



29th August 2021 Yr B Pentecost 14

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:

As children of God we are welcome!
Welcome to this place of love and grace,
Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of God's beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are.

We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Ever present God,
Make our hearts places of peace and our minds harbours of tranquility.
Sow in our souls true love for you
and for one another;
and root deeply within us
friendship and unity,
and harmony with respect.
So may we give peace to each other sincerely
and receive it beautifully.

For your love's sake.

Amen

Song: Where love is found

When Love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.

When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God and share our Makers joy.

When love has flowered in trust and care
build both each day, that love may dare
To reach beyond homes warmth and light
to serve and strive for truth and right

Praise God for love, praise God for life
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your heart let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

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.

God of life, give your light to us.
God of life give your joy to us.
God of life, open your door to us.
God of life, give your mercy to us

O God of life, eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words catch the
magnificence of your kindness. Yet in the space of our small hearts and in
silence you can come close and repair us.

(silence)

O God of life grant us your forgiveness, for our careless thoughts, for our
thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech and the words with which we
wounded.

(silence)

O God of life, grant us your forgiveness, for our false desires, for our hateful
actions, for our wastefulness and for all we left unattended.

(silence)

O loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from
our souls as the mist from the hills;
begin what we do,

inform what we say,
redeem who we are.

In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope.
This day and evermore

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love.

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: O for a closer walk with God

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

Where is the blessedness I knew
when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
of Jesus and his word?

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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, 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 honors 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."

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

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Sally Yabsley-Bell

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**

Giving thanks and signs of hope: 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: Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

Benediction & Blessing:

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

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

Amen

Acknowledgements:

Image: Handwashing by Tomas Castano

Call to worship: holdfasttowhatisgood.com

Opening Prayer ~ Prayer from the American Indian tradition - A Wee Worship Book – Wild Goose Worship Group

Prayer of confession ~ adapted from A Wee Worship Book – Wild Goose Worship Group

Offering prayer - Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

Benediction – billabong.com