



**Pilgrim**  
Uniting Church

# 8.00am Morning Eucharist

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.*

#### WELCOME AND GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### 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)*



**Pilgrim**  
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HYMN: Praise to God, the world's creator

1. Praise to God, the Spirit in us,  
Praise to God, the world's creator,  
Source of life and growth and  
breath,  
Cradling in her arms her children,  
Holding them from birth to death.  
In our bodies, in our living,  
Strength and truth of all we do,  
God is present, working with us,  
Making us creators too.

Praise to God, the Spirit in us,  
Prompting hidden depths of prayer,  
Firing us to long for justice,  
Reaching out with tender care.  
In our searching, in our loving,  
In our struggles to be free,  
God is present, living in us,  
Pointing us to what shall be.

*Tune: Abbot's Leigh 87 87D TIS 153  
Words: Jan Berry*

2. Praise to God our saving Wisdom,  
Meeting us with love and grace,  
Helping us to grow in wholeness,  
Giving freedom, room, and space.  
In our hurting, in our risking,  
In the thoughts we dare not name,  
God is present, growing with us,  
Healing us from sin and shame.

#### 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 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.

#### *Communion is shared*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.

May this food strengthen us in love,

and help us to serve you in each other.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

#### WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

*The candles are extinguished.*

Friends, reaffirmed in your relationship with God,  
claim the hope that is yours - in body, soul and spirit.

Enter into this new week awake to possibilities

for helping others to find places of belonging,

needed spaces of healing and inclusion,

and sacred places of prayer and contemplation.

And as you go, may the searching love of God,

the inclusive grace of Christ,

and the unbridled joy of the Holy Spirit, fill you,

inspire you, and direct you onwards, now and always.

**Amen.**

The peace of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The sign of the peace is exchanged*

**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.**

You are God to the believer and to the doubter,  
to the religious and to the atheist;  
You are God to the courageous and to the fearful,  
to the fighter and to the peacemaker;  
You are God to the leader and to the follower,  
to the parent and to the child.  
You are God to all, and your grace extends to all.

**We give thanks that in the life of Jesus we see a glimpse of the reign of God where all have a place to belong, all are welcome, and all may be blessed.**

**We praise you that our small self-interests are not enough to keep you from being the great and all-embracing God that you are.**

*(John van de Laar)*

And so, with all the company of heaven and earth  
we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of grace and mercy.  
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.**

#### **THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER**

We remember the night Jesus spoke of his love for his friends,  
when he took bread, mindful of God's constant presence of his life,  
gave thanks for that presence, and shared the bread with his friends,  
wanting them to remember his own faithful love,  
and his belief in the bond between human and divine love.  
We break and share this bread as Jesus broke and shared it.  
We take and eat as our pledge of openness to the Spirit of Love  
in our midst and as our remembrance of Jesus, who enlightened our  
hearts and minds and who was ready to die for what he believed.  
We take this cup and drink, as Jesus asked his friends to drink,  
mindful of a relationship of love and trust between ourselves and the  
Spirit of Life, believing, as Jesus believed,  
that to live in love is to live in God and to have God live and love in us.

#### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Loving God, by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
bless these gifts that they may be for us the life of Christ,  
and that we may become, by grace,  
one with him for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

Christ is the bread of joy who shares food with sinners.  
Christ is the cup of life who revives the faint-hearted.  
Let us receive what we are; let us become what we receive.  
The body of Christ.

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**

Loving God, our lives are ever open to you.

We bend our thoughts toward you now.

You know us better than we know ourselves.

Be patient with us, friend of all.

It's not an easy thing to embrace the surprising metaphor of friendship  
with all its promises of presence, yet heightened responsibility for the  
living.

*A time for silent reflection*

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me but I chose you'.

Our calling, healing and futures rest in the open hands  
of the One who sets us free for life.

Our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **BIBLE READINGS:**

##### **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. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This 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.

##### **John 15: 9-17**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have

kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>You 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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## REFLECTION

### OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God, both mother and father for humankind and creation,  
We are grateful and thankful today for mothering,

For the feminine touch of parenting,

For the special connection of mother and child,

**And thankful for all the women in our lives,  
Who offer care, comfort, encouragement and support.**

We are grateful for the self-sacrifice of love that is given,  
And we offer our love in return. We remember the mothers who are.

We remember the mothers who have been and are gone.

We remember the mothers who can't be.

**We acknowledge that mothering is hard,  
And not all are able to do so as they would like.**

We acknowledge that we all fall short in life and love,

And that mothers are no exception in this.

However, today, we honour mothering,

Especially those who give of their best.

**We pray for mothers all,  
And those who offer mothering beyond the circle of bloodlines and family.**

**For mothers and motherers we pray.**

**Amen.**

*(Source: Jon Humphries, Prayers that Unite)*

### 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.**

### 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.**

### HYMN TIS 693 Come as you are

1  
'Come as you are:  
that's how I want you.  
Come as you are;  
feel quite at home,  
close to my heart,  
loved and forgiven.  
Come as you are:  
why stand alone?

2  
'No need to fear,  
love sets no limits;  
no need to fear,  
love never ends;  
don't run away  
shamed and disheartened,  
rest in my love,  
trust me again.

3  
'I came to call sinners,  
not just the righteous;  
I came to bring peace,  
not to condemn.  
Each time you fail  
to live by my promise,  
why do you think  
I'd love you the less?

4  
'Come as you are:  
that's how I love you;  
come as you are,  
trust me again.  
Nothing can change  
the love that I bear you;  
all will be well,  
just come as you are.'

Words and music: Dierdre Browne 1936-

### COMMUNION

#### THE INVITATION

This is the joyful feast of Jesus: bread for beloved children,  
a meal for those expecting scraps; and a banquet for last-minute guests!

Come, your place is at the table.

Here Christ meets you and calls you God's own.

#### 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 our thanks and praise.**

In every place and every time, in every relationship and every interaction  
- you are God.

You are God to the poor and to the wealthy,  
to the weak and to the powerful;