



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am Morning Eucharist

Sunday 5th September, 2021

Pentecost 15
COCU55B

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship!

We will praise the One between, within, and over.

Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will be.

Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love calling us to do the same.

Follow the One who never breaks covenant.

We follow the One whose extravagant love calls us to create justice for the oppressed, feed the hungry, unlock prisons, and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.

Praise the One whose justice is full and inclusive.

We praise the Spirit that spans the ages. Amen!

Tim Graves, LiturgyBits. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

HYMN TiS 414 There's a spirit in the air

1

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.'

2

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

BSB: 035-006 (Westpac)
Account Number: 224080 (Pilgrim Church UCA)
Lodgement Reference: Offering



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Uniting Church

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3
When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

4
Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

5
When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What good is it if we say we love all people,
but give special treatment to a few?

**God calls us to love others as deeply
as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.**

What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us,
but are quick to judge others?

**God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers,
to let mercy triumph over judgment.**

What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment,
but live by our fears?

**We will speak and act as those who trust God to come
and live in our fearful hearts.**

God, we confess to our partiality:

we favour those who are like us, and those who like us.

We judge others, sometimes mercilessly.

As open-hearted as we wish ourselves to be,

we know that we can be closed-minded.

Teach us humility, wisdom and compassion.

Teach us that you look on the heart of each person
and see a child of God.

(A brief silence is held as we reflect upon these words for ourselves)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is love, offering transformation freely.

We are invited to be the persons God trusts us to be.

We are forgiven and accepted, by grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

6
May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our
ways:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

7
There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ
revealed,
living, working in our world.'

Words: Brian Wren 1936-
Tune: Lauds. John Wilson 1905-92

THE CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in
the life and love of Christ. Make us one with Christ and with all who
share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to
love. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The one whom the universe could not contain,
is present to us in this bread of life.

The bread is broken

The one who redeemed us and called us by name
now meets us in this cup of compassion.

The cup is lifted

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious, God,

here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

We have rested in the depth of your love;

We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.

Together, at this table, you have offered us life.

Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

And we give you thanks. **Amen.**

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

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

Make a name for yourselves through generosity and compassion.

Fulfil God's holy law by putting love into action as eagerly for others
as you would for yourselves.

And may God be your defender and provider;

May Christ dispel all that disturbs or disempowers you;

and may the Holy Spirit make you rich in faith

and loving and merciful in action.

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

God's peace be with you/**and also with you.**

A sign of 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.**

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember the words from our tradition:

On the night that Jesus was betrayed while sharing a meal with his friends he took bread, after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying: **"Take eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

After supper he took the cup and again giving thanks he gave it to his friends saying: **"This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all people for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of 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.

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God! You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child. You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life - a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love. You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life. You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death. You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life - that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so together with all creation
we praise the One who has provided all we need:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of truth and light.

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.

BIBLE READINGS:

James 2: 1-10 , 14-17

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Mark 7: 24-37

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸ But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus

ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION

HYMN TiS 674 Inspired by love and anger

1

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?'

2

From those for ever victims of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
'Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?'

3

From those for ever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry:
'Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!'

4

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
'When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?'

5

God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'

6

Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
a saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

Words: John Bell 1949- & Graham Maule 1958-
Tune: Salley Gardens. arr Lawrence Bartlett 1933-

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Holy God,
you have called us to follow in the way of Christ,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but also with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world:

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

Guide us in the path of discipleship,
so that, as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of compassion near
by our words and deeds. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as 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 for ever. Amen**

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

May we not hoard these gifts for ourselves,
but offer them back to you,
that those who are poor might be fed,
those who are lonely befriended,
and those who are despairing be filled with hope. **Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Come, all you who are loved by God.
Come to this table where bread is broken,
and the fruit of the vine is shared.
Come and eat food with no cost.
Come and drink with no money to pay.
We come to eat, to drink, and our hearts are glad.