



12th November 2023 – Pentecost 24

Greeter: *Roger T*

Meditation Song: O Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)
(please remain seated)

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
(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: (Psalm 78)

We come to worship and praise our God,
and to learn more about God's wonders.

How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.

We come, with ears and hearts open to God,
ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.

How generous and caring is our Unchanging God.

We come, with hope and trust in God,
who has never failed or forgotten us.

How glorious and merciful is our Faithful God.

Opening Prayer:

Through the week of joys and sorrows
we come to you this day, O Lord.

Awaken us again to your comforting
and loving presence in our lives.

Help us to be open to the many ways
in which you have called to us and sustained us.

Make us ready to be of service to you.

Creator God, we wait for your presence.
Reconciling Christ, we wait for your presence.
Comforting Spirit, we wait for your presence.

Amen

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded (TIS 560 (i))

1 All my hope on God is founded;
all my trust he will renew.
Through all the change and chance he guides me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
all we build with care and labour,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness lasts forever,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily the almighty giver
will his bounteous gifts bestow;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading us where'er we go.
Love will stand at his hand;
joy shall wait for his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Hear Christ call one and all:
those who follow shall not fall.

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:

Merciful God,

We admit the ways that we snuff out your holy light in ourselves and others.

When we let negative thoughts and old stories overtake us, show us the light of love.

When we let criticism and doubt overtake our communities, show us the light of hope.

When we let impatience and aggravation overtake wisdom, show us the light of your word.

When we worship ourselves and our own ideas, show us the light of your powerful love.

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: O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr (TIS 253)

Written by a group of Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land.

Marrkapmirr means: 'altogether lovely and worthy of affection'

1. O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr,
All the power belongs to you.
Hold me by this power, O Lord,
You alone are king.

2. Now we praise you for your Word,
Living, true, and full of light.
Yours the hands that rest on me:
Hold me for all time.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Reading: Marie

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

This psalm is titled 'A Contemplation of Asaph'. The author Asaph was the great singer and musician of David and Solomon's era and was a prophet in his musical compositions. Psalm 78 is the longest of the historical psalms. It speaks about not letting history repeat itself and it calls the people to keep believing.

Psalm 78:1-7

- ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- ³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
- ⁴ We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds and might of the LORD
and the wonders that God has done.
- ⁵ God established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,

which God commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,
6 that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
7 so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep God's commandments.

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those bridesmaids^[c] got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids^[d] came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Clabon

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.

Song: Give me oil in my lamp

1. Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Ch: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,

sing hosanna to the King.

2. Give me joy in my heart,
keep me praising.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Keep me praising till the break of day.
3. Give me peace in my heart,
keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day.
4. Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.
Keep me serving till the break of day.

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: Chris W

Acknowledgements:

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Image: <https://stpandgdb.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/mt-25-1-13.jpg>

Call to worship – adapted from © 2011 Joan Stott – "[The Timeless Psalms](#)" RCL Psalm Year A.

Opening Prayer ~ adapted from [ministrymatters.com](#) & [seasonsonline.ca](#)

Offering Prayer: adapted Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

Benediction – adapted [ministrymatters.com](#)