



9th July 2023 – Pentecost 6

Greeter: *Betty*

Meditation Hymn: 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:

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:

Welcome this day to a time of rest.

We come, bearing burdens and cares.

We place our lives in the loving hands of God.

May God heal our spirits and strengthen us.

We trust in God who is always with us.

**This day we come to God in faith
and trust in God's healing and love.**

Opening Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, wind of God,
cool us as breeze,
blow among us and around us;
open our ears to hear the truth,
and our mouths to cry out
in praise of the Eternal One.

Amen

Hymn: Beauty for brokenness (TIS 690)

1.Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord in Your suffering world
This is our prayer

Bread for the children
Justice joy peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase

2.Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsmen
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

Chorus:

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark to a flame

3.Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctu'ry
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

4.Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future our dreams
Lord end our madness
Carelessness greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

Chorus:

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark to a flame

5. Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until Your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of Your ways
Seek Your salvation
And bring You their praise

Chorus:

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark to a flame

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:

Abundant Life, freely offering your gifts,
we confess that we withhold our plenty from others.
Living Water, surging always,
we neither conserve nor share the waters of life.
Amazing Grace, reaching out to all humanity,
we confess to indifference to your living word.

Yet to us comes the promise of a never-failing spring of water.
Help us, O God, to live lives open to your love and healing.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

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: O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr (TIS 253)

Written by a group of Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land.

Marrkapmirr means: 'altogether lovely and worthy of affection'

1. O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr,
All the power belongs to you.
Hold me by this power, O Lord,
You alone are king.

2. Now we praise you for your Word,
Living, true, and full of light.
Yours the hands that rest on me:
Hold me for all time.

Moment for the young at heart: Jen

Bible Reading: Chris L

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Genesis 24 fits into the book of Genesis as a whole considering central questions such as whether God's promise of progeny, land and protection will

be realised. In the matriarchal and patriarchal narratives that make up the narrative cycles in the book of Genesis, it is evident that throughout each generation, God's faithfulness has to be discovered anew. In Genesis 24, it is Isaac who discovers that God was not only faithful to Abraham, but that God's faithfulness extends to a new generation as well.

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.

⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵ "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from^[a] Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³ Isaac went out in the evening to walk^[b] in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”^[c]

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank^[h] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Christo

The Lord's Prayer:

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: Comfort comfort all my people (TIS 647)

Chorus:

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

1. Though your tears be rivers running
Though your tears be an ocean full
Though you cry with the hurt of living
Comfort comfort
Every valley shall be lifted
Every mountain shall be low
Every rough place will be smoother
Comfort comfort

Chorus:

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

2. Though your eyes see only darkness
Though your eyes can see no light
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow
Comfort comfort
Every night will have its morning
Every pain will have an end
Every burden will be lightened
Comfort comfort

Chorus:

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Benediction & Blessing:

Go now in peace,
and as you leave this place, 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;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: David

Acknowledgements:

Acknowledgement of Country: National Assembly working group on worship

Image: Let the children come to me by Deborah Nell

Call to worship: adapted ministrymatters

Opening prayer - adapted Uniting in Worship 2

Prayer of confession – adapted Uniting in Worship 2

Benediction: adapted Jan Richardson, Beloved is where we begin