



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 – Pentecost 21

**Greeter:** *Mehry*

**Meditation Song:** *Holy holy holy* (TIS 723)  
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart knows how to say to you:  
Holy are you Lord.  
(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:**

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people had to ask him, "Who are you?" One time when they asked him, he said, "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:**

For this Land - **We give thanks!**

For the Gadigal and Wangal people - **We give thanks!**

We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories, of dreamings and their connections with the deep earth and oceans.

**May we work together for reconciliation and the restoration of land, sea and peoples.**

***Call to Worship:***

From the life of God  
the universe unfolded into being:  
**With the Spirit of God within it.**

Out of nothingness we came  
through birth into life:  
**With the Spirit of God within us.**

From the heart of God  
creation goes on till the end of time:  
**With the Spirit of God within it and within us.**

Let us embrace the God who enfolds us.  
**We delight in God's embrace.**

***Opening Prayer:***

God of light,  
we praise you that you spoke light into the void  
and that this light is given to us.  
You clothed the work with sky

and we ride upon the wind and breathe among the leaves.  
We thank you for giving us the gift of land and sea.  
We dig and float and drink and grow and know your power through creation.  
We paint and sing and work and dance in your company –  
you are always with us.  
We share the earth with all that is  
in harmonies of warm and cold  
in green and desert,  
in crowds and alone,  
we feel the pain, we feel the joy.  
We thank you that you O God are our mother and our father  
and your Spirit is within us.  
We celebrate our sharing in the recreating of the world.  
**Amen**

### **Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise (TIS 143)**

1. Immortal invisible, God only wise.  
In light, inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed most glorious, the Ancient of Days.  
Almighty victorious your great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting and silent as light.  
Nor wanting nor wasting but ruling in might.  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above.  
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love .

3. You give life to all, Lord, to both great and small.  
In all life now living, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
then wither, but ever unchanged you will be.

4. All praise we would render, reveal to our sight  
What hides you is only the splendour of light.  
And so let your glory, Almighty, impart  
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

### **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, we have failed to live in full the generosity of your grace  
**Lord have mercy**

We have failed to live in full the costliness of your love  
**Christ have mercy**

We have failed to live in full the liberation of your spirit  
**Lord have mercy**

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: Lord Jesus, we belong to you (TIS 686)**

1. Lord Jesus, we belong to you,  
you live in us, we live in you.

We live and work for you —  
because we bear your name.

2. Help us receive each other, Lord,  
for you receive the least of us,  
and come to us in them —  
because we bear your name.

3. Let us acknowledge those as friends  
who use your name to right a wrong,  
but have not joined us yet —  
because we bear your name.

4. You are the salt that cleanses us,  
so clean us out, and make us fit  
for common life with you —  
because we bear your name.

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

**Bible Reading: Paula**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:**

The text of Exodus 33:12-23 is the culmination of a series of new revelations of God's identity and names throughout the book of Exodus. The passage shows us that the character of God always leans toward mercy and grace. We also hear a powerful echo to a future witness to the unfolding character and name of God in John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory ... full of grace and truth".

**Exodus 33:12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' <sup>13</sup> Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I

and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

<sup>17</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.” <sup>18</sup> Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” <sup>19</sup> And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’;<sup>[a]</sup> and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” <sup>21</sup> And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup> then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

### **Matthew 22:15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” <sup>21</sup> They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Judith Townsend**

**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.***

God who gives great gifts,  
we long for the time  
when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time  
when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.  
**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts  
and the offering of our lives.  
Amen.**

**Hymn: The Lord is My Shepherd (TIS 659)**

1. The Lord is my shepherd  
And I want to follow  
Wherever He leads me  
Wherever He goes

Over the mountains  
The waters and byways  
Valleys and highways  
He's waiting for me

Chorus:

I want to go to meet him there  
To lay myself down in His love  
The Lord is my Shepherd  
And I want to follow  
Wherever He leads me  
Wherever He goes

2. And while on the journey  
To where we are going  
He promised to be there  
To help us along  
And over the mountains  
We'll walk on together  
To know all the wonders  
He's given to me

Chorus:

I want to go to meet him there  
To lay myself down in His love  
The Lord is my Shepherd  
And I want to follow  
Wherever He leads me  
Wherever He goes

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go in peace, the peace which passes all understanding.  
And may God who is your loving parent,  
stand between you and all harm,  
the God of loving-kindness look upon you with grace  
and the Spirit visit you with healing and peace.

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers: Christo & Brian**



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*Offering Prayer: adapted Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona*

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