**Pentecost 6 16 July 2017**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.*

*Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 119: 105-112)*

The ways of God light up all of life and guide us into the path of true living.  
**Source of Life, with delight we gather to worship you**  
The ways of God instruct us in the way to life in all its fullness of joy and hope.  
**Source of Hope, with joy we gather to celebrate your presence with us.**   
The ways of God reveal to us the true beauty of living in communion with God, and to walk each day along the pathway of obedience and loyalty to our God.

**Source of Steadfast Love, we gather to learn more about life, hope, trust and love - so that we may grow in your grace.**  
Let us worship God!  
*© 2014 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.*

HYMN

WELCOME  
  
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
God of Love, truly, this is holy time.

In a moment of quiet and stillness, we come before you in prayer

and become aware of your presence with us.

You, Creator, who - in the beginning spoke - and brought forth galaxies and stardust

You, Redeemer, whose very breath is life, and peace, and healing and wholeness,

You, Spirit amongst us, who, even in deepest darkness, sparks joy, creativity, and love.

God, we are in your presence now.

As, in fact we have been every day of our lives,

You are the one in whom we live and move and have our being,

nearer than our next breath.

And you are the one who has called us from eternity,

and calls us forward now, always to be your beloved people.  
God of the great wide world and ourselves in this corner of it,   
make us into a community that is open to the splendour of your creation   
and filled to the brink with thankfulness.

As your community in this place, we offer our praise and worship,   
knowing it joins with our brothers and sisters

throughout all times and all places who have declared:

**You are Good,**

**You are Holy**

**You are Love**

**Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we approach you in prayer, O God,

we become aware again that you are holy,

and we recognise our limitations and humanity,

and all that is not well in us:   
our stumbling and sinfulness,

our hardness of heart, our lack of grace,

the limits we place on compassion and kindness.

Forgive us - for we hope in the certainty of your love for us,   
and the cleansing power of your Spirit.

And so we pray:   
**renew us in strength and heart,**

**that our lives might show your light,**

**that our worship might be pleasing to you,**

**and that we might truly follow the path of discipleship**.

*A silence is held to reflect upon these words for ourselves.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

O taste and see that our God is good!   
God renews us in strength and heart.

Through the limitless compassion of Christ,

our sins are forgiven.   
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**   
  
**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*The children will leave at this time for special activities in the Lounge.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
Gracious God, you have created us and draw us near to you. We open ourselves to receive your word of encouragement, guidance, challenge and blessing.   
**Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see and faith to respond to your love and calling. Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 25: 19-34

In this is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**..

PSALM 119: 105-112

*Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria*

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:**

**and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be**

**world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING Romans 8: 1-11

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN

Sermon

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

Hymn

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

# *Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
God of justice and peace, we offer these gifts of money and the service of our lives in thanksgiving. May they be used to bring your justice and love, mercy and peace, to fruition in people’s lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS *(based on the Gospel reading)*  
We pray for signs of new life, and for God’s reign present with us even now:   
wherever love reigns, wherever peace is found, wherever mercy prevails.

A kingdom built, not with bricks or mortar, but by prayer and actions of sacrificial love

And a kingdom whose foundation, head and cornerstone is Jesus Christ

We pray that the seeds of God’s reign might grow and bear fruit in this world of ours.

Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

We pray for those sowing new seeds:

those at the beginning of a new life journey;   
those embarking on new relationships;

for new friendships forming;

and for new lives: babies and their parents.

We pray for those beginning new employment,

taking a new educational course; and the newly retired

God of strength and courage: grant open hearts,

and nurture these seeds of new life to strength.

Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

We pray for those entrusted with the maintenance of that which was sown long ago:

We pray for leaders of nations and institutions of goodwill.

We pray for the Church - here and elsewhere,

In gratitude for your faithfulness in years past,

and seeking your renewing Spirit in the years to come,

we pray for the ministry and mission of this church in the heart of the city.

God of sustenance and ever-renewing creativity,   
we pray that in caring for what has been planted before,   
visions of purpose and potential might flourish above those of preservation for preservation’s sake;   
and that in the busyness of our lives, we might not forget our rootedness in you, nourishing us unseen.

Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

God of Glory in all things:

Your love heals and binds up the broken hearted,

Earth tastes death, even as the promise of new life is strongest.  
We thank you for the new possibilities that await us this week:   
that love can win, that hope can blossom, that faith can find a way - even in the darkest night.

Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

God of all, we offers these prayers as an expression of our concern for the world, and together with the prayers each of us bears in our own hearts, we entrust them to you, in the sure and certain hope of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

HYMN

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,***

***or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.***

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.*

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Organist

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge***

***after the service.***