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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

11.00am
Choral Worship

Sunday 29th August, 2021

Pentecost 14
COCU54B

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

Please help us to comply with the current COVID rules by wearing a mask in church this morning - and wherever you are in the vicinity of others.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people are invited to stand for the entrance of the Bible.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.
Let there be truth heard in the words we speak and the songs we sing.
Let there be help and healing for our disharmony and despair.
Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.
Let us be nurtured in the presence of God.

God of life, gather us in and hold us in love.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 474 Immortal, invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

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Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Words: W. Chalmers Smith 1824-1908 1 Timothy 1:17

Tune: St Denio;

Adapted from a Welsh song set to a hymn in John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegre* 1839

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you call us to be in relationship, building community with one
another,
working with one another, supporting and healing one another.
God, you call us into a community working for the common good of all
people,
making choices that bring hope, justice, truth and freedom to our world.
God, you call us into community with the whole of creation,
always cherishing, nurturing and renewing the earth.

**O God, you are the source of human dignity,
and it is in your image that we are created.**

Pour out on us the Spirit of love and compassion.

Enable us to reverence each person, to reach out to those in need,
to value and appreciate those who differ from us,
to share the resources of our nation,
to receive the gifts offered to us by people from other cultures.

**Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance
that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.**

Help us to remember always that we are one family. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and gracious God, clear a space in our hearts
where we can gently and genuinely
reflect on how you would have us live and love.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

We are sent out from our service of worship,
to worship God in Service – to be God's people for the world.
Enjoy the goodness of God's love today among friends and family,
and in the goodness of creation.

May the guarding of God be with you to protect and guide you,
to accompany you on all your paths, through trouble and sorrow,
through danger and loss.

May the keeping of Christ be about you and lift up your hearts.

And may the dancing of the Spirit be around you,
each day, each night, each night, each day. **Amen.**

adapted, Kate McIlhaggaghs

*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 Crown Imperial

William Walton 1902-1983

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.

Presiding Minister

Rev Dr Greg Elsdon

Scripture Reader

Ian Giles

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 COVID-SAFE Regulations
by wiping areas you have touched on the pews.
Thank you for your assistance.**

Please leave the church through the East Door or Lounge.

BSB: 035-006 (Westpac)

Account Number: 224080 (Pilgrim Church UCA)

Lodgement Reference: Offering

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as it is 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 368 All my hope on God is founded

1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he
guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend
him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert Bridges 1844-1930 based on
the German of Joachim Neander 1650-1680
Tune: Michael; Herbert Howells 1892-1983
arr. John Rutter b. 1945

You call us to live in harmony.
Forgive us our habits of discord. *Silence*

You call us to love one another with mutual affection.
Forgive us when we hold back. *Silence*

You call us to rejoice in hope.
Forgive us our impatience. *Silence*

You call us to life, life in all its abundance.
Forgive us for our apathy. *Silence*

You call us to extend hospitality to strangers.
Forgive us when we close our hearts. *Silence*

We remember, O God, we are your beloved, we are your people

**May we experience your forgiveness and your care.
May we relax in your love.
May we live as your beloved people. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear these words of invitation from the Scriptures:
"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."
God puts behind us anything that would hold us back
from living and loving as fully as we are able.
We are forgiven, and therefore free to renew our zeal,
to rejoice in hope and to live peaceably with all.
By God's grace, we hold fast to what is good
and turn again to follow the way of Jesus.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

ANTHEM Almighty God, which hast me brought
Thomas Ford c. 1580-1648

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our hearts and minds to hear your Word of love, O God. **Amen**

FIRST READING Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

⁸The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills. ⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking
through the lattice. ¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love,

my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 45: 1-2, 6-9

Chant: R Cooke 1768-1814

1 My heart is inditing of a good matter

I speak of the things which I have made unto the King.

My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2 Thou art fairer than the children of men

full of grace are thy lips, because God hath blessed thee for ever.

6 Thy seat, O God, endureth for ever

the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

7 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity

wherefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

8 All thy garments smell of myrrh, aloes, and cassia

out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

9 Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women

upon thy right hand did stand the queen in a vesture of gold, wrought about with divers colours.

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 James 1: 17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God,

receive our gifts and all our offerings.

These are the embodied hopes of your people.

Bless them to offer blessings to the world,

in your name and according to your love. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We are a world that is desperate for you, God.

When powers struggle for dominance,

and war, oppression and abuse result;

When groups of people oppose one another

because of ideology, religion or culture;

When millions are forced to flee their homes and lands

to seek safe refuge away from war, conflict and persecution.

We need a God who is bigger than ourselves,

and our personal interests.

Silence to offer prayers for specific areas of conflict in the world.

When people are disregarded and devalued

because of poverty, geography or disease;

When compassion and justice is withheld to some

because of sexuality, race or gender;

We need a Saviour who is more compassionate than we are

who includes even those we would exclude.

Silence to offer prayers for specific people and places of suffering in the world.

When resources are mismanaged and abused,

and the world and its creatures are damaged;

When motivation is scarce and creativity is in short supply

to address the challenges that we face;

We need a Spirit who is more powerful and more creative

than we could ever be.

Silence to offer prayers for specific challenges and issues in the world.

Loving God, we are human and often overwhelmed by the many difficulties we face in our world, in our Church, in our lives. In the face of so many challenges, you call us to always act with love. Help us to become instruments of peace in our world, to confront violence and its causes, the toxic roots of injustice and racism, and the contempt that denigrates the human person made in your image. This we ask through the transfigured Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen**

adapted from 30th anniversary service of death of Archbishop Oscar Romero

HYMN 345 From thee all skill and science flow

1. From thee all skill and science flow,
all pity, care, and love,
all calm and courage, faith and hope:
O pour them from above.

3. And hasten, Lord, that perfect day
when pain and death shall cease,
and thy just rule shall fill the earth
with health and light and peace.

2. Impart them, Lord, to each and all,
as each and all shall need,
to rise, like incense, each to thee,
in noble thought and deed.

Words: Charles Kingsley 1819-1875
Tune: Belgrave; William Horsley 1774-1858

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 531 O Christ the Word incarnate

1. O Christ the Word incarnate,
O wisdom from on high,
O truth unchanged, unchanging,
O light of our dark sky,
we praise thee for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps
shines on from age to age.

3. O make thy Church, dear Saviour,
a lamp of burnished gold,
to bear before the nations
thy true light, as of old;
O teach thy wandering pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see thee face to face.

2. The Church from her dear Master
received the gift divine,
and still that light she lifteth
o'er all the earth to shine;
it is the precious treasury
where gems of truth are stored;
it is the heaven-drawn picture
of Christ, the living Word.

Words: W. Walsham How 1823-1897
Tune: Bentley; J.P. Hullah 1812-1884

Please remain standing for the dedication prayer

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.

who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Laudate nomen Domini Christopher Tye c. 1500-1572

Translation: O come, ye servants of the Lord,
and praise his holy name;
From early morn to setting sun
his might on earth proclaim.
His laws are just, and glad the heart;
He makes his mercies known:
Ye princes come, ye people too,
and bow before his throne.

Please stand for the gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ