



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 4th October 2020

Pentecost 18
COCU59A

WELCOME and GREETING and COMMUNITY NEWS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Kurna people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Kurna people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Kurna Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation. *[words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution]*

PSALM FOR THE DAY Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
² **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**
³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

- In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of
them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

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¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER [*inspired by Psalm 19*]

Eternal God, whose signature we see, if we dare to look, in the creation of the universe, help us this hour to look and to listen for your handwriting and your voice in this place, among these people. Connect our temporary praise to your timeless rhythms, your ageless melodies, your everlasting joyful noise.

Guide us now to focus upon you, knowing that in you, our distractions become new possibilities for action. Breathe life into our singing, our praying, our speaking, our listening, our touching, that all these activities might become more than they are. In our worship we reach out to you, O God, knowing that you have already enfolded us in your arms. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN TiS 179 Praise with joy the world's creator

1
Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human
knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

2
Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

3
Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure
foolishness none dare deride.

4
Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe,
when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you for refreshing us at this table, loving God.

You who are ever creating have re-created us
to be your face of love and compassion.

We go to be the body of Christ in the world, full of grace and truth.

May it be so.

Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Let us pursue the wisdom of God,
revealed in wind and flower,
fire and rain, law and grace.

And may the generative power of God,
the wisdom of Christ, and the freshness of the Spirit
be with us all, now and always.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We exchange the sign of peace.

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by
wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for we know you by faith and are known to you by grace.

You breathe life into the entire universe: the sky tells of your glory,
day and night reveal the genius of your ways.

You brought your people out of slavery
and gave them your laws and commandments,
that they might be rich in Spirit and clear in vision.

Though our spiritual ancestors repeatedly rejected your ways
and destroyed your messengers, you sent Jesus to renew heaven's call,
to be your face of love and compassion for all.

Hungering for reconciliation between you and your children,
Jesus became the broken Bread of Life.

The crowds recognised him as a prophet,
but those who coveted his inheritance seized and killed him.

You raised new life through him:

the cornerstone of righteousness,

the first fruits of the kingdom and the incomparable hope towards which
we press.

And so we lift our joyful voices,
joining with all creation to praise your name

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of grace and light,

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

Here at your Table, Redeemer of all creation,
pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup,
and on our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Your Spirit gives us life, so we may go and serve others.

Your Spirit heals our brokenness, so we may bring healing to all.

Your Spirit graces us with peace, so we may be peacemakers for our
communities.

And when we stand around your Table, all hurtful words silenced,
all pain left behind, with hope and grace our closest friends,
we will join our hearts and voices with our sisters and brothers
who forever sing of your glory, God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Communion is shared

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, present and near,

you are beyond our words and our understanding.

Help us to remember that you are at once infinite, boundless, timeless
and eternal but, at the same time intimately entwined with our lives.

You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.

When we have forgotten you:

Lord, have mercy.

When we have failed to speak words of love:

Lord, have mercy.

When we have neglected the need of another:

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, present and near, help us to recognise your presence and
nearness with us as we offer worship together.

A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, we cannot fall short of God's holding grace.

In Christ we are renewed to continue the journey,
pressing on towards the hope of reconciliation and renewal for the
whole of creation.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

BIBLE READINGS:

Philippians 3: 4b-14

⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone
else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on
the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of
Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to
zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law,
blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss
because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of
the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have
suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that
I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my
own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and
the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by
becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the
resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or
have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own,
because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider
that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies
behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the
goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21: 33-46

³³Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?' ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In trust we approach you in prayer, O God,
for we believe you are for and with us always.

We offer our prayers.

*This is my prayer/**this is our prayer.***

We offer these prayers humbly,
yearning for love that heals, restores and brings about justice.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN TIS 526

Lord Jesus Christ

1
Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

2
Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks
through,
living Lord.

3
Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's son;
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.

4
Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks
through,
living Lord.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God who gives freely and without expectation,
may we offer these gifts with open hearts.
Help us to discern their good use together.
Receive our thanks for the good work they will enable.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

We remember the words from our tradition:

On the night that Jesus was betrayed while sharing a meal with his friends he took some bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying:

**"Take, eat this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

After supper he took a cup and again giving thanks he gave it to his friends, saying: **"This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all people for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."**