



2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 – Pentecost 5 – NAIDOC Week

Communion

**Greeter:** *Wendy*

**Meditation Hymn: Seek ye first (TIS 745)**

*(please remain seated)*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and you shall find,  
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

3. We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

The Spirit of God 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:**

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this Land by those who have cared for this Land since time beyond measure.

**We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come.**

May we be mindful of the calling God places on humanity to care for Creation. May we take the lead from the Gadigal and Wangal people, whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place.

**May we learn from them and walk with them.**

**Call to Worship:**

God of wondrous possibility

Take our stories and our lives

**Give us courage to stand for justice**

God of dreaming and mystery

Take our bodies and our minds

**Give us vision to walk remembering your history**

God of truth and love

Take our bruised hands and feet

**Give us strength and grace to stand for truth**

God of safety and singing  
Take our mouths and our voices  
**Give us words to inspire and encourage**

God of knowledge and creativity  
Take our whole being  
**Help us stretch, broaden and deepen**

God of goodness and hope  
Take our connections and influence  
**And help us stand for justice**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Creator God,  
As we enter NAIDOC Week, we celebrate and thank you for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their history and culture.  
We thank you that they have been carriers of their dreaming, their song-lines, their language and knowledge.  
We thank you that their achievements, voices and unwavering passion give strength and have empowered past generations and paved the way for generations to come.  
We pray for words of encouragement, refreshing and restoring of strength, caring wisdom, grace, love and vision for us now and for future generations all across this land.  
We pray for a country where Aboriginal peoples and the land thrive, with systems that are restorative and just.  
Loving God renew our spirits and cleanse our hearts.  
Renew our minds and transform our lives.  
Renew our communities and cities, our towns and our homelands and rebuild our ruins.  
Renew our world and our country  
In your name we pray  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: So God loved the people of the world (from Arnhem Land) (TIS 241)**

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**

‘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:

God our Creator and giver of life,  
Forgive us for cheap and careless words, or deliberately harmful words,  
for words of war rather than peace,  
for words of exclusion and words that make enemies,  
rather than words that build neighbourhoods and belonging.  
Forgive us when our words make others silent,  
or when we refuse to listen to other’s words.  
Forgive us when we have not respected the First Peoples of this land;  
and not honoured their languages, culture and sense of the world.  
May we support efforts for reconciliation and peace.  
Make us one, as you are one.

**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance:**

Be assured that God hears us  
and God’s love for us never ends.

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.*

### **Communion Hymn: Gather us in (TIS 474)**

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness, vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat, the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,

not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

**Bible Reading: Hector**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Something changes between Abraham and God in today's reading. Abraham learns to trust and fear God. And God proves that God can be trusted. In the history of God's relationship with human beings, God would demonstrate this time and again. In the end, God's commitment to fulfilling promises to Abraham and bringing about God's redemptive purposes would end up costing God dearly. For while Abraham's son is spared, God would give his own son up to death.

**Genesis 22:1-14**

**22** After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill<sup>[a]</sup> his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup> And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide,”<sup>[b]</sup> as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

### **Matthew 10:40-42**

<sup>40</sup> “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Judith**

**Aboriginal Our Father**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GZdPEsAZCo>

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, 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

Lure of all our longing,  
draw us on our pilgrimage  
and strengthen our faith in your way.  
Ready our feet to walk untrodden paths  
and our hands to receive the unexpected.  
Ready our courage to weather the storms  
and our resolve to let go what we must.  
Ready our generosity to sift our desires  
and our discernment to follow your lead, that stepping out in faith,

we may find ourselves healed,  
surprised by your joy and peace.

Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love.**  
**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage**  
**in the power of your Spirit.**  
**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.***

Holy mystery of grace and love,  
as the rains urges the growth of the harvest,  
so may your Spirit urge the growth of our generosity  
in love, to neighbour and stranger.  
Use these gifts and us to bring justice in your world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
***Amen.***

**Song: I walk by faith**

I walk by faith,  
each step by faith,  
to live by faith,  
I put my trust in You. (*repeat*)

Every step I take,  
is a step of faith,  
No weapon formed against me  
shall prosper.  
And every prayer I make,  
is a prayer of faith.  
And if my God is for me,  
then who can stand against me?

***Benediction & Blessing:***

May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old,  
bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land.  
Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains  
followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.  
Let the light of God show us the right path  
and stand tall like the big river gums  
drawing life from the everflowing waters.

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

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Heather**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Acknowledgement of Country: National Assembly working group on worship*

*Image: Common Grace NAIDOC Week 2023*

*Call to worship: adapted -Safina Stewart's Prayer for the Voice*

*Opening prayer - adapted from Aunty Rosemary Rigney*

*Prayer of confession – adapted NAIDOC Week liturgy – Pilgrim UC*

*Communion concluding prayer – Tess Ward (adapted)*

*Benediction: Uncle Vince Ross*