



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 – Pentecost 14  
Communion

**Greeter:** *Mehry*

**Meditation Song: A new commandment (TIS 699)**  
*(please remain seated)*

A new commandment I give unto you  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another;  
by this will others know that you are my disciples  
if you have love one for another.  
(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 105):***

Alleluia! Give thanks to the Eternal One  
and call on God's name;  
make known God's deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to God, sing praise,  
and tell of all God's marvels.

**Let the hearts that seek God rejoice!**

Turn to God – to God's strength  
and seek God's presence continually.

**Let the hearts that seek God rejoice!**

Remember the marvels God has done,  
the wonders performed and the justice pronounced.

**Let the hearts that seek God rejoice!**

You descendants of Sarah and Abraham,  
God's faithful ones.

**Let the hearts that seek God rejoice! Alleluia!**

***Opening Prayer:***

Creator God,  
you hover over our life  
like the beauty of the northern and southern stars,  
and flow through our existence like the rivers of the earth.

You breathe among us like the gentle winds  
and stand firm under our feet like the rock of ages.  
We thank you that you are here with us, and we are never alone.

Teach us to see you, our Creator,  
in all things seen and heard,  
in the beauty of the ancient land,  
in the singing of the bird.

**Amen**

### **Hymn: God of freedom (TIS 657 to tune TIS 580)**

1. God of freedom, God of justice,  
God whose love is strong as death,  
God who saw the dark of prison,  
God who knew the price of faith:  
Touch our world of sad oppression  
With Your Spirit's healing breath.

2. Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
God whose hands were nailed to wood;  
Hear the cries of pain and protest,  
God who shed the tears and blood:  
Move in us the power of pity  
Restless for the common good.

3. Make in us a captive conscience  
Quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
Make us truly sisters, brothers  
Of whatever race or creed:  
Teach us to be fully human,  
Open to each other's need.

### **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:

Holy God, Creator and Lover of all that is,  
we confess to you that we have turned away from you.  
We have failed in our care for the land and its creatures,  
we have been greedy, destructive, and wasteful  
of the resources you entrust to us.  
We have polluted air and water,  
eroded soil and salty earth,  
deprived birds and animals of their habitat,  
and left our neighbours hungry and thirsty by our selfishness:  
all these cry out to us.  
We struggle to know the way to restore what we have damaged,  
and are in great sorrow and distress.

*Silent reflection*

Forgive us, we pray.  
Give us grace to change our ways, to make amends  
and to work together for the healing of your world.  
In Jesus name we pray  
**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.*

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

## Bible Reading: **Chris L**

### **Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

In this week's Hebrew Bible reading, after being chased out of Egypt and away from his Hebrew people, Moses is out shepherding sheep for his father-in-law. Out in the wilderness, Moses stumbles upon "the mountain of God" known as Mount Horeb. In the ancient world, mountaintops were the traditional dwelling places for the divine.

### ***Exodus 3:1-15***

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

#### The Divine Name Revealed

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I am who I am."<sup>[a]</sup> He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites,

'The Lord,<sup>[b]</sup> the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

## **Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;<sup>[a]</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,<sup>[b]</sup> for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Craig Beck**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Judith**

**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**

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Here we will take of 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.

4. 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.

### 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 (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: Let us be known**

1. Let us be known by our love  
In every word, in every deed honor the Son

Let our light shine in every eye  
Let us be known by our love

Chorus:

For the glory of the Father  
For the glory of the Son  
For the glory of the Spirit  
Let us be known by our love

2. Let us be known by our joy  
In every home, in every heart sing to the Lord  
Let our life show goodness and hope  
Let us be known by our joy

Chorus

3. Let us be known by our peace  
In every town, in every tribe Jesus is King  
Let us go forth, heal and restore  
Let us be known by our peace

Chorus

***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: Chris W**

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*Opening Prayer: ~ Adapted from Maker of All - David Adam in 'Tides and Seasons' and Dorothy McRae-McMahon - 'Liturgies of the journey of life'*

*Prayer of confession: Dorothy McRae-McMahon*

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

*Benediction – Dorothy Mc Rae-McMahon*