



7th May 2023 - Easter 5 Yr A
Communion

Greeter: *Mehry*

Meditation Song: O Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)
(please remain seated)

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me
(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the risen Christ,
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 and all around us.

Christ Candle:

We light this light to remind us that Christ is here with us.

Christ is always with us.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Call to Worship:

Jesus said:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.'

We believe in Jesus Christ, who gives us life.

Jesus said:

'In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places.'

Dwelling places prepared for everyone.

Jesus promised:

'If I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you there myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.'

We give thanks for this promise.

Jesus said:

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

**We gather today to celebrate life
and to bear witness to the resurrection.**

Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer:

God of this day and all our days,
You alone are holy.
You are beyond our understanding and yet so close to us,
surrounding us with your love.
Thank you that there is room for each one of us in your embrace.
Be with us today in this moment, in this bread and in these people.
In Jesus' name we pray
Amen

Hymn: So God loved the people of the world (TIS 241)
(written by Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land)

1 So God loved the people of the world
he gave his only Son,
who was born by the Spirit from heaven
and came and lived as one of us.

2 His blood for our sins was shed;
his love is without end!
He has given us the fullness of life,
to live in heaven with him.

3 And so we give glory to Christ,
for he alone is Lord.
Every colour and race is his own,
the Saviour of the universe.

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:

Parental God,
You love us as your children,
but as your children we have not always listened to You.
We fail to heed your warnings and hear your call to life.
We make mistakes, and fall down, and struggle to learn.

Nonetheless, your love for us reminds us that love can lift us up,
love can restore us, and love can heal us.
Teach us, and guide us to live in your ways.
Call us back to your way, your truth, and your life, by loving one another.
In this love, may our faith grow as you make all things new,
and restore all things, even us.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Hear Christ's words of grace to us:

'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God

Peace:

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: Maire

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

The last words that Jesus spoke from the cross, according to Luke, were taken from Psalm 31: "Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.". The last words of Stephen before he died as a martyr were also from this psalm, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." The psalm also has something important to say about the life of the believer. The theme is that of *trusting* in the Lord, no matter what.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Alison

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**

Communion Hymn: Let us break bread together (TIS 511)

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.**

**Refrain:
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

4 Let us all work together for the Lord
Let us all work together for the Lord [Refrain]

Communion

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

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

God of great gifts:
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.
We joyfully give these gifts to you,
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.

Amen.

Song: Make me a channel of your peace (TIS 607)

1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.

Chorus:

Oh, master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It isn't pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Benediction & Blessing:

Be filled with the goodness of God;
the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Chris W

Acknowledgements:

Image: Many Rooms by Carrie Todd

Call to worship: adapted from Sarah E. Weaver (c) 2015

Opening prayer — Rev Joy

Prayer of confession – adapted from rev-o-lution.org