of Christ, who taught us to pray:

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** TiS #416 Great God your Spirit *(tune: Magnificat, TiS #173)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Whether we have given much, or little, or none, we are encouraged by this time of offering. Here we pool our hopes and we ask God to bless and fulfil them, making of us co-creators of a world of justice, sharing and enough for all. **Amen**

**COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**   
All have a place at the table where we celebrate the mystery we know and address as ‘God’ - ground and sustainer of everything that exists, in whom we live and move and have our being. We give thanks that God’s love is most fully expressed in the life of Jesus. We acknowledge this mystery embodied in every human person, aware that each one of us gives God unique and personal expression.

**God is everywhere present.** **In grace-filled moments of sharing.** **In carefully created communities of loving solidarity.**

**THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**  
We remember the stories from our tradition... how, on many occasions, Jesus would share a meal with friends. Bread and wine shared in community. How the bread would be taken, a blessing offered, and then shared between them. And all of them ate. How some wine would be poured out, a blessing offered, and then passed between them. And all of them drank. The bread and the wine symbolised human lives interconnected with other human lives, and the power of giving and receiving.

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you/ **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts/ **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
I**t is right to give our thanks and praise…..**  
  
…..And so, with all the company of heaven and earth   
we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:  
**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might**  
**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 broken*  
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 generously, and**

**to be all that we can be.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup, and upon those who, by faith, come to your Table. As we receive these signs of a grace we cannot see, may we be transformed into signs of peace and hope for our time. As we taste the broken Bread, may we draw strength to serve a fractured world. As we drink of the gift of grace, may we become robust in our giving to others. As we open our hands to you, may we go to hand out justice to the lost, the little, the least.

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.   
**We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. 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*  
We have gathered, and we are sent. As we go, may the God of love who shared love strengthen us in our love for others; may Jesus who shared his life grant us grace that we might share our life; and may the Holy Spirit indwelling in us empower us to be only and always for others. Amen.

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

*The sign of the peace is exchange*d