

May you have respect for your own individuality and difference.
May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique,
that you have a special destiny here,
that behind the facade of your life there is something
beautiful, good, and eternal happening.
May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride,
and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

Song For Sake of Life SPG 23 (adapted)

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| 1.
For sake of life the face of truth will
brighten
For sake of life the seeds of hope will
root.
For sake of life the way of peace will
lighten
for those who dare to walk—for sake of
life. | 3.
For sake of life a righteous wrath needs
power.
For sake of life let streams of justice roll.
For sake of life the springs of joy will
mother
The new-born child of hope—for sake
of life. |
| 2.
For sake of life the fields are being
seeded.
For sake of life there's still growth in the
earth.
For sake of life we'll share with all that
need it
the bread from common soil—for sake
of life. | 4.
For sake of life, God's present in all
things.
For sake of life, love's scattered
everywhere.
For sake of life the time of God is
constant.
The kingdom is at hand for sake of life. |

Blessing

May we be empowered to find the seed that already lies within us:
for love
for creativity
for hope
May our hearts be open to compassion,
our minds open to wisdom,
our spirits open to grace.

Passing the Peace

*This service was composed by Carol Young, Sue Dunn and Jana Norman.
Thank you to everyone who helped lead the service including our wonderful musicians.*

*Everyone is welcome for a cuppa and warm conversation in the Hall immediately
following the service.*

*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

Pentecost 5

13 July 2014

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Lighting the Candles in Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

Call us on to the adventure of your passionate life, O God.
Carry us past the boundaries, the horizons of our small dreams.
Paint our world in vivid colours so that we see a whole new vision of your
possibilities.

Touch us with the fire of your Spirit and the Wisdom of Christ.

Song Here's a New Day by Helen Wiltshire *Tune: Woodlands*

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|---|---|
| 1 Here's a new day,
fresh gift from God of grace.
We sense God's presence in this
sacred space;
let us be mindful of God's blessing
here,
pausing, rejoicing, held in God's
good care. | 3 Here in creation,
gift from God of grace,
divine embracing of the human
race;
woven together, intimate and free,
holy the ground connecting you
and me. |
| 2 Here in awareness,
gift from God of grace,
may we awaken in this sacred
space,
moved to compassion, open heart
and hand,
linked to each other, meeting love's
demand. | 4 Here in belonging,
gift from God of grace,
interconnected in this sacred
space,
and in the web of life each one
may share,
held in God's love, surrounded by
God's care. |

Litany for Listening

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. *Psalm 119: 105*

In a few minutes we're going to hear what may be for many a familiar story. How might we prepare ourselves to hear it anew?

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. *Psalm 119: 105*

Bring to mind someone hearing the story for the first time: those listening to Jesus or within the community out of which the gospel of Matthew emerged; people of other faiths in our own time. What would you hope they would hear from a story out of our tradition?

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. *Psalm 119: 105*

As you listen to this familiar story anew, consider for whom this story would be very good news - liberating, inspiring, challenging. Maybe that's you!

Reading **Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23**

Song SFP 25 **I Believe**

Witness

Song **Beloved** by Helen Wiltshire Tune: Carlisle
The offering will be taken up during this song.

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|---|--|
| 1 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to be
now present to a sacred call
and to divinity. | 4 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to weep;
we're called from fear and
faithlessness
to wake and rise from sleep. |
| 2 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to go
into a wilderness of doubt,
a clearer path to know. | 5 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to die;
we're called to face mortality
and drink grief's chalice dry. |
| 3 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to care;
now called to passion and to love,
a deeper life to dare. | 6 We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to rise;
now called to live a Christ-like life
with grace that God supplies. |

Prayer and Contemplation

During this time of prayer and contemplation, you are invited to consider situations in your own life, the people you know and love and circumstances in our community, across the country and around the world.

The following three poems will be read, with spacious silence in between. As you sit with the words of the poem, bring to mind in a spirit of prayer -

collaboration and co-creating with the Spirit of God - those for whom you have concern or with whom you are celebrating good times.

The following questions may help prompt you to consider others in prayer.

For whom is the ground rocky today?
Who is struggling through a thorny thicket today?
Who is beside themselves today?
Who is enjoying the fruits of good earth today?

The Sower by Carol Young

I am the Patient One,
waiting aeons for the seeds to sprout;
Not despairing, but sending love.
Like sunshine on a wintry day.

Sometimes my earth has stony ground
or useless weeds that choke
the fragile bud,
but some day a healthy shoot,
and then the earth blossoms
in a thousand glorious colours,
no rainbow like it.

Some day; a harvest of love and joy.

Silence for prayer and contemplation

The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry (*Collected Poems 1957-1982* (Counterpoint Press, 1985))

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Silence for prayer and contemplation

A Blessing of Solitude

by John O'Donohue (*Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* (HarperCollins, 1998))

May you recognize in your life the presence, power and light of your soul.
May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you
intimately with the rhythm of the universe.