

God bless our hearts,
that we may be transformed into witnesses of truth, justice and love.
And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**
God's peace be with you. **And also with you.**

We pass a COVID safe sign of peace to each other.

Everyone is welcome to a cuppa and conversation in the Hall immediately after the service.

This service was prepared by Rev Sandy Boyce, with contribution from Pilgrim's Circle of Friends. Thanks to Geoff Boyce for the song 'Mercy'.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in some way to our worship this morning.

Thanks to Raelene Telfer on the A-V desk and Greg Bassani with live streaming.

Thank you to the musicians and singers: Norm Inglis (conductor), Jenny Ward (piano), Genevieve Bassani (flute), Jeff Telfer (clarinet), Don Bell (guitar), Ruth Farrent and Graham Brice (percussion) and singers Alison McDougall, Colin Telfer, Bronwen Blight, Michael Heathcote, Peter Muller.

Due to COVID compliance we are not able to collect the offering in the usual way. There is a wooden offering box near the eastern doors. Our bank details are below. We also have the convenience of direct debit arrangements.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

Bless and use these gifts and through the power of your Spirit move us to acts of true kindness, and change us so that collectively and individually we might make a difference. Amen.

**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

9.30am Community 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.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY

Community candles are lit.

Singing is permitted with masks on. Thank you for helping us to be COVID compliant.

GATHERING

We come, God of the journey,
people from different places, different histories, 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, God of diversity, 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.**

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SONG: In the love of God we gather

1
In the love of God we gather,
wooling, fulsome, strong and free.
Through the veil of faith we enter
drawn and held by Mystery.
Wounded by the trials of living,
buoyed by hope that will not end;
We, your people of compassion,
lift our eyes and rise again.

2
T'ward the light of Christ we open,
searching for his paths of peace.
Hearts affected, grace resurgent
lived and breathed creatively:
Parent, poet, teacher, farmer -
calls to share the Gift made known:
Currents of the deepest river,
coursing outward to the sea.

3
Through the beauty of the Spirit
by a love that moves the stars,
we will find our truth and bearing
in God's love-song for this world.
Justice, mercy, peace and daring;
these shall be our heart's desire!
Folded into acts of service,
faith refined through holy fire.

Words: Sean Gilbert
Tune: Abbot's Leigh

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/RECOGNITION OF REFUGEES

We acknowledge the Kurna people, traditional custodians of this land on which we gather today, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the living Kurna today.

Ours is the age of the refugee, the displaced person and mass immigration. For decades, Australia has been a place of refuge and welcome for many people who have fled from the unbearable realities of wars and deprivations around the world. They have had to leave a familiar world behind and move to a new world populated with languages, traditions, skills and new ways of living that are foreign to their own.

We recognise that Aboriginal people, and refugees, share the experience of displacement and dispossession of their lands. The process of reconciliation is incomplete, and we as a nation are not doing enough to progress it. As well, policies in regards to the treatment of refugees have often been cruel, with ongoing uncertainty for too many. Too many lives left in limbo. Too many living with poverty and deprivation.

We acknowledge that often we receive the benefits of Australian citizenship without stopping to consider those not receiving all these benefits. We know that the full story of our treatment of those applying to live here when seeking refuge from another country is told with bias. We acknowledge with sorrow the way that other foreign languages,

The nations that went there
Could use a little mercy now -
Twenty years of warring,
So-much was lost at home somehow.
We can't imagine
How empty you must be feeling now -
Those helping nations
Could use some mercy now.

Reflection

Those languishing in detention
Could use a little mercy now
It's been twenty years since Tampa
You'd think we could do a little better by now
Lives left in limbo
With freedom disallowed
Those languishing in detention
Could use some mercy now.

Every living thing on earth
Could use a little mercy now -
Only the hand of grace
Can heal our world somehow.
People in power
They'll do anything to keep their crown -
I love life and life itself
Could use some mercy now.

I know we don't deserve it,
But we could use a little mercy now...
Every single one of us
Could use some mercy now.

Music: Mary Gauthier. <https://youtu.be/IT7NiFpJmvl>
Words: (after Mary Gauthier) Geoff Boyce (August 2021)

The candles are extinguished

BLESSING
God bless our eyes,
that we may recognise injustice.
God bless our ears,
that we may hear the cry of the stranger.
God bless our mouths,
that we may speak words of welcome to newcomers.
God bless our shoulders,
that we may bear the weight of struggling for justice.
God bless our hands,
that we may work together with all people to establish peace.

and be enough for them to endure in the midst of troubles.
 We pray for those who have evacuated in fear of their lives,
 who have left behind loved ones and all they held dear,
 uncertain about what happens next.
 We pray for ourselves, for we know that differences
 in language and culture and customs
 can serve to distance us from real human need,
 until the situation is dire and threatens to overwhelm us all.
 We feel helpless, angry at inaction and delays by those with power to act,
 frustrated by the foolishness and destruction of war
 while lining the pockets of those who manoeuvre to be beneficiaries.
 Help us to find the courage to speak on behalf of others
 when their voices have been silenced,
 to name ugly truths and to sow the seeds of justice.
 We pray for those we name as enemies,
 though the words are hard to form on our lips and in our hearts.
 We pray for their awakening to the welfare and well-being of others
 to see that vengeance and violence sow the seeds of dissent and despair.
 May nation building be founded on justice, and the value of each person.
 We pray in the name of Jesus
 who revealed to us the God of compassion and love,
 a God who invites us all to be part of a new family of God,
 a kin-dom of people whose lives are shaped
 by love, justice, peace, compassion and right living.
 Even when we journey through dark valleys and on barren ground,
 we pray, because we are not alone:
 God is with us, and remains with us forever. Thanks be. **Amen.**

SONG (solo) Mercy Now

Intro: Let us pray...

The Afghan people
 Could use a little mercy now,
 To find some sanctuary
 To get through their hell somehow.
 We can't imagine
 Rights and freedoms disallowed -
 And losing loved ones...
 They could use some mercy now.

All those war vets
 Could use a little mercy now -
 Massive trauma
 Now meaningless somehow.
 These wars have scarred them
 And they went off to war so proud -
 All those war vets
 Could use some mercy now.

cultures and religious practices are too often denigrated. We
 acknowledge with sorrow the injustice and abuse that has so often
 marked the treatment of those who desire refuge in this land. We
 acknowledge with sorrow that in our own time injustice and abuse has
 continued. We have been indifferent when we should have been
 outraged, have been apathetic when we should have been active, we
 have been silent when we should have spoken out.

So let us remain committed to justice and reconciliation in this land, to
 meet the tasks to realize and actualize a fair and just Australia, where as
 a nation we extend – and are able to receive – the gifts of generosity,
 understanding, compassion, hospitality and respect.

SONG: SMS 18 Diverse in culture, nation, race

Words: Ruth Duck 1992
 Music: "Parkin" - Norman Inglis 2019

Unison

Di - verse in cul - ture, nat - ion, race, we come to - ge - ther by your grace. God,
 let us be a meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.

Diverse in culture, nation, race,
 we come together by your grace.
 God, let us be a meeting ground
 where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care
 connecting people everywhere.
 Help us confront all fear and hate
 and lust for power that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise,
 O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
 Let our resolve, like steel, be strong
 to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread
 with gifts of love and broken bread,
 where all find welcome, grace attends,
 and enemies arise as friends.

READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from
 Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples

were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and 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.) So 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?" He 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; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

EARLY WORD

SONG: God of Love, We've Known Division

Turn us, Lord, from what divides us - fear that drives us far apart,
greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.
May we seek what brings together - hearts that bear each other's pain,
care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.
May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.
May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;
May we serve with one another - loving others, loving you.

You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.
It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.
May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.
Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Tune: Beach Springs 8.7.8.7.D

SYMBOLS AND STORIES (*Circle of Friends*)

SONG: SMS 39 Hold The World Lightly

1
Let's hold the world lightly, and
treat the earth rightly
Respect for all peoples
their cultures and birth
Embracing our neighbours,
enjoying the flavours,
so glad for all goodness
that springs from the earth.

Refrain:
Space for freedom and peace in
you
brings space for freedom in me
space for freedom and peace in me
brings space for freedom in you.

2
Let's hold the text lightly,
let's not press too tightly
Delight in the richness
It brings to our day.
Let's hold our lives open
To what God has spoken
And speaks to us daily
That shows us the way. *Refrain*

3
Let's not hold so lightly,
but speak up forthrightly
when freedom and justice
and truth are at stake.
Let's speak for the silenced,
abused by the tyrants
be voice for the voiceless,
their hope to awake. *Refrain*

4
Let's hold our lives lightly,
be open and kindly,
a space for the stranger
to be in this place.
Embracing the danger
to welcome the stranger
we open our arms
in refreshing embrace.

Refrain:
Space for freedom and peace in
you
brings space for freedom in me
space for freedom and peace in me
brings space for freedom in you.

Words and Music: Geoff Boyce July 2018

PRAYER and CANDLE LIGHTING

We are weary, O God.
Weary of the magnitude of problems in our world.
Weary of troubles that overwhelm us.
Our global community has seen too much despair
disappointment and destruction, loss and grief.
If we are on our knees in prayer, we feel we may not rise again.
And yet, in your company, we have the courage to face our realities,
and to name them in the spirit of prayer.
In between the words, we leave space for silence,
for those things that can best be expressed only
by lament, sighs, and sorrow.
And yet, it is in these moments that the truth
of our human condition can be seen most fully,
and named most truthfully.
We pray for Afghanistan.
For people wearied by war, violence and destruction.
For people living under the long shadow of fear and uncertainty.
For people whose lives have been upended and in turmoil.
For people desperate for hope, longing for peace.
We pray for shelter and safety and some semblance of certainty
for those whose lives are at the mercy
of leaders who wield power by weaponry, not wisdom.
We pray for women and children, and their families,
those at risk of losing life and liberty, and access to learning.
We give thanks for the courage, strength and wisdom
that has grown silently within them,
that it will sustain them in body, mind and spirit