



10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Pentecost 15

## Baptism

**Greeter:** *Wendy*

**Meditation Song:** Bless the Lord my soul (TIS 706)

*(please remain seated)*

Bless the Lord my soul  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul  
who leads me into life.  
(x3)

**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 who gave us the creation to play in,  
with rolling landscapes of delight,  
with wonders of earth and sea  
and endless discoveries of beauty

**We worship you**

God who made us in infinite diversity,  
with all the vivid colours of our differences,  
all the magic of our unknowns  
to be explored and celebrated

**We worship you**

God who in your being carries the One  
who loved to feast with friends,  
who sat in silence on the mountain tops alone,  
whose Spirit dances in all the earth

**We worship you**

**in Spirit and in truth**

## ***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: Praise and Thanksgiving (TIS 627)**

1.Praise and thanksgiving  
Father we offer,  
for all things living  
you have made good;  
harvest of sown fields,  
fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields,  
blossom and wood.

2.Lord bless the labour  
we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbour  
we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling,  
we would work with you;  
harvesting, milling,  
for daily bread.

3.Father providing  
food for Your children,  
your wisdom guiding  
teaches us share  
one with another,  
so that rejoicing,  
sister and brother  
may know Your care

4.Then will your blessing  
reach every people;  
each one confessing  
your gracious hand;  
where you are reigning

no one will hunger,  
your love sustaining  
fruitful the land.

### **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:**

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.

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.*

***Baptism Hymn: Father welcomes all his children (TIS 491)***

Chorus:

Father welcomes all his children  
to his family through his Son.  
Father giving his salvation,  
Life for ever has been won.

1. Little children, come to me,  
for my kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give,  
Mercy for your sin.

2. In the water, in the Word,  
in his promise be assured:  
Those who are baptised and believe  
shall be born again.

3. Let us daily die to sin;  
Let us daily rise with Him.  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord.  
Live in the peace of God.

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

***Baptism of Catherine:***

***Congregational Responses:***

*The minister says to the congregation:*

The Uniting Church, in baptising children, offers a community for children's nourishment in the Christian faith. I invite us to stand as we are able and

those of us who hold to the Christian faith and claim membership in Christ's Church, to affirm that faith into which we were baptised as it has been done through the centuries.

*The people stand.*

Apostles Creed:

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The people sit.*

**Minister to the congregation:** My brothers and sisters in Christ, people of God at St David's Uniting Church, do you remember what Jesus said about Baptism?

**He said, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'**

The Baptism

*Blessing:*

**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

*Minister (to the congregation):*

Will you live out the truth of the gospel for Catherine, Belinda and Matt and will you point to the grace of God in our world?

**We will, we promise Catherine, Belinda and Matt our love and support, as we share with open hearts the wonder of God's presence in our midst.**

*Presentation of the Baptismal Candle and Baptism certificate*

*Catherine is presented to the congregation*

**Bible Reading: Marie**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

The institution of the first Passover meal in this week's Hebrew Bible reading continues to this day as a central festival for the Jewish tradition. The meal also has meaning for Christians as background for the Christian meal of Holy Communion. The ritualized meal and the words surrounding it witness to the living God in such a way that a new generation comes to "own" those central stories and traditions as their own, thereby coming to know God more truly and love God more deeply.

***Exodus 12:1-14***

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in

water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. 11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. 12 I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

### **Matthew 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> “If another member of the church<sup>[d]</sup> sins against you,<sup>[e]</sup> go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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:**

**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 in faith, for there is God,  
riding in the light on the water,  
singing in the songs of the birds,  
sitting in the midst of the parties of life.

Go in faith to play in creation  
and to drink deeply of the gracious cup of life

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

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Christo & Brian**

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*Call to worship: Dorothy McRae-McMahon - 'Liturgies of the journey of life'*

*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: adapted from <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/61492/Confession-and-Absolution-Stewardship-of-Creation.pdf>*

*Benediction – adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon – 'Liturgies of the journey of life'*