



20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Pentecost 12

**Greeter:** *Ron*

**Meditation Song: 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

**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 (Psalm 133):***

Welcome to this place:  
where children and elders sit side by side,  
where heaven and earth embrace in peace,  
where God has been, is, and always will be.  
**We come together in one hope.**

Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children:  
where we find God's love,  
where we hear the tender voice of Jesus,  
where the Spirit teaches us new songs to sing.  
**We come together in one faith.**

Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God:  
where we bring our hunger, and find food;

where we our brokenness, and find healing;  
where we bring ourselves, and find acceptance.  
**We come together as one body to worship God.**

***Opening Prayer:***

God of Unity,  
You have drawn us together this day  
from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams.  
Be with us, as together we experience your presence and your healing love.  
Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and  
peace from being together in community, a community rooted in You.  
In Jesus' name we pray

**Amen**

**Hymn: Great is your faithfulness (TIS 154)**

1 Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father;  
in you no shadow of turning we see;  
you never fail and your love is unchanging;  
as you have been you forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness!  
Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all we have needed your hand has provided:  
great is your faithfulness, Lord God to me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,  
your living presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
these are the blessings your love will provide. [Refrain]

**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:

God of love,  
Our psalm this week says,  
“How very good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!”  
However, we know that we don’t live together as one.  
We fight and argue and want our own way  
and we don’t love others as you call us to do.  
And we are sorry.

Help us to love;  
help us to see where your love is needed  
help us to hear the cries of distress  
help us to feel the pain of those around us  
and be your love in the world.

We thank you that you love us in all our wonderful difference.  
Teach us to see our difference as a gift  
and to be one; one as your body, one in your love.  
In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance:**

Our God is abounding in love and overflowing with forgiveness.

Hear then Christ’s words of grace to us:  
‘Your sins are forgiven’.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Peace:**

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

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

**Hymn: O the deep deep love of Jesus (TIS 232)**

1 O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
leading onward, leading homeward  
to that glorious rest above.

2 O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
spread his praise from shore to shore!  
he who loves us, ever loves us,  
changes never, nevermore;  
he who died to save his loved ones,  
intercedes for them above;  
he who called them his own people  
watches over them in love.

3 O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
love of every love the best;  
vast the ocean of his blessing,  
sweet the haven of his rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
for my heaven of heavens is he;  
this my everlasting glory;  
Jesus' mighty love for me.

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

**Children's activity: Carolyn**

**Bible Reading: Rick**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

In this week's Hebrew Bible reading, we return to the story of Joseph and hear that the power to forgive must always be in the hands of the one who has

been wronged. But before Joseph weeps on their necks, we notice that he plays on his brothers' fears and exploits his imperial power over them.

### **Genesis 45:1-15**

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **Matthew 15:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not

fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 (either online or in the plate), let's pray our offering prayer.***

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.  
Help us to be gracious givers,

in response to all that we have received.  
Use these gifts and ourselves to be your light in the world  
**Amen.**

### **Song: Shout to the Lord**

My Jesus, My Saviour,  
Lord there is no one like You.  
All of my days, I want to praise  
the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am,  
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing!  
Power and majesty, praise to the King!  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

### ***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go now in gratitude for the love and compassion given to us.  
Go now to be love and compassion in the world.  
Go now trusting in the One who makes us one.  
Go in peace.

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

### **3-fold-Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers: Christo & Brian**

*Acknowledgements:*



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

*Image: <https://reverendally.org/tag/canaanite-woman/>*

*Call to worship: adapted from Thom Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>*

*Opening Prayer: ministrymatters.com*

*Prayer of confession: ministrymatters.com*

*Offering prayer: adapted- Let us Pray – Janet Nelson*

*Benediction – ministrymatters.com*