



PENTECOST 3 yr C 26th June 2022

Leader: Judith Townsend / Greeter: Mehry

Welcome:

Today is the third Sunday after Pentecost. Our reflection today will be brought to us by **Susan Russell**. We welcome Susan & her husband Rev David Russell. Susan is the head of chaplaincy services for Uniting covering Sydney South, the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions and a senior member of Graeme Tutt's chaplaincy team at Uniting.

She is a minister in the Uniting Church and in her role is responsible for leading the team of chaplains and pastoral support workers across Uniting's aged care and other services.

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:

Sacred breath, move through this room.
Unlock a song within your people.
Breathe into us your hopes and dreams
for a world filled with justice, love, and peace
Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Come, O Spirit of God
And make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
And our troubles calmed by your peace;
May all evils be redeemed by your love,
All pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
And all dying glorified by his risen life.

Amen

Song: Come Now Is The Time To Worship

(Ch) Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart

Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

1. One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and strength
We gladly choose You now

(ENDING)

Come come just as you are come come

Prayer of Confession:

We struggle to manifest the fruits of the Spirit,
but often find ourselves bound by works of the flesh.
We know the whole law is summed up in the single commandment
to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Yet we create fences around ourselves to keep neighbours outside
and tell ourselves we have no responsibility.
Even in our own back yard we “bite and devour” one another.
We wish it were different.
When Jesus calls us to follow him, we find every excuse to instead go
home or to the workplace to finish something more important first.
Yet we yearn to be more centred on You.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Despite our resistance, we can be assured that God’s strong arm
redeems the people.

God calls us back to God's realm and encourages us with a love we can never lose no matter how hard we push back, no matter how often we forget, no matter how far we stray.

We need but ask and 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: God has spoken by His prophets

1. God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
Mid the world's despair and turmoil,
One firm anchor holding fast;
God is King, His throne eternal,
God the first, and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate,
God of God, ere time began,
Light of light, to earth descending,
Man, revealing God to man.

3. God yet speaks by His own Spirit
Speaking to the hearts of men,
In the age-long Word expounding
God's own message, now as then;
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast,
God is King, His Word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

Moment for the young at heart: Video

Bible Readings: Alison

2 Kgs 2:1-2, 6-14 NRSV

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

2 Kgs 2:1-2

2 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

2 Kings 2:6-14

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. 7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." 10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." 11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

13 He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

Luke 9:51-62

A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, 53 but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"^[a] 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then^[b] they went on to another village.

Would-Be Followers of Jesus

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus^[c] said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Susan Russell

Song: Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Moment of Stillness

Prayers of the People: Owen

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:

Community News: The congregation share good news

Offering Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are God, and there is none like you. You love us with an eternal love and we give you our offerings as an expression of our love for you. We pray our gifts would be used to extend your kingdom in our land.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing:

Go out into this world filled with the Holy Spirit.
Let the Spirit give you words when you have none.
Let the Spirit stop your tongue when listening is the answer.
Let the Spirit strengthen you when the way ahead is hard.
Let the Spirit enfold you and comfort you.
Go in peace and bring the peace and fiery flames of the Holy Spirit with you wherever you go.

Threefold Amen

***Pastoral Prayers:* Alison**