



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

11.00am Choral Worship

Sunday, 9th May 2021

Easter 6
COCU36B

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.

This Service is being live streamed. The Service will also be available for viewing on YouTube at 'Pilgrim Uniting Church Adelaide' for two months

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP *[based on Psalm 98]*

Here today there is love, freely available to all.
Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent,
but God's supreme love.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
break forth into joyous songs of praise.**

Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes,
deeper than the immensities of time and space,
God's inclusive love.

**Let the seas roar their praise,
and everything in them.**

**Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills sing together their happiness.**

The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.

And also with you.

(Source: Bruce Prewer)



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HYMN 527 New songs of celebration render

1.
New songs of celebration render
to him who has great wonders
done.
Love sits enthroned in ageless
splendour:
come and adore the Mighty One.
He has made known his great
salvation
which all his friends with joy
confess:
he has revealed to ev'ry nation
his everlasting righteousness.

3.
Rivers and seas and torrents
roaring,
honour the Lord with wild acclaim;
mountains and stones look up
adoring
and find a voice to praise his name.
Righteous, commanding, ever
glorious,
praises be his that never cease:
just is our God, whose truth
victorious
establishes the world in peace.

2.
Joyfully, heartily resounding,
let every instrument and voice
peal out the praise of grace
abounding,
calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
such sounds as make the heavens
ring;
all things that live in earth and
ocean,
make music for your mighty King.

Words: Eric Routley 1917-1982,
Psalm 98
Tune: Rendez à Dieu;
Melody from *Genevan Psalter* 1545,
harmonised by compilers of
More Hymns for Today 1980

WELCOME and GREETING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life,

for the breath that sustains life,

for the food of this earth that nurtures life,

for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty that the eye can see,

for the joy that the ear may hear,

for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,

for the expanse of space drawing us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:

for families who nurture our becoming,

for friends who love us by choice,

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for where the Spirit wants to send us,

Thanks be to God!

May God the Creator bless you.

May God in Christ walk with you.

May God the Spirit weave love into your lives.

Amen.

(Source: Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion. Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017)

*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: Prelude from Suite médiévale

Jean Langlais 1907-8/5/91

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church

Presiding Minister

Rev Dr Greg Elsdon

Scripture Reader

Emily Kelsall

Organist & Choir Director

Peter Kelsall

Assistant Organist

Christopher Bridge

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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

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

Please leave the church through the East Door or Lounge.

Thank you for your assistance.

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.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN 538 O Jesus, I have promised omit vs. 2

1.
O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

4.
O Jesus, thou has promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

3.
O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

5.
O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Words: J.E. Bode 1816-1874
Tune: Wolvercote;
W.H. Ferguson 1874-1950

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

For all that God can do within us,
for all that God can do without us,
Thanks be to God!
For all in whom Christ lived before us,
for all in whom Christ lives beside us,
Thanks be to God!

for companions who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:
**for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbours and one more person to love and by whom to be
loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.**

For these, and all blessings:
**we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, through Jesus Christ we
pray. Amen.** *(Adapted from "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said: "This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
You are truly my friends if you do what I command you."
Let us make our confession.
Most holy God, most of the time we see ourselves as nice people,
who are trying to do the loving thing in a difficult world.
We try not to lie, cheat, malign, abuse or injure others.
We try to serve you through the church and within the community.
We pray for peace and justice, and we attempt to forgive those who sin
against us.
By the standards of love in the wider community we have not done so
badly.
Yet deep within we know how far we fall short of the love-standard set by
Jesus,
and we even fall beneath the level that our own ideals have set us.
We feel compromised and misled by this hustling world with its glitter.
We become frustrated and undermined by a negativity within ourselves
which diverts us and leads us into withholding love.
Loving God, we certainly need your pardoning grace and humbly we ask
for it.
But also we need much more.
We seek the grace of self honesty, and a sharper awareness of our own
hearts.
We need your illuminating Light, helping us to see through the humbug
of society.
We need to allow ourselves to become saturated with your love.
We ask for the spur of your Spirit to make us more eager for the art of
true loving, and more determined to practice what we preach.
Grant us these graces we pray. *(Source: Bruce Prewer)*

A silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We can be confident that God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Welcome this living truth into your minds, and accept into your hearts the saving grace of Christ Jesus.

Let it be. Amen!

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

ANTHEM A new commandment Richard Shephard 1949-2021

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May God bless to us the hearing of the Word,
that we may not be hearers only but also doers of the Word.

FIRST READING Acts 10: 44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 Chant: J. Randall 1715-1799

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song for he hath done marvellous things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his holy arm hath he gotten himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord declared his salvation his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
- 6 Praise the Lord upon the harp sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
- 7 With trumpets also, and shawms O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is the round world, and they that dwell therein.
- 9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord for he is come to judge the earth.
- 10 With righteousness shall he judge the world and the people with equity.

5.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do,
while love is making all things new.

Words: Brian A. Wren b. 1936
Tune: Ryburn;
Norman Cocker 1889-1953

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God.
Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear.

May these gifts of time and labour embody our desire
to share and contribute to your mission in the world.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Compassionate, Suffering God, open the door of our hearts - just a crack,
so that we might catch a glimpse beyond ourselves into our world.

Connect us to our compassion - just a little, just for a moment,
that we might feel some of the suffering in the world.

Connect our compassion to our dreaming - just to imagine,
that we might begin to find ways to help people escape the nightmare
they may be living.

For those shut in a world of pain and hurt.

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

For those trapped by the unjust circumstances of their life

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

For those crushed by the actions of others.

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

For those imprisoned by the choices they have made.

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

For the victims of the choices that others have made.

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

For those left out - isolated and alone.

Move us beyond compassion/**Move us into action.**

Compassionate, Suffering God,

Move us beyond compassion, move us into action, just as you act in the world.

Change us that we might be part of the change in the world.

(Source: Jon Humphries)

In the love of Christ we abide. In the name of Christ we pray:

HYMN 425 Filled with the Spirit's power

1.
Filled with the Spirit's power, with
one accord
the infant church confessed its
risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
no less your power of fellowship
display.

2.
Now with the mind of Christ set us
on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to
hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for
all.

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 133 Great God, your love has called us here

1.
Great God, your love has called us
here,
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured,
disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and
mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2.
We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free half-bound by inner
chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close
confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3.
Widen our love, good Spirit, to
embrace
in your strong care all those of
every race.
Like wind and fire with life among
us move,
till we are known as Christ's, and
Christians prove.

Words: J.R. Peacey 1896-1971
Tune: 362 Woodlands;
Walter Greatorex 1877-1949

3.
Great God, in Christ you call our
name,
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or
claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-
seat,
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4.
Then take the towel, and break the
bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

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 1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

In this is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM If ye love me

Philip Wilby b. 1949

Please stand for and face the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING John 15: 9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ