**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***8.00am MORNING WORSHIP***

**Pentecost 18 12th October, 2014**

**WELCOME and GREETING**

**PSALM 106: 1-5**  
  
**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 106:1-5)*  
We gather together to praise God, and to rejoice in God’s steadfast love.  
**We come to share together to celebrate**   
**God’s faithfulness and God’s enduring love.**  
We gather to remember God’s acts of liberating love, mercy and grace  
**We come to share together in the joy**  
**of being God’s forgiven and blessed people.**  
We gather to rejoice in our heritage,   
**confident in the mercy of God.**

**Let us worship God!**

**HYMN TiS 477** Jesus calls us here to meet him   
  
**READINGS:** Exodus 32: 1-14;

Psalm 106: 6, 19-23

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(based on Psalm 106, Philippians 4)*  
With a humble and contrite heart, the psalmist acknowledged:   
‘*Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly’*. (Psalm 106: 6)

We may find ourselves in their story. The way they felt at a distance from God, the times they felt unsure and needed certainty, the times when they lost confidence in God, and when desperation drove them on. At such times, our ancestors in faith filled in the gap with their own golden images.

We come this morning, striving to keep our minds and hearts focused on the things that matter: the things that are honourable and pure and worthy of our relationship with you, O God. Yet the world calls us away, breaks our focus, and points us toward war and conflicts, financial uncertainty, and hurtful deeds by some that seem to be rewarded, not punished.

For the times when we place our trust in our own capabilities, taking sacred matters into our own human hands**, have mercy, O God**.   
For our loss of nerve, our impatience, and our insistence on our own way,   
**have mercy, O God.**   
For the times when we compartmentalize and keep our faith at a distance from the real, everyday things of life**, have mercy, O God**.

*A silence is kept*.

These circumstances are not new but have been known by the generations of faith before us. We join them in their prayer for a change of heart, and a greater allegiance to God.

**SONG**: Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
 you alone, O God, are holy.   
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia. (sung 2x)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**  
When our actions are in harmony with God’s compassion, our minds and hearts can know forgiveness, freedom and joy. **Friends, the past is over and gone. Regardless of what we were yesterday, today we are renewed by the Spirit of Christ. Let us move into this new day with confidence. Thanks be to God!**

**BIBLE READINGS**: Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN TiS 681** Lord let me see

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

It would be much easier to ignore the hard truths around us, O God:  
the widening gap between rich and poor, the consistency with which the powerful get their way, the bending of rules and the self-enrichment of the connected and influential, the lack of adequate care, protection and resources for the most vulnerable among us. We would rather not see these signs.  
But your truth has captured us and opened our eyes, and we have become slaves to love, the love that must speak for the voiceless, the love that must challenge injustice, the love that draws lines of division between truth and denial, between compassion and expediency.  
We hear the cries of suffering and struggle, we witness unfairness and unkindness, scenes that are disturbing and unsettling that flash before us and we are led to pray. Hear us now, O God, as we name those situations and people to whom our hearts and minds are turned this day*….*

*Prayers are offered: This is my prayer****/this is our prayer.***

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN TiS 259** Among us and before us, Lord, you stand

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We give our material goods in hope that they will become something new, something good beyond our separate gifts. By these offerings:**

**we commit ourselves to Christ, and to the reconciling, healing work of Christ, and we commit ourselves to one another as brothers and sisters in faith. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION***

**THE INVITATION**

**THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**

**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.   
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for the whole world is a celebration of life, and you invite good and bad alike to feast with you. With great power and a mighty hand you created the universe and filled it with life. You freed your people from slavery, and even when they offered to a statue of gold the worship due to you alone, you listened to the fervent prayer of your servant Moses and turned from your fierce anger. Even now, when your anger is inflamed by those who say “Yes” to your call but refuse to robe themselves in righteousness, you accept the prayers of your anointed child, Jesus, who, though shunned and killed by his own wedding guests, was raised to life by you and now intercedes for the world without ceasing, winning for us your peace that passes all understanding. Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times joining our voices with the glad songs of every place and generation, all creation praising your name:

**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.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

*Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that they may be heaven’s food and drink for us, renewing, sustaining and making us whole, and that we may be your body on earth,*

*loving and caring in the world.* ***Amen.***

***BREAKING OF THE BREAD***

*Communion is shared*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**For bread and wine, this place and time, thanks be to God.**

**For the peace we are promised which the world won’t destroy**

**thanks be to God.**

**For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,**

**thanks be to God. Amen.**

**WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING**   
*(the candles are extinguished)*  
Friends, go forth, strengthened to do the work of Christ,

standing in the gap,

extending the invitation to the eternal banquet,

rejoicing in God,

let your gentleness be known to everyone

and don’t worry about anything.

The God who created you,

the Christ who redeems you

and the Spirit who empowers you

is with you today and ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord**. In the name of Christ, Amen!**

*The sign of the peace is exchanged*