



Pentecost 20 Year A – 15th October 2023

Greeter: Roger Thompson

Meditation Hymn: O Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)

*O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer,
when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me. (Repeat)*

Welcome: David Pigott

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

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ,
which is always present,

which shines in each one of us.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

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 106)

Praise the Lord.

Give thanks for God's goodness.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Happy are those who observe justice,
who live in righteousness.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Remember us and help us, O Lord,
that we may see you and rejoice in you.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

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: Lord of Creation, to You Be All Praise (TIS 626)

***1 Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
And yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.***

***2 Lord of all power, I give you my will,
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
And held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.***

***3 Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find;
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
Is taught by your spirit and shines from your word.***

***4 Lord of all being, I give you my all,
If I ever disown you, I stumble and fall;
But led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.***

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.

Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.

Song: 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. Not in the dark of buildings confining.
Not in some heaven light years away.
But here in this place 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 bones.***

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia Abrahams- Rainbow fish

Bible Readings: Marie Thompson

Philippians 4:1–9

4 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Exhortations

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is

any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Reflection: Rev Clabon Allen

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Dr Andrew Thornley

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: We shall go out with hope of resurrection (TIS 586)

***1: We shall go out with hope of resurrection.
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on.
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted.
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed.
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.***

***2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken.
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed.
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
vibrating love alive in every heart.***

***We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief.
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all within the circles of our love.***

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: Alison Burnett

Acknowledgements:

Image: holytextures.com

Opening Prayer ~ adapted from Carolyn Thornley

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

Opening Prayer: adapted ministrymatters.com

Benediction – thebillabong.info