



EASTER 3 Yr C 1st May 2022

Leader: **Alison** / Greeter: **David**

Welcome:

Greeting:

May the light of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.
May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God, 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:

We come to this place
because we want to know God,
who helps us set aside the past,
to walk the path to new life.
We come in these moments
because we want to know Jesus,
who anoints us with the resurrection,
who shares our lives with us.
We come with these people
because we want to know the Spirit,
who shapes us for life with God,
so we may praise God forever!

Amen

Opening Prayer:

We gather together to entrust ourselves and the world
to the Spirit of Love and to each other.
To find peace and healing
in the joy of music and words,
in the stillness of prayer,
and in the Spirit's enfolding love. **Amen**
(Source: Pitt St UC service)

Song:

Prayer of Confession:

As we offer our prayers of confession, remember that God chooses to forget about our past, forgiving us so we may embrace the new life and new hope offered to us in grace. **Amen**

Words of assurance:

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.
Let us notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

Amen

Peace:

May the peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another.

Song:

Moment for the young at heart: Graham- Pig the Pug

Bible Readings: David

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) NRSV

The Conversion of Saul

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Acts 9:7-20

⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision^[a] a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul^[b] and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹⁷ One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.^[a] ¹⁸ Just then some men came, carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;^[b] ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd^[c] in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When he saw their faith, he said, “Friend,^[d] your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹ Then the scribes and the

Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²² When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralysed— “I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” ²⁵ Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶ Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Jenny Ducker

Moment of Stillness

Prayers of the People: Owen (online)

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

Song:

Communion: Rev Jenny Ducker

Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus. It is to be made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more.

So, come, you who are hungry for God's love.

Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.

Come, you who want community; know that you are welcome here. Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is Jesus. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here in the place where the ordinary things like bread and wine and ourselves are made extraordinary by the Grace of God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus the Light of the world, the light that no darkness can overpower and we thank you that you have called us from darkness to walk in the light;

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of power and might, 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!

Accept our praises now, loving God, as we remember Jesus, who, on the night before he died, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and offered it to his friends saying:

This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for everyone for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, for the remembrance of me.

Come freshly to us now, present God, as we offer you our lives, renew in us your gifts; feed us and nourish us, that we may grow in the life of Christ; fill us with your Spirit that we may overflow with your love, and transform the world with your glory.

Prayer of consecration

For us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way of your kingdom; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body, healing, forgiving and making us whole; and that we may become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes.

Amen.

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
The cup that we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table, and so, we offer everyone, without exception, the bread and wine, which are Christ's body and blood.

Distribution

Let us receive what we are; let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Concluding prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.
Fed and nurtured at this table we continue to be your presence in this world. Touched by your love we take it to share with each person we encounter, until everyone knows they are loved by you, and in turn loves one another.

Amen

Offering Prayer:

You plant the seeds of grace, peace, love, and justice into our hearts,
and with the tangible gifts we have, we offer new hope and healing to
those around us. Let your grace flow through us;
a generous stream, unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.
We release these gifts into your river of love,
flowing out to all the world In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

Giving thanks:

Community News: The congregation share good news

Song:

Benediction & Blessing:

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

Threefold Amen

***Pastoral Prayers:* Kim**