



27<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Pentecost 13

**Greeter:** *Roger T*

**Meditation Song:** *Holy holy holy* (TIS 723)  
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart knows how to say to you:  
Holy are you Lord.  
(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 (Psalm 124):***

We gather together in praise and worship of our faithful God,  
in whom our help and hope rests always.

**We bring our praises and thankfulness to our faithful God.**

Blessed be the Lord our God, who is our security and home,  
and whose mercy and grace frees us from all that traps us.

**Blessings, honour and glory be to our faithful God.**

We come together to praise and worship our all-powerful God,  
because we are confident of God's generous care over us.

**Our eternal trust is in the name of our God,  
who is our maker, our saviour, and our timeless home.**

### ***Opening Prayer:***

We thank you, Loving God that we are not alone.

You watch over us and guide us.

When we stumble and fall, you lift us up.

When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace,  
reassuring us of your presence through the love of others.

Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you.

In Jesus' name we pray

**Amen**

## **Hymn: Praise with joy the world's Creator (TIS 179)**

1. Praise with joy, the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of greatness, without cease.  
Celebrate the maker's glory –  
power to rescue and release.
  
2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,  
friend and stranger, guest and host.
  
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,  
foolishness none dare deride.
  
4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe,  
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

## **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:

In penitence and faith we come before you Holy God, and say:  
'This is who we are'.

We are the people  
who long for the new heaven and the new earth  
but can't always take the first step towards it.

**Forgive us, gracious God**

We are those who love the city  
but who participate in its destructive patterns of life  
and fail to lift up its beauty and creativity.

**Forgive us, gracious God**

We are the people who commit ourselves  
to build the community of the Gospel  
but we so often betray that hope  
and fail each other.

**Forgive us, gracious God**

We are those  
who sometimes see the vision for our own lives  
but we are weak and fall short of the dream.

**Forgive us, gracious God**

**Amen**

**Words of Assurance:**

The grace of God is infinite and free.  
Rise up and live with faith and hope.

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: God gives us a future (TIS 687 to tune 236)**

1. God gives us a future,  
daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers  
on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow  
in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.
2. We must leave behind us  
sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning  
is a better way.  
Fear and doubt and habit  
must not hold us back:  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.
3. Holy Spirit, teach us  
how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge  
of our troubled times.  
Love us into action,  
stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life, and  
find our future there.

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

**Bible Reading: Paula**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

In this week's Hebrew Bible reading, the new King of Egypt feels threatened by the immigrant Israelite population, so wastes no time in stirring up fear and putting a plan in place to irradicate them. We hear of a chain of resistance that is executed exclusively by women, both Israelite and Egyptian, the Pharaoh's plans are subverted and the Israelites survive.

***Exodus 1:22-2:10***

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews<sup>[a]</sup> you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup> The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses,<sup>[b]</sup> "because," she said, "I drew him out<sup>[c]</sup> of the water."

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter,<sup>[d]</sup> and on this rock<sup>[e]</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was<sup>[f]</sup> the Messiah.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Heather**

**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:**

**Mission Conversation: Prue**

**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:**

*Chorus:*

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are, to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God,  
Come.

1. One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those  
who gladly choose you now.

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives,  
willingly our knees will bow  
with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,  
we gladly choose You now.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go forth into the light  
And share in the recreating of the world.  
May God the beginning give you a new day  
May God the Christ take you by the hand  
And may God the Spirit give you energy and peace.

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

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Brian**

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*Opening Prayer: adapted ministrymatters.com*

*Prayer of confession: Dorothy McRae-McMahon*

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

*Benediction – Dorothy Mc Rae-McMahon*