



24th September 2023 – Pentecost 17

Greeter: Alison

Leader: David

Meditation Song: Come Holy Spirit (TIS 710)

(please remain seated)

Come Holy Spirit,
gracious heavenly dove;
come fire of love
(repeat 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: Comfort Comfort all my people (TIS 647)

Chorus

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Though your tears be rivers running
Though your tears be an ocean full
Though you cry with the hurt of living
Comfort comfort
Every valley shall be lifted
Every mountain shall be low
Every rough place will be smoother
Comfort comfort

Chorus

Though your eyes see only darkness
Though your eyes can see no light
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow
Comfort comfort
Every night will have its morning
Every pain will have an end
Every burden will be lightened
Comfort comfort

Chorus

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: May the mind (TIS 609)

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

May the peace of God, my Father,
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea.
Him exalting, self denying,
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Reading: Rick

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Our Hebrew Bible reading today describes the growing relationship between the children of Israel and their God. The need for bread in this early stage of the journey out of Egypt provides both God's people with an opportunity to learn to trust God. This story gives the wonderful promise of God's provision.

Exodus 16:2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”^[a] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Matthew 20:1-16

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,^[a] he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he

said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.^[b] ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.^[c] ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'^[d] ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'^[e] ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."^[f]

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Chris Longfoot

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Hector

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: Praise my soul the King of heaven

1.Praise my soul the King of heaven.
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed healed restored forgiven,
who like thee His praise should sing.
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

2.Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.

3.Father-like He tends and spares us.
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him
widely as His mercy flows.

4. Angels in the height adore Him.
Ye behold Him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.

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: Hector

Acknowledgements:

Acknowledgement of Country: National Assembly working group on worship

Image: The Peanut Gallery

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'