**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

**12 Flinders Street, Adelaide**

***9.30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP***

**COCU34B.Easter 4B 25th April, 2021**

***"Lest we forget/Lest we remember"***



*Lighting community candles*

**Opening gathering prayer/call to worship**

We gather together to entrust ourselves and the world

to the Spirit of Love and to each other.

To find peace and healing in the joy of music and words,

in the stillness of prayer, and in the Spirit’s enfolding love.

*(Source: Pitt St UC service)*

We gather here to challenge one another
to bear the cost and know the joys of love:

to celebrate its presence;

to live with respect in creation;

to become love in the service of others,

in the pursuit of justice, and the resistance of evil;

to recognize our humanity and celebrate it at our table;

to see love and loss in one another’s eyes,

and by them, to be both convicted and freed.

**May love bind us to one another**

**so we might better serve the world.**

As one, we proclaim:

**We are not alone,
for we journey together in the spirit of love.**

*(Source: Gretta Vosper, adapted)*

**Song:** HaND14 Harmony

We sing of eaarth in harmony,

restored, renewed, reborn;

we sing of earth as sacred ground,

inspired by each new dawn.

We sing of space in harmony,

of galaxies afar;

we sing of space as mystery

and welcome easch guiding star.

We sing of life in harmony,

of hope that newly springs;

we sing of life as gift of grace

and cherish the joy it brings.

We sing of hearts in harmony,

of kind and gentle care;

we sing of hearts infused by love

and treasure the faith we share.

We sing as one in harmony,

with justice flowing free;

we sing as one, together bound,

within love's unity.

*(Words: Helen Wiltshire; Music: Norman Inglis)*

**Acknowledgement of Country**

**Welcome**

**Transfer of membership to Pilgrim Uniting Church**It is always a joy for a congregation to welcome new members. Today we welcome Ruth, who is transferring membership from Adelaide West UC, and Margie who is transferring membership from Westbourne Park UC.

*Brief responses from Ruth and Margie.*
The Uniting Church in Australia affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to profess the faith of Christ crucified and risen, and to be his faithful servant. Will you join with us to follow the model of Jesus and God's call to bring love and justice to all of creation; to love both the powerless and the powerful; and to seek to bring wholeness to all of humanity?
I will.

Will you join with us in support of this community of faith through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, so that together we may grow stronger in expressing God’s love for all creation?

I will.

*(to the community)*

Will you extend welcome to Ruth, and Margie, into the fellowship of this community, and will you offer them friendship and support?

**We will. As a community may we affirm our faith, live in communion with God, build one another up in love, share in the life of the church and serve the world. Amen.**

God's peace be with you. **And also with you.***The 'right hand of friendship' is offered to Ruth, and Margie, in a COVID safe way. The community extends a sign of peace to those immediately around them.*

**Song** HaND 33 The Love we Share

The love we share is born of grace;

its beauty shines on every face;

the love we feel and daily give,

melts hurt and offers hope to live.

The love we share is blessed with peace

as hate and war their conflicts cease;

the love we show in all we do

stirs hope and springs with life anew.

The love we share is touched with pain,

as grieving hearts weep once again;

the love we risk and freely bear

heals wounds with oil of generous care.

The love we share will grow and flower

its seeds of joy will gently shower;

the love we trust and seek to show,

links peace and hope as blessings flow.

The love we share will shed its light;

its brightness gilds the darkest night;

the love we name and vow to hold

awakens faith and dreams untold.

The love we share will always sing;

its music soars with joyous ring;

the love we cast and scatter free,

endures for all eternity.

**Reading: Acts 4:5-12** Don?

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

**Witness** Sandy

**Song**: TiS 657 God of freedom, God of justice
God of freedom, God of justice,

you whose love is strong as death,

you who saw the dark of prison,

you who knew the price of faith -

 touch our world of sad oppression

 with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,

you whose hands were nailed to wood;

hear the cries of pain and protest,

you who shed the tears and blood -

 move in us the power of pity

 restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience

quick to hear, to act, to plead;

make us truly sisters, brothers

of whatever race or creed -

 teach us to be fully human,

 open to each other's needs.

**ANZAC Day**

We are mindful that today is Anzac Day,

a day to remember the men and women who went to war.
a day to remember the ANZACs and their sacrifice at Gallipoli in WW1.

A day to remember those who never returned, who lie buried in a foreign field.

A day to remember those who returned and lived with memories they could never speak of.

A day to remember their courage and sacrifice.

Andrew Dutney has offered a fresh insight in his song, 'Lest we remember'.

*Lest we remember, lest we recall,*

*in case we remember the pain of it all.*

*Lest we remember, lest we recall,*

*in case we find reason for just one more war.*

Let's listen together.

**Song** (for reflection): Lest we remember

Lest we remember, lest we recall,

we’ll build ourselves a monument,

we’ll sanctify the war.

We’ll number our heroes, the dead we’ll ignore.

Nobody remembers what the young ones dies for.

Lest we remember, lest we recall,

in case we remember the pain of it all.

And over and over we’ll tell it again:

the story of bravery, of dashing young men.

The reasons we’ll argue, the blame we will lay,

’till truth as we tell it, is history some day.

Lest we remember, lest we recall,

in case we remember the pain of it all.

Lest we remember, lest we recall,

in case we find reason for just one more war.

*(Words and music: Andrew Dutney, from I*’*ve Got Eyes, 1980)
https://andrewdutney.bandcamp.com/track/lest-we-remember?fbclid=IwAR0HMQuEo9AOKxDNFIjlVsO085Kf48MMQCthdrObevA7N7QDLLX\_JYc9KOU*

*A space for stillness*

 **In A Minute**’**s Silence**Timeless God, Christ of the Cross, Spirit of Peace,
In a minute’s silence,
take us into compassion and understanding.
In a minute’s silence,
may we find ourselves almost walking
in the shoes of those we remember.
In a minute’s silence, may we seek the joys
that sustained them in the trials that they faced.
In a minute’s silence, may we find the courage
that empowered them in the suffering they endured.
In a minute’s silence, may we be inspired
to love like the sacrifice that they made.
In a minute’s silence, may we comprehend the ripples of pain
that bounce around the world in response to such disturbance.
In a minute’s silence, may we learn the lessons
which will lead to such things never occurring again.
In a minute’s silence, may we decide to be better in ourselves,
that the world may be better with us in it.
In a minute’s silence, may the world change for the better.
In a minute’s silence, may all this be so.
In a minute’s silence we pray. Amen.
*(Source:Jon Humphries)*

*We hold a minute's silence.*

Psalm 23 is read

You, Lord, are my shepherd; I will never be in need.

You let me rest in fields of green grass.

You lead me to streams of peaceful water,

and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths.

I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won’t be afraid.

You are with me, and your shepherd’s rod makes me feel safe.

You treat me to a feast, in the presence of my enemies.

You honour me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.

Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life,

and I will live forever in your house, Lord.

**Song**: SMS17 Despite the wounds (Per Harling)

Despite the wounds of the terror, despite our fear and despair,

we still believe in God's presence, affirming in hope and in prayer:

*Chorus:
Goodness is stronger than evil*

*Faith hope and love never ever die*

*Light will prevail over darkness,*

*Truth will unmask ev'ry, ev'ry lie.*

Despite the meaningless suff'ring, despite our anger and doubts

we still believe in God's power, affirming with whispers and shouts:

*Chorus*

*Goodness is stronger than evil*

*Faith hope and love never ever die*

*Light will prevail over darkness,*

*Truth will unmask ev'ry, ev'ry lie.*

Despite dejection and worries, despite our sorrows and grief,

we still have trust in God's mercy, we still will affirm and believe:

*Chorus*

*Goodness is stronger than evil*

*Faith hope and love never ever die*

*Light will prevail over darkness,*

*Truth will unmask ev'ry, ev'ry lie.*

**Prayer**
Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,

and ask that God may give us peace:

for the service men and women

who have died in the violence of war,

each one remembered by and known to God;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life,

offering the distress of our grief

and the sadness of our loss;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces

who are in danger this day,

remembering family, friends

and all who pray for their safe return;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men

whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,

calling to mind in penitence

the anger and hatreds of humanity;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,

who seek to keep this world secure and free;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,

political, military and religious;

asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve

in the search for reconciliation and peace;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

O God of truth and justice,

we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,

and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,

and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;

for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

*(from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000),* “*All Saints to Advent")*

**Lord's Prayer***(adapted by Parker Palmer)*
**Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother,**

**Holy and blessed is your true name.**

**We pray for your reign of peace to come.**

**We pray that your good will be done.
Let heaven and earth become one.**

**Give us this day the bread we need.**

**Give it to those who have none.**

**Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,**

**from each one to each one.**

**Lead us to holy innocence**

**beyond the evil of our days.**

**Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come.**

**For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:**

**Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

**Song**: SfP 39 Spirit of Peace

When people despair we would bring hope

In the shadow of fear, we would show faith.

When hatred divides, we would renew

To people alone, we would bring love.

*Spirit of love, Spirit, send love*

*Spirit of love, Spirit, send love.*

When people are bound we would be free

In the darkness of doubt we would affirm

Where others escape we would endure

When people make war, we would bring peace.

*Spirit of peace, Spirit, send peace.*

*Spirit of peace, Spirit, send peace.* *(Words: Neil Quintrell; Music: Douglas Simper)*

**Prayer for the offering**Living God, accept these offerings we bring to you in a whole variety of ways. Grant that they may go where we can’t go, that they may reach where we cannot reach, that they may do what we cannot do. Use them to strengthen your Church and advance your reign here where we are and far beyond. For Jesus’ sake. Amen. *(Rev Colin Sinclair, Church of Scotland)*

**Blessing**

May the path that you walk

be ever guided by justice and light

By the truth that you stand.

May it show, into the land.

May the words of Christ

disturb you all your life.

The road you’ve chosen is not easy

– yet, here you stand!

*(from the song, The Path, by Jason Mann, adapted)*

God's peace be with you. **And also with you!**

**Passing the peace**

*This service was crafted and curated by Sandy Boyce.*

*Prayers are from a variety of sources, and acknowledged where the source is known.*