

This service was prepared and led by Margaret Chittleborough and Greg Elsdon.

The music was led by Norm Inglis with Jenny Ward at the piano, with instrumentalists Genevieve Bassani, Jeff Telfer, Don Bell, Ruth Farrent and Graham Brice.

Thank you to Carol and Peter Dungey for reading the Bible and leading prayers; to David Davis for running the AV desk; and to Greg Bassani for overseeing the live-streaming of this service.

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

BSB: 035-006 (Westpac)
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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

12 Flinders Street
GPO Box 116, Adelaide SA 5001
Phone: 08 8212 3295
E-mail: office@pilgrim.org.au
ABN: 14 903 697 626

www.pilgrim.org.au | facebook.com/pilgrimunitingchurch



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am
Community Worship

Sunday 18th July, 2021

Pentecost 8
COCU48B

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.



"One great Sunday of sharing"

FOR YOUR PREPARATION:

Multiculturalism: The Belief

The Uniting Church declared itself A Multicultural Church in 1985. In the three and a half decades since then, the national conferences have given shape to that identity, inviting people of the same culture and language group into national communities of solidarity, support and fellowship. In 1987, the Tongan National Conference was the first National conference to be formed. Now there are 13: Tongan, Samoan, Fijian, Indonesian, Korean, Tamil, Chinese, South Sudanese, Filipino, Niuean, Vietnamese, Middle East and Ibero-Latino, (recently in 2019).
Though each is distinct, together they reflect the vibrant and growing diversity which characterises the Uniting Church. Each week, people across the Uniting Church worship in over 40 languages. **We celebrate this diversity of cultures and languages as a gift of God.**

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LIGHTING THE COMMUNITY CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, God of the Journey:

a people from different places, different histories and different cultures.

We come hoping to find companionship for the journey, solidarity for the struggle.

We gather, God of Hospitality, around your 'welcome table':

We gather seeking to become a 'round-table' people, welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, no firsts and no lasts, and no corners for 'the least of these'"

We yearn, for a new way of living and relating... as neighbours not strangers, as brothers and sisters, not 'them and us'.

We yearn to live fully, celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to peace, love and justice. Amen.

SONG: SMS 1 All are welcome

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace,
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign a new.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and love the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's grace,
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Help us to take the steps you call us to take, to build a more just, inclusive community, where diversity is truly embraced, where difference is respected.

In the Name of God, Amen!

(adapted from a prayer by Swee Ann Koh)

CLOSING SONG: SFPG 79 Siyahamba

We are singing in the light of God
We are singing in the light of God

(Repeat)

We are singing, singing, we are singing
We are singing in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God

(Repeat)

We are marching, - o-o

We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

African folk

The sign of peace is exchanged.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

We have gathered, and we are sent to live out relationships that follow in the way of Jesus. We live as neighbours not strangers, as brothers and sisters, not 'them and us', to celebrate the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to peace, love and justice. **Amen.**

May God's joy be in your hearts

and God's love surround your living.

Each day and night and wherever you roam,

may you know God's presence.

In growing and learning, in joy and sorrow,

in friendship, in solitude,

in beginnings and endings,

may God keep you and bless you all the days of your lives.

May the blessing of God – the Beginning, the End, and the Everlasting, be with you and remain with you always
and also with you.

Greeting us with hands still scarred,
he stands with us in our fears, doubts and trials
and protects us through faith,
transforming us for life abundant -
life fulfilled, forever in your presence.
(©2002 Nathan Nettleton [LaughingBird.net](#))

Therefore with grateful hearts we join together
to proclaim these words of unending praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of grace and justice,
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!

A PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE BREAD AND CUP:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together,
may retell our common stories together,
reshape our common bonds together,
and remember our common grace together,
**May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your
justice.**
**May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for
your righteousness,**
**May we be united with every corner of your story,
united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose,
united in ministry in every place.**

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of many faces and names,

You created all people in your image.

We thank you for the amazing diversity of races, languages,
accents and cultures in this world you created.

We thank you for the wonderful diversity reflected within

the First Peoples and Second Peoples of this land and in our church.

We thank you for the blessings and enrichment we have received
from the rich diversity in the Body of Christ.

**We pray that in our diversity we will find the unity
that's given to us in Christ and appreciate the gifts that others bring
to us.**

We pray that we will reach out to those who are different from us
and see you in the faces of the poor, strangers and persecuted.

**We pray that we may be transformed,
and drawn into intentional,
intercultural relationships and community.**

5. Let us build a house where all are names,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome,

All are welcome in this place.

Words and music: Marty Haugen

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

We live in a world where people are still judged
by their skin colour, ethnic background, accent, gender,
economic status, political conviction, religious affiliation.

**We confess our participation in all that has caused our disunity,
conflicts, separation and brokenness from one another.**

We seek a different vision of life.

We seek a more inclusive community,

a more expansive welcome,

a more holy hospitality for all people.

We seek a cleansing of our souls.

We seek a softening of our hearts.

We seek to be saturated in your love.

We seek to reach out and include

those who are different from us.

We seek to live in the authentic community of the Christ,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

SONG: SMS 53 Lord of the Nations

1.

Lord of the nations, bless this ancient land,
where cultures meet and merge on every hand.
Let hearts diverse with common purpose beat,
let barriers crumble and discord retreat.

2.

Your children, Lord, we come from every race,
diverse traditions and beliefs we trace.
Our feet may march to many a different drum,
but yours the resting place to which they come.

3. In countless tongues your glory we declare.
A thousand accents rise as one in prayer,
your listening ear to every voice inclines,
each soul is precious in your grand design.

4. Root out, O Lord, our prejudice and fear,
and bid us to the stranger's heart draw near.
Veneers of difference may we pierce, and see
one single undivided family.

Words: Nim LaBrooy. Music: Woodlands

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator of the universe, eternal God who is the source of times,
we worship you. We take refuge in you.

You called us from age to age, and led us step by step;
you are our past, present and future.

**We gather here to give thanks for the ecumenical journey
of the Uniting Church in Australia.**

You who brought the Church into union are continuing to shape her life
to reflect your compassion, justice and diversity.

Grant us grace, humility, wisdom and a sense of adventure
as we continue our journey as we commit ourselves

to you and each other in faith and good will.

God of many cultures, help us to acknowledge the diversity you are
and to receive the gospel that comes through each culture you have
created.

May you continue to surprise us, and open our hearts and minds
to the wonder of your creation as we learn to live in the diversity
of our faith expressions and love towards you and each other.

We ask this in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(adapted from Dev Anandarajan)

EARLY WORD

BIBLE READING: Ephesians 2: 11- 22 (From 'The Message')

But don't take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you
outsiders to God's ways had no idea of any of this, didn't know the first
thing about the way God works, hadn't the faintest idea of Christ. You
know nothing of that rich history of God's covenants and promises in
Israel, hadn't a clue about what God was doing in the world at large. Now
because of Christ – dying that death, shedding that blood – you who were
once out of it altogether are in on everything.

The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together
on this, both non-jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the
wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code
that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it

This table is for all of us, near and far. This table is for all of us, but it is
not our table. It's Christ's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So
come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited,
you are called.

INVITED ... AND CALLED TO REMEMBER

So now, as the risen Jesus encourages us,
we choose to remember so that we too can truly live.

At supper on the night before he died

Jesus took bread and blessed it.

Then he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

This is my body, broken so that you may know life.

Eat it and remember me.

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it.

Then he gave it to his disciples saying:

This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.

Drink it and remember me.

And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus – his faithfulness, his compassion,
his indiscriminate love, his costly grace,
his refusal to be constrained by cultural barriers and dividing walls,
and his courageous commitment to the righteousness of God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us lift up our 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.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you have given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In the first of your mighty deeds of power

you created the heavens and earth.

You formed for yourself a people,

and through the law and prophets

you led them on the road to life.

Your child and our brother, Jesus of Nazareth,
came to us speaking words of peace and forgiveness.

He was put to death by the enemies of life,

but you kept your promise

not to abandon your faithful one to death.

You raised him up, and freed him from death's power.

OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Today God, we pray for those who suffer under the oppression of leaders who consider themselves superior to their people.

We pray that those who suffer may not lose hope that a day can and will come when all people will gather together in freedom and peace.

We pray also for those who would divide people with false divisions based on colour, gender, nationality, sexuality.

We pray for all who live out of the lie that some people have thoughts or practices or ways of being that are inferior to others, and that some people should make the decisions for how other people should live.

We pray that we might all learn to rejoice in the interconnectedness of people as one community of humanity, with much to teach and learn from each other. Amen

OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Offerings can be given via the Offering Box at the East Porch Door, or electronically – see back page for bank details. We give thanks also for the generous provision of grocery items provided each week by the congregation in our food donations box (also by the East Door), distributed to disadvantaged people.

God, your goodness to us is beyond measure.

Your love for us is without limits.

Every good gift comes from you.

These small offerings

that we make here, now,

we dedicate to building a world

where everyone experiences your goodness

beyond measure and overflowing. **May it be so!**

COMMUNION

INVITATION

Communion is a sign of our oneness in Jesus Christ.

It is a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ, despite theological, political, linguistic, and cultural differences.

hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.

Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

That's plan enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all – irrespective of how we got here – in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that hold all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

SOME TIME FOR REFLECTION:

Turn to someone near you and reflect with them on the reading.

What stood out for you in this reading?

What other cultures have you experienced in worship?

WITNESS

SONG: TIS 459 In Christ there is no east or west

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family bound in love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whatever your race may be!
who serve each other in Christ's love
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north,
all Christlike lives are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Words: from John Oxenham; Music: St Bernard