



17th September 2023 – Pentecost 16

Greeter: *Betty*

Meditation Song: *As the deer pants (TIS 703)*
(please remain seated)

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:
You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you

(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:

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: When I needed a neighbour (TIS 629)

1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

3. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

4. Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there
wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.

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:

Abundant Life, freely offering your gifts,
we confess that we withhold our plenty from others.

silence

Living water, surging always,
we neither conserve nor share the waters of life.

silence

Amazing Grace, reaching out to all humanity,
we confess to indifference to your living word.

silence

Yet even to us comes the promise of a never-failing spring of water.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image.

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.

Hymn: O breath of life (TIS 409)

1 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

2 O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore, for this we plead.

3 O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

4 Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Reading: Marian

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Exodus, the road out from slavery to freedom, is a new creation. God's power to create from nothing, from formlessness and void, is the same power by which God saves and transforms. It reveals a path for God's people and builds walls to protect them from the chaos and death of the sea.

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[h] times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents^[i] was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;^[j] and seizing him by the

throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[k] from your heart."

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Alison

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: To God be the glory (TIS 147)

1. To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Chorus

3. Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

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

Acknowledgements:

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Image: 'Forgiveness' – Charlie Mackesy

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 uniting in worship 2 & PCUSA Book of Common Worship

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