



31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 Yr B Pentecost 23

***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 us  
and all around us.

***Christ Candle:***

We light this candle to remind us of the light of Christ;  
A light that darkness has not overcome  
**A light that shines in each one of 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:***

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,  
**for all are welcome in God's house.**

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
**for love is the language of faith.**

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
**for God dwells in each of us.**

Come, let us worship in unity and love

### ***Opening Prayer:***

God of great gifts,

we gather here this day, from our different places,

in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things you have done for us.

Help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say,

that your great love may be shown and bring healing to all people.

**Amen.**

### **Song: Great is your faithfulness (TIS 154)**

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father.

in you no shadow of turning we see.

You never fail and your love is unchanging.

As you have been you for ever will be.

### *Refrain:*

*Great is your faithfulness*

*Great is your faithfulness*

*Morning by morning new mercies we see.*

*All we have needed your hand has provided.*

*Great is your faithfulness, Lord God to me*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,

join with all nature in unspoken witness

to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,

your living presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
these are your blessings your love will provide.

**Prayer of Confession:**

We come to God, in our humanness,  
knowing that we are loved just as we are.  
In this knowledge we are confident to pray:

How often, God, have we believed  
that the greatest commandment is our love for only ourselves.  
We have not heard the cries of those in need;  
we have turned our backs on opportunities to serve you by serving others.  
Many times we have thought only of our own wants and desires  
and ignored the needs of others.  
Help us to truly understand your commandment to love you  
with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind.  
Let us care for our neighbours both far and near  
and for the world you have given us to care for.  
Bring us back to your loving light.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

God is love. Everyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them.  
(1 John 4:16)

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: Love divine all loves excelling (TIS 217)**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,

fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

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

***Bible Reading:***

**Mark 12:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus

saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

### **Ruth 1:1-18**

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,

and your God my God.  
17 Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.  
May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

**Reflection:** Chris Longfoot

**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 great gifts,  
we make our offerings, small and large,  
with the hope and confidence  
that all we do,  
all we offer  
and all we hope  
will take root in this world  
and be the source of new expressions  
of your love, justice and reign.  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
through us,  
alongside us,  
despite us,  
and for us.  
**Amen.**

***Song: Thanks to God whose Word was spoken (TIS 431)***

Thanks to God whose word was spoken  
in the deed that made the earth.  
God's the voice that called a nation;  
God's the fires that tried its worth.  
God has spoken:  
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word is published  
in the tongues of every race.  
See its glory undiminished  
by the change of time or place.  
God has spoken:  
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word is answered  
by the Spirit's voice within.  
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,  
life redeemed from death and sin.  
God is speaking:  
praise God for the living word.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

May God the Great Creator,  
go on creating within us,  
Christ Jesus be our company  
and the Holy Spirit surround us  
with eternal grace.

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

***Doxology:***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, you heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Ruth and Naomi by Chana Helen Rosenberg*

*Call to worship: © 2011 Abingdon Press.*

*Opening Prayer – adapted from ministrymatters.com*

*Prayer of confession ~ adapted from ministrymatters.com*

*Offering prayer – adapted from pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au*

*Benediction – Dorothy McRae-McMahon*