



26th November 2023 – Christ the King

Greeter: *Betty*

Meditation Song: Bless the Lord my soul (TIS 706)
(please remain seated)

Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.
(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:

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 justice and the restoration of land, sea and peoples.

Call to Worship:

We come to worship Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega,
the one who is, who was, and is to come.

We come to worship the one who rules justly and loves unconditionally.

Bread of Heaven, God with us.

Good Shepherd, True Vine.

Eternal Word, Great I AM

Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace.

We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

To Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Opening Prayer:

Christ our King,

as we gather together today, we entrust ourselves and the world
to the Spirit of Love and to each other.

Give to us your gift of peace and healing

in the joy of music and words,

in the stillness of prayer,

and in the Spirit's enfolding love.

Christ our King, we wait for your presence.

Reconciling Christ, we wait for your presence.

Comforting Spirit, we wait for your presence.

Amen

Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell (TIS 59)

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth-tell;
come ye before him and rejoice!

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his flock, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep, he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 Because the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

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:

We own our humanness, O God.
We know that there have been many moments
when we have failed to be true
to the hope of the reign of God
and the unity we know is found in you.
We have not always received
the gifts which lie within our differing human journeys
or in the insights which we could share.
We have been tempted
by the power and realities of our own stories
rather than the wonder of new life with each other.
Forgive us, loving God,
and call us on to truly walk with you.
This we pray in hope and faith.

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: O Master let me walk with thee (TIS 601)

1. O Master, let me walk with Thee

In lowly paths of service free;
thy secret tell, help me to bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2. Help me the slow of heart to move

by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee

in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4. in hope that sends a shining ray

far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Reading: Rick

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 100 tells us to shout it out! Many of us were brought up being told to do just the opposite: “Keep your voices down.” “Keep it under control.” But when it comes to worshipping God, Psalm 100 claims that it’s very appropriate to turn up the volume. These verses roar with praise and compel the community to participate in a high liturgical activity, namely, singing in a grand procession into God’s temple.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into God’s presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

God made us and we belong to the Creator;
we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

⁴ Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving
and the courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless God’s name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;

God’s steadfast love endures forever
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his

left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Roger Abrahams

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:

Mission Conversation: Milton Reid

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 of great gifts,
we make our offerings, small and large,
with the hope and confidence
that all we do,
all we offer
and all we hope
will take root in this world
and be the source of new expressions
of your love, justice and reign.
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
through us,
alongside us,
despite us,
and for us.

Amen

Song: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine,
yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side the Saviour he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome,
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven.
The future sure the price it has been paid,
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing I am free,
yet not I but through Christ in me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat,
yet not I but through Christ in me. (repeat)

Benediction & Blessing:

May God the Great Creator,
go on creating within us,
Christ Jesus be our company
and the Holy Spirit surround us
with eternal grace.

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

Pastoral Prayers: Heather

Acknowledgements:

Acknowledgement of Country: National Assembly working group on worship

Image: he qi

Call to worship – adapted from umcdiscipleship.org

Opening Prayer ~ adapted from Pitt St UC

Prayer of confession – adapted Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Offering Prayer: adapted from pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au

Benediction – Dorothy McRae-McMahon