

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let the same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. **Amen.**

The one whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. The one who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine, aware of the presence of God in all things and in you.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread, and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. **Amen.**

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING *[candles are extinguished]*

Go now, and invest your lives in the works of faith.

Go into the world with no debt but love,
for love will not harm, will do no wrong to your neighbour.

Go into the world with no law but love,
and you will keep God's commandments of love and honour.

Go into the world with no prayer but love,
and God will be with you,

Christ will be in you,

Spirit will be around you. **Amen.**

Sarah Agnew, Pray the Story

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

The sign of the peace is exchanged

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) Account Number: 224080 (Pilgrim Church UCA)

Lodgement Reference: Offering



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am Morning Eucharist

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.

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.

WELCOME and GREETING and COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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 TiS 474 Here in this place

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of your name.

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We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen 1950-

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Light-giving God:
For the expanding grandeur of Creation,
worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies,
filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:
We give thanks this day.

Our praises spring up like flowers on a spring day;
our songs of joy are lifted to you;
our hearts overflow with your kindness and generosity.
We give thanks this day.

Jesus, Beloved Child:
you see our lives, our hearts, our souls.
You speak to us with tenderness and strength,
calling us to come away from rigid legalism
to lives of grace and hope.
We give thanks this day.

Truth-speaking Spirit:
we look in a mirror and see God's child;
we walk away and forget whose we are.
We place our lives anew into your perspective.

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

He was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, Jesus is the host. And we are all invited to this open table: no matter our tradition or membership, no matter our state of mind or grace, for you, for me, for all – here there is a place. Here, the table is prepared not just with bread, not just with wine, but the knowledge of the presence of Christ, so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

We remember the way that Jesus showed us his love:
On the evening before he died he shared a meal with his friends.
During the meal, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks for it,
broke it and then passed it around with these words:

This is my body broken for you. Eat this and remember Me.

And, after the meal he took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it,
and then passed it around with these words:

This is my life-blood poured for you. Drink this 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,
and his courageous commitment to the righteousness of God.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God.

The universe breathes by your grace, and you embrace your people now
and forever

and promise your realm of peace to all.

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving, God, our God!

And look, he comes! Your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord,

our Saviour, our Companion, the joy of your Heart.

Gazing into our souls, he sees our emptiness and fills us with your grace;
listening to our pain, he is quick to speak healing and hope to us.

As you have called him Beloved at his baptism,

and as you raised him from death to give us life,

so we give ourselves to live for him in grateful praise and service.

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.**

HYMN TiS 585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

1
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

3
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

2
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
and now I live in him.

Words: Horatius Bonar 1808-89
Tune: Kingsfold; English trad, arr Ralph
Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

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.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings,
and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten,
and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might become a kind of first
fruits for those whose lives are so empty.

**May this money become a part of the great work
of your new world and shape the beloved community. Amen.**

**We thank you that we are your beloved,
we are held in your heart and your hands.
We rejoice that your love is there for everyone.
We rejoice that we are loved simply because we exist.
We give thanks this day. Amen.**

A MEDITATION FOR SPRING

You walk in your garden, enjoying what you have planted,
burgeoning, beautiful.
It has come from your hand, and yet from its own mystery,
each blossom a gift of grace.
You stand for a while, still, taking in the beauty,
simply relishing being there.
You also know what you have sown that is not yet up,
still hidden, gorgeous. That, too, you savour,
the promise, the mystery, the coming.
It is enough for you to be here, to take it in.
This is its purpose, its perfection.
God, I too am still, sharing your delight
in the garden you have planted in me.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

WORD 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, the world is often a place of hardness,
a place where the gentleness of love is not often experienced.
We thank you that your love for us, your gentleness with us,
and your grace in us are always present. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS:

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 fulfilment 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 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

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

¹ 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 honours 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

REFLECTION

HYMN TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness

1
Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.

2
Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.

3
Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

We offer prayers for ourselves and those we love, and for our world, our nation and our community:

This is my prayer/**this is our prayer**

God in Community, Holy in One, surround us in these moments and in all the ones to come, with your grace and love.
We pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

4
Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

God of the poor

5
Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

God of the poor

Graham Kendrick 1950-