



Pentecost 19 Year A – 8th October 2023

Meditation Song : TIS 745 Seek Ye First

***1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

***3. Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

Leader: Alison Burnett

Greeter: Wendy Salier

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 God's presence within and all around us.

Christ candle

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people had to ask him, "Who are you?" Once he answered, "I am the light of the world."

We light this light to remind us that Christ, the light of the world, is present with us now.

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 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God

May we reflect God's glory.

The skies proclaim God's handiwork.

May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

Let all that we are and all that we do project the love of God.

**We gather with Christians around the world,
with Christians throughout time.**

With Christians across geography and across time,

We worship God together

Opening Prayer:

O God, you who draws us into your presence,
we rely on your Spirit to move us to compassion.
We come to see with our eyes and hear with our ears.
Help us to have hearts that receive your words and hopes for us.
May we be enlightened so that you are seen in all our actions.
In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen

Song: TIS 156: Morning Has Broken

***1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!***

***2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.***

***3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!***

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
Loving God,
You know that confession is not an easy thing to do.
We would like to think that we have been good and faithful disciples,
but we know in our hearts the many ways in which we have turned our backs
on you and rejected you.

Like the people in the wilderness, we create for ourselves idols and worship
them, only to discover their shallowness and emptiness for our lives.

Help us to hear your voice and be open to your will for our lives.
Give us the persistence and the courage to follow you, even when it's hard.
Heal us, guide us and remind us that we must reach out to others in
compassion and peace.

Merciful God, come to us this day with your healing power and help us again
to be your disciples, offering hope and peace to your hurting and wounded
world. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Our God is a God of unconditional and overflowing love.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Hymn: TIS 163: God who stretched the spangled heavens

1. God, who stretched the spangled heavens

*Infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance
Through the silent fields of space;
We, Your children in Your likeness,
Share inventive powers with You;
Great Creator, still creating,
Show us what we yet may do.*

2. Proudly rise our modern cities,
*stately buildings row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,
stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed
in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning,
scarcely caring where they go.*

4. As each far horizon beckons,
*May it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose,
Serving others, honouring You.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
Each endeavour well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance
Till our goals and Yours are one.*

Moment for the young at heart: Jen Richardson “Hattie the Fox”

Bible Readings: Chris Longfoot

Psalm 19

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night
to night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice goes out through all the
earth and their words to the end of the
world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the
sun,

5 which comes out like a bridegroom from
his wedding canopy, and like a strong man
runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them, and
nothing is hid from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving
the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart; the commandment of
the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

9 the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring
forever;

the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of
the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them is your servant
warned; in keeping them there is great
reward.

12 But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from the
insolent; do not let them have dominion
over me Then I shall be blameless and
innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable to
you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer

Matthew 21:33-46

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;^[a]
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.^[b] ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”^[c]

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

In this is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Karina Kreminski

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: John Read

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: TIS 687: God Gives us a Future

***God gives us a future, daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers on a path unknown
We will face tomorrow with the Spirit's power
We will let God change us for new life starts now.***

***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.***

***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 Gods life and find our future there***

Benediction & Blessing:

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

And may Almighty God bless you;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always

3-fold Amen

Pastoral Prayers: David Pigott

Acknowledgements:

Image: 'https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_Willem_van_Gogh_036.jpg

Call to worship – adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/responsive-call-to-worship-psalm-19.html>

Opening Prayer ~ adapted from Carolyn Thornley

Prayer of confession ~ adapted from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/1717/worship-connection-october-4-2020>

Offering prayer: adapted from Jeff Shrowder 1999, [The Billabong](#) and St Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch

Benediction – thebillabong.info