

Please join us after the service for morning tea/coffee in the Hall.

This service was prepared by Greg Elsdon.

A special thank you to Steve Thompson for sharing with us something of his experience of God in his ministry as a Hospital Chaplain.

Thank you to our liturgists for today, Marelle Harisun and Helen McIntosh; to Helen Warman and Pat Button who read the Bible to us; to Peter Russell for running the AV desk, and to Greg Bassani for overseeing the live-streaming of this service.

Music was led by Norm Inglis with Jenny Ward (piano), Genevieve Bassani (flute), Margaret Chittleborough (bassoon), Don Bell (guitar), Ruth Farrent (djembe), with singers Alison McDougall, Colin Telfer and Bronwyn Blight.

**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.**



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday, 9th May 2021

Easter 6
COCUC36B

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.



['Mother and child', by Michael Leunig]

LIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY CANDLES

GATHERING *[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.

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**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)*

SONG: SPG 24 Give praise to God

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1.
Give praise to God who joins us
here,
whose healing Spirit casts out fear;
let each our neighbour's joy
partake,
and to our God thanksgiving make. | 2.
Give praise to God who gives us
Christ,
Whose life redeems a mighty host;
let each our neighbour's faith
uphold,
and to our God our joy be told.
<i>(Chorus)</i> |
|---|--|

CHORUS

We praise you, we praise you,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu!
We praise you, we praise you,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelu!

3.
Give praise to God whose spirit
leads,
to serve the world in all its needs;
let each our neighbour's hope
repair,
and to our God all joy now share.
(Chorus)

Words: Bruce Prewer
Music: Douglas Simper

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

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)

SONG: SPG 54 Lord make me an instrument

Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow
love;
where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness; light;
where there is sadness, bring joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek to be
consoled, as to console;
not so much seek to be understood
as to understand;
not to be loved, so much as to love.
It is in giving that we receive,
it is in pard'ning that we are
pardoned
it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Words: St Francis of Assisi
Music: Douglas Simper

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Go with us God in all that builds community.
Go with us Christ in all that breaks down barriers.
Go with us Spirit in all that reconciles.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you this day, and all
the days ahead. **Amen.**

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

The sign of peace is exchanged.

SONG: HaND 27 Kindness

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.
Unnamed, unknown and
undisplayed,
the acts of kindness daily made;
kind deeds to strangers and to
friends,
the helping hand that loving lends.
True kindness will love's presence
bring
as joy and blessings newly spring. | 3.
The unremembered kindly deed
is gift of grace in time of need;
the healing power of kindly gift
will every shadowed spirit lift.
True kindness shows God's loving
care
in human touch, good news we
share. |
| 2.
The secret acts of kindly care
endow each life with treasure rare,
and kindness shared with no
delay
is love divine seen every day.
True kindness brings God's
presence near
as words of comfort calm each
fear. | 4.
We shall not pass this way again,
so may our kindness touch life's
pain;
one kindly deed may friendship
seal
and will a deeper truth reveal:
True kindness shows God's grace
to be
revealed in all humanity. |

Words: Helen Wiltshire
Tune: Aria Magic Flute

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful.
God's 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 God's mission in the world. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR A TROUBLED WORLD

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.**

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.

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.)

BIBLE READING: 1 John 5: 1-6

¹Everyone 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.

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

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.

May it be so! Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING MOTHERS' DAY

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS AND MOTHERERS

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)*

SONG: SMS 10 Choose to hope

1.
Hope is born when we choose to believe
that love is stronger than hatred;
Love is born when our hearts learn to see
that every person is sacred.

Refrain:

*In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
choose to hope, choose to love,
and know that God is near.*

2.
Hope will grow when we choose to believe
that we are sisters and brothers;
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see
the life we share with each other.

Refrain:

3.
Hope will shine when we choose to believe
a little child will lead us;
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see
that God is dwelling within us.

Refrain:

4.
Sing out hope through violence and fear,
for God is present beside us;
prince of Peace, make your home with us here,
your love and wisdom will guide us.

Refrain:

Words and music: Marty Haugen
Arrangement: Norman Inglis

BIBLE 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.

WITNESS: Rev Steve Thompson

[Uniting Church Minister and Chaplain at Flinders Private Hospital]