



23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 Yr C Pentecost 20

***Processional Hymn: Oh Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)***

As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after you  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship you

You alone are my strength, my shield  
To you alone will my spirit yield  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship you

***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 is always present with us  
A light that darkness has not overcome  
**A light that shines in each one of us.**

### ***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

This is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.  
As we gather to worship God,  
we acknowledge that we were not the first people that God put in this place.  
We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people,  
the traditional owners of this land.

**We honour them for their custodianship of this land.**  
**We pray that through God's Spirit, we might be people of reconciliation.**

### ***Call to Worship: (Psalm 65)***

Praise to you, O God;  
you who answer prayer.  
you to whom all people shall come.  
**O God of our salvation;**  
**you are the hope of all the earth.**

By your strength you established the mountains; you are all mighty.  
You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, the disturbance of the peoples.  
**O God of our salvation;**  
**you are the hope of all the earth.**

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.  
You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water.  
**O God of our salvation;**  
**you are the hope of all the earth.**

The pastures of the wilderness overflow and shout with joy.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

**O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the earth.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Source of grace and peace,  
you call us into being  
and we praise you.  
You keep us and hold us in life  
and we thank you.  
In this precious hour,  
we pause and gather to hear you.  
We break from our work and our play,  
we move from our fears that overwhelm  
and from our ambitions that are too strong.  
Free us in these moments from every distraction,  
that we may focus to listen,  
that we may hear,  
that we may change.

**Amen**

### **Songs:**

**Come, now is the time to worship**

*Chorus:* 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.

### **I lift my eyes up**

I lift my eyes up,  
to the mountains.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from You,  
Maker of heaven,  
Creator of the earth.       *(repeat)*

Oh how I need You Lord,  
You are my only hope.  
You're my only prayer.  
So I will wait for You  
to come and rescue me.  
Come and give me life.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

We come to God, knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus  
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;  
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us  
with healing and reconciliation.  
In this knowledge, let us pray.

We are your people  
who heal each other,  
who grow strong together,  
who name the truth,  
who know what it means to live in community.

When we have failed to be your people;  
to be your people for our families, our community and for the world,  
forgive us.

### *Moment of silence*

Help us, hold us, grow us, change us.  
Rekindle a spirit of love and humility within us.

Keep us moving towards a common dream  
for a new heaven and a new earth  
in the power of the love of God,  
the company of Jesus Christ  
and the leading of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

***Words of Assurance:***

The grace of God is infinite and free.  
Rise up and live in faith and hope.

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.**

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

**Hymn: Praise waits for you in Zion, Lord (TIS 35)**

Praise waits for you in Zion,  
Lord vows shall be paid to you.  
O Lord the One who hears our prayer,  
all flesh shall come to you.

We surely shall be satisfied  
with your abundant grace  
and with the goodness of your house.  
Lord, of your holy place.

O God of our salvation sure,  
you in your righteousness  
by your awesome deeds to all our prayers  
your answer, Lord, express.

Therefore the ends of all the earth  
and those who dwell abroad

across the sea, their confidence  
will place in you, O Lord.

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

***Bible Reading:*** Chris L

**Joel 2:23-32**

O children of Zion, be glad,  
and rejoice in the Lord your God,  
for he has given the early rain<sup>[a]</sup> for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup> The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army that I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup> You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame

<sup>[b]</sup> Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

<sup>30</sup> I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and  
columns of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to  
blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. <sup>32</sup> Then everyone  
who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in

Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

### **Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

***Reflection:*** Caitlin Kenzie Scott

***Moment of Stillness:***

***Prayers of the People:*** Brian

***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**

**Membership Ceremony:** Clabon Allen, Carolyn Thornley, Andrew Thornley

**Alison and David bring forward the people to be received and says:**

**Alison** The Uniting Church in Australia affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant.

**David** In each congregation, the members are to meet regularly to hear God's word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build up one another in love, to share in the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world.

**Alison and David** We present to you **Clabon, Carolyn and Andrew** to be received as members of this congregation.

**The minister asks:**

**Clabon, Carolyn and Andrew**

do you reaffirm your allegiance to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord?

**I do.**

Do you accept membership in this congregation, promising to share in the life and worship of the Church?

**I do.**

**The minister asks the congregation:**

Will you welcome **Clabon, Carolyn and Andrew** into the fellowship of this congregation, and will you offer them your friendship and support?

**We will.**

**Prayer with the laying on of hands**

**The minister invites Alison and David and some members of the congregation to lay hands on the person's head or shoulder.**



The minister then says to the congregation:

Let us pray for **these our sister and brothers** in silence:

After a time, the minister prays:

**Clabon, Carolyn and Andrew**

may the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you through the Spirit in your inner being;  
that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith,  
and that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Amen.**

**Lighting of candles**

**Blessing** (to be said together)

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn His face toward you  
and give you peace.**

***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 peace.  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
through us,

alongside us,  
despite us,  
and for us.

**Amen.**

***Hymn: And can it be (TIS 209)***

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain--  
for me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!)  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free:  
for, O my God, it found out me.

No condemnation now I dread:  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

In the leaving,  
in the letting go,  
let there be this to hold onto:

the enduring of love,  
the persisting of hope,  
the remembering of joy,  
the offering of gratitude,  
the receiving of grace,  
the blessing of peace.

And may Almighty God bless you;

Creator, Christ and Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always

### **3-fold Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image - Humility – Overflow art studio*

*Opening Prayer – adapted from Walter Brueggemann – That we may change*

*Prayer of confession and words of assurance – adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon*

*Offering prayer – adapted from [pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au](http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au)*

*Benediction – Jan Richardson – Circle of Grace*