



PENTECOST 8 yr C 31st July 2022

Leader: Judith Townsend / Greeter: David Pigott

Welcome:

Welcome to the eighth Sunday after Pentecost. We are very fortunate today to welcome Rev Dr Elenie Poulos. Elenie is a prominent public voice on human rights issues, and has played a vital role shaping the Uniting Church's social justice policies, especially in the areas of refugees and climate change.

Elenie works as a consultant for not-for-profit organisations and civil society groups and is a highly regarded and experienced non-executive director. She sits on a number of boards and committees and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Elenie has a PhD in Politics from Macquarie University and researches and publishes in the area of religion and politics. Her PhD thesis examined the politics of religious freedom in Australia.

Elenie was the National Director of UnitingJustice Australia, the Uniting Church's national justice policy and advocacy unit, for 15 years.

She regularly appeared in the media and at public events to share the Church's vision of a just and peaceful society that welcomes the vulnerable and the marginalised.

We look forward to her bringing us the reflection today.

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:

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,
God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.
When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,
Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.
When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:
the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.

Opening Prayer:

Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy upon us!

So many days, we are like the blind beggar in Mark's gospel,
sitting on the side of the road hoping to hear the sounds of your coming.
We are like the Canaanite woman begging for the crumbs that fall from
your table.

We are like the woman who was sick for so many years
who reached out to touch the hem of your garment.

We come, confident that your promise to be with us always is true,
confident that you are greater than the trials we face,
confident that we are secure in the palm of your hands.

We come to you today, like blind Bartimaeus who sat on the side of the
road to Jericho, knowing that you love us and have not forgotten our
needs.

Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy upon us,
And grant us your peace.

Amen

Song: TIS 156 Morning Has Broken,

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for the springing fresh from the world

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's recreation of the new day

Prayer of Confession:

Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical.

Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal-clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

God loves us.

God forgives us.

God lifts us to new life.

Thanks be to God.

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: TIS 611. God of grace and God of glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your Church's story,
bring the bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 See the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore

Moment for the young at heart: Brian Lenehan.

Bible Readings: Ron Brown

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9, 22-23

22 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹ Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor
or crush the afflicted at the gate,

²³ for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Mark 7:24-37

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.^[a] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir,^[b] even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus^[c] ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Dr Elenie Poulos

Moment of Stillness

Prayers of the People: Alison Burnett

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:

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside-down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.
Amen.

Song: TIS 376. I know that my Redeemer lives

1 I know that my Redeemer lives -
what joy this blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my everlasting Head.

2 He lives, to bless me with his love:
he lives, to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;

he lives, my mansion to prepare;
he lives, to lead me safely there.

4 He lives, all glory to his name;
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;
what joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Benediction & Blessing:

Let us go with God to offer life to those around us.
Gather up the broken to offer them healing.
Go with Jesus to wrap them in hope.
Reach out to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.
Go with the Spirit to love all those in our midst who have been forgotten.
Take them in your arms and welcome them into your hearts.
The blessing of the eternal God is upon you.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Threefold Amen

***Pastoral Prayers:* Ellen Randell**