



11th June 2023 – Pentecost 2

Greeter: *Heather*

Meditation Hymn: Bless the Lord my soul (TIS 706)
(please remain seated)

Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.
(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

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 candle as a symbol of the light of Christ,

which is always present,
which shines in each one of us.

Acknowledgement of Country:

Today, as we gather to worship God, we acknowledge that we stand on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

We pay our respects to them and honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

We acknowledge that the Spirit was already in the land, revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

We commit ourselves to justice and reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship:

Come to us, Mother of all ages,
weave us into faith.

Come to us, Wisdom in humanity,
spin us into freedom.

Come to us, Nurturer of community,
stitch us into your tapestry of life,
that we may know the colour of hope,
experience the texture of grace,
**and celebrate the fabric of wholeness
in the mystery of your creativity.**

Amen

Opening Prayer:

The whole of Creation shouts its adoration, to You our God;
your glorious world proclaims your power and love.
Every tree and flower tells of your might, the stars, the sun and moon,
the changing seasons, tell of your amazing care of us.

You are a gracious and faithful God,
Your love for us is new every morning
and we awake to a new start as your new creations,
ready to soar and fly freely.

We thank you for this gift of creation, the gift of life, the gift of our lives,

Enable us to be daily grateful for all your gifts
and help us to use them to build a place of love,
kindness, honesty, truthfulness and faith;
a place where we can all hold your vision for us and your world;,
where everyone is gathered in.
In Christ's name we pray

Amen

Hymn: God moves in a mysterious way (TIS 126)

1 God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform.
he plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

2 Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-ending skill
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.

3 His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

4 Blind unbelief is sure to err
and scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

Prayer of Confession

'Prayer is an act of openness. When we pray, we participate in the ultimate practice of humanness as we yield to a Power greater than ourselves. Our best prayers engage in honesty about our lives, practice vulnerability, run risks, and rest in confident trust'.

In this knowledge, let us pray our prayer of confession:

In the stopping, in the pausing, in the quiet,
we cannot avoid what we are not:
Our faults, our lack of faith,
our lack of vision and of action,
our lack of trust – all bubble to the surface.
You, Loving God, see who we are
and still stand with us,
offering us your love, your hope
and your forgiveness.

A silence is kept

Words of Assurance:

God, in Christ Jesus, holds us in love
and will lead us into a new journey together
and a future filled with hope.

Hear Christ's words of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God

Peace:

May the peace of the Christ be always with you
And also with you.

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

Hymn: In Christ there is no east or west (TIS 459)

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are joined as one
throughout the whole wide earth.

Moment for the young at heart: ?

Bible Reading: Milton

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

In Genesis 12, God's promise to Abraham sustains him and Sarah and their descendants in faith even when they don't see its fulfillment. The promise to Abraham establishes him and his descendants as channels of God's blessing for the whole world. And through this promise, God binds Godself to this people forever.

Genesis 12:1-9

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."^[a]

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak^[b] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner^[a] in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting^[b] with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Andrew T

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

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 amazing gifts,
we long for the time
when the meek shall inherit the earth
and all who hunger and thirst after justice
shall be satisfied,
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,
now is always the time
when more good can be done
and we can make a difference.
May it be so, through the offering of these gifts
and the offering of our lives.
Amen.

Song: Lord, the light of your love is shining (TIS 675)

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Benediction & Blessing:

Go now in peace,
and as you leave, hear that you are Beloved,
named by the One who has traveled this path before you.
Go and share this love with all who you meet.

And the blessing of God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: **Alison**

Acknowledgements:

Image: A lot of medical bills and a little bit of Jesus by Jamin Bradley

Call to worship: United in Worship 2

Opening prayer — adapted from Church of Scotland Starters for Sunday

Prayer of confession intro - Walter Brueggemann, Prayers for a Privileged People

Prayer of confession – <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=400>

Words of assurance – Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Offering prayer - Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

Benediction – adapted from Jan Richardson, Beloved is where we begin