



PENTECOST 13 yr C Sunday 11 September 2022

Leader: Ron Brown / Greeter: David

Welcome:

Welcome to the 13th Sunday after Pentecost. We also welcome Chris Longfoot this morning who will share her reflection with us.

Today we also remember 21 years ago the event that was to go on to shape and define our world for decades to come.

But the world focuses so much on September 11th, that we forget September 12th, when people showed up to help with the searches, the clean-up, the recovery. When churches were open for prayer, but also to serve the hungry and to shelter the homeless.

We have all experienced a *September 11* in our lives or will at some point. Many in our communities have already experienced either destructive bushfires or devastating flooding. When it seemed that their-lives-would-never-be-the-same-again.

As people of faith, we believe in a God :-

- who is always doing new things.
- who is comforting the grieving yet offering them hope and new life.
- who refuses to let evil undo good, or hate to conquer love, or death to triumph over life.
- who is there on all our 9/11s, and who helps us step forth in faith, in hope and in trust on September 12th.

We can remember and honour 9/11 but we hope we are defined by September 12th.

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 are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.
By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.
Even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will not fear.

For You, Lord, are our shepherd.

You have called us by name.

And you have searched, until you have found us.

Enfold us in your love

We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

By faith we can share the good news

Let all who seek to grow in their faith enter this place for worship!

Opening Prayer.

God of the lost, the least, and all who long for home,
when we wander from your ways and waste the gifts you have given us,
welcome us back, we pray,
so that we may celebrate and rejoice in your presence forever;
through Jesus Christ your beloved Son.

Amen

Song: Psalm 23

1. The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters.
His goodness restores my soul.

Ch: And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

2. He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup it overflows with joy.
I feast on His pure delights.

3. And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Song: TIS 658 Here I am Lord

1. 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?

Ch: 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.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples 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?

Ch: 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.

3. 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?

Ch: 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

Prayer of Confession:

God of wisdom,
we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in
your paths of right relationships –with you and with others.
We have gone astray; we feel lost.
We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others.
We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts
to bring about justice.
We feel the stains of our sins, God;
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
Wash the sinfulness out of us, and help us to live more faithfully as your
servants.
We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our
lives.
You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honour and glory
forever;

Amen

Words of assurance:

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us.
When we are lost, you are there on the look-out for us,
bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are.
Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us.
May this joy flow into our lives each day,
and be faithfully reflected into the world around us.
Thanks be to God! Our Great Shepherd,
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: TIS 145 The King of love my shepherd is

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian Lenehan

Bible Readings: Milton Reid

Jeremiah 4:11-12 NRSV

¹¹ At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights^[a] in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ¹² a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

Jeremiah 4:22-28

²² “For my people are foolish;
they do not know me;
they are stupid children;
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil
but do not know how to do good.”

²³ I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

²⁴ I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

²⁵ I looked, and there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

²⁷ For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

²⁸ Because of this the earth shall mourn
and the heavens above grow black,
for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back

Luke 15:1-10 NRSV

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹⁵ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinner and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the

wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Chris Longfoot

Moment of Stillness

Prayers of the People: Phil McCrea

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:

When we could not find our way, you came searching for us. So may our gifts be used to bring hope to those cast aside by the world, peace to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who are alone. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Song: TIS 233 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

1 I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

Refrain:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

2 I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way. [Refrain]

3 Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all. [Refrain]

4 Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led. [Refrain]

5 He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet. [Refrain]

Benediction & Blessing:

Friends,
Go with the strength you have,
Go simply, lightly, gently, in search of love, sharing love, sharing peace.
May the blessings of love and peace be upon you
May the blessings of love and peace abide with you
And may the Spirit weave in and amongst your lives illuminating your
hearts and minds
Now and forever.

Threefold Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Brian & Christo