



22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 Yr B Pentecost 13  
National Day of Prayer Amid COVID

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

***Moment of Stillness:***

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of the God's presence within and all around us.

***Christ Candle:***

We light this light to remind us that God is with us.  
**God is always with us.**

***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

**We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.**

***Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 84)***

How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place of God!

**The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restores us.**

There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

**The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God's house.**

Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

**Praise to God who heals and sends us out to serve.**

***Opening Prayer:***

God of life, you promised your people abundant life.

And this is what we seek and long for.

At the same time, you tell us that in this world we will have tribulation.

Still, you call us to have courage, for you have overcome the world.

As the world finds itself in a time of a terrible pandemic,

many families having to bury their loved ones

and sustain pain and hopelessness,

we ask you to grant us courage and wisdom

so that we trust in your promise to overcome whatever faces us.

Stand with us as we try to work in solidarity to care for people in our

community, and serve those in need of any kind of help in our interconnected and interdependent world.

For your love's sake.

**Amen**

**Song: Seek ye first**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

and his righteousness;

and all these things

shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia*

*alleluia, allelu, alleluia*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;

seek, and you shall find.  
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.

We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
That proceeds  
from the mouth of the Lord.  
Allelu, alleluia.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

We come to God,  
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus  
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;  
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us  
with healing and reconciliation.  
In this knowledge, let us pray.

Present God,  
In faith and hope, we come to you and confess our weakness and  
vulnerability. At this time of our fragility, fear, and death, we come to you.  
Make us well, and we will be well. Be our Saviour and we will be safe.  
For us, you are our hope.

### *Silent prayer*

We believe that you are our strength; you are our shield;  
In our helplessness, we trust that you are our refuge.  
In our vulnerability, you are our shelter.  
In the midst of darkness, you give us light and rays of hope.  
In our pain and suffering, you give us the ability to live in hope with courage;  
and the wisdom to overcome all difficulties.  
God of compassion, give us concern and care for all those who are suffering  
due to the COVID pandemic. God of hope, heal us, protect us, and sustain us  
by your divine grace

**Amen**

**Song: O Lord hear our prayer**

O Lord hear our prayer,  
O Lord hear our prayer,  
When we call, answer us

O Lord hear our prayer,  
O Lord hear our prayer,  
Come and listen to us.

***Words of Assurance:***

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life'. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:  
"Your sins are forgiven"

**Thanks be to God**

***Peace:***

May the peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

**Song: Take my life and let it be**

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

***Moment for the young at heart:***

## ***Bible Reading:***

### **1 Kings 8:22-30**

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. <sup>23</sup> He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, <sup>24</sup> the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' <sup>26</sup> Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

<sup>27</sup> "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

### **John 6:56-69**

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you

are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Hear the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

***Reflection:***

***Moment of Stillness:***

***Prayers of the People:***

***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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

***‘Freddo’ Moment:*** The congregation share good news

***Community News:***

***Offering Prayer:***

***As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world, let's pray our offering prayer:***

God of abundant life and love,  
We long for the time  
when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice  
shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time  
when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.

***May it be so, through the offering of these gifts  
and the offering of our lives.***

***Amen.***

***Song: Seek O seek the Lord***

*Seek, O seek the Lord while he is near:  
trust him, speak to him in prayer, and he will hear.*

God be with us in our lives,  
direct us in our calling;  
break the snares the world contrives,  
keep us from falling.

God increase in us the life  
that Christ by dying gave us:  
though we faint in mortal strife  
his blood will save us.

Strengthen in our hearts the love  
we owe to one another;  
how can we love God above  
and not each other?

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Be filled with the goodness of God;  
the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life,

and the power of the Holy Spirit,  
go now in peace to serve God in all that you think, do and say.

And may Almighty God bless you;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always  
**Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: <https://www.sgaumc.org/newsdetail/praying-with-our-brothers-and-sisters-in-the-florida-conference-11006036>*

*Call to worship: [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)*

*Opening Prayer – ~ Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki – All Africa Conference of Churches (World Council of Churches A Week of Prayer in time of COVID 19 Pandemic)*

*Prayer of confession ~ Dr Mathews George Chunakara – Christian Conference in Asia (World Council of Churches A Week of Prayer in time of COVID 19 Pandemic)*

*Offering prayer - Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona*

*Benediction – adapted from Nancy C. Townley, [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)*