



5th November 2023 – Pentecost 23
Communion

Greeter: *Mehry*

Meditation Song:

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: (Psalm 107)

God has gathered us from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, and rescued us from trouble.

We give thanks for God's goodness

God's steadfast love lasts forever.

When we wandered as if in the desert, hungry and thirsty for God. God heard our cries and revived our fainting souls.

We give thanks for God's goodness

God's steadfast love lasts forever.

God's grace satisfies the hunger in our hearts, and fills us with compassion, hope, and peace.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love, for the wonderful things God has done and is doing for us.

We will praise God's name always!

Opening Prayer:

Eternal God,

by your word you create

and by your breath you give life.

We worship you with joy and thanksgiving,

praising you for the fullness

that your presence brings to our lives,

and our life together.

We praise you that by your word you feed us;
we are satisfied, and there is always more.
Your goodness is displayed in your wonderful works for all humanity,
and in your perfect love.

Amen

Hymn: TBA

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.

Moment for the young at heart: Graham

Bible Reading: Andrew

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

By carrying it with them across the Jordan and into Canaan, Israel's priests show that the God who has accompanied them through the wilderness does not abandon them as they enter Canaan. In fact, it's God, not the priests who carry the Ark who leads the Israelites into the land of promise.

Joshua 3:7-17

The Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" ⁹ Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God." ¹⁰ Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: ¹¹ the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. ¹² So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

¹⁴ When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶ the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea,^[a] were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who

bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,^[a] and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students.^[b] ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.^[c] ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Brian Lenehen

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Judith

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

Communion Hymn: TBA

Communion:

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus.

It is to be made ready for those who love him
and those who want to love him more.

So, come, you who are hungry for God's love.

Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.

Come, you who want community;

know that you are welcome here.

Come, not because it is I who invite you: it is Jesus.

It is his will that those who want him

should meet him here in the place where the ordinary things
like bread and wine and ourselves

are made extraordinary by the Grace of God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus the Light of the world, the light that
no darkness can overpower and we thank you that you have called us from
darkness to walk in the light;

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with
choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Accept our praises now, loving God, as we remember Jesus, who, on the night before he died, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and offered it to his friends saying:

This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for everyone for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, for the remembrance of me.

**Come freshly to us now, present God,
as we offer you our lives, renew in us your gifts;
feed us and nourish us, that we may grow in the life of Christ;
fill us with your Spirit that we may overflow with your love,
and transform the world with your glory.**

Prayer of consecration

For us you were born, for us you healed,
preached, taught and showed the way of your kingdom;
for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,
send down your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving and making us whole;
and that we may become, for you, your body,
loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes.

Amen.

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
The cup that we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table,
and so, we offer everyone, the bread and wine,
which are Christ's body and blood.

Distribution

Let us receive what we are;
let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Concluding prayer

Lure of all our longing,
draw us on our pilgrimage
and strengthen our faith in your way.
Ready our feet to walk untrodden paths
and our hands to receive the unexpected.
Ready our courage to weather the storms
and our resolve to let go what we must.
Ready our generosity to sift our desires
and our discernment to follow your lead, that stepping out in faith,
we may find ourselves healed,
surprised by your joy and peace.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.
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.

Song: TBA

Benediction & Blessing:

As you leave this place,
may God's love surround you, uphold you,
and empower you to be lights of love in this world.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Hector

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Offering Prayer: adapted Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

Benediction – adapted ministrymatters.com