



19th November 2023 – Pentecost 25

Greeter: *Alison*

Meditation Song: A new commandment (TIS 699)
(please remain seated)

A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another;
by this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.
(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 justice and the restoration of land, sea and peoples.

Call to Worship: (Psalm 123)

We lift our eyes to God:

in the highest heavens, we see your glory, our Creator.

We reach out our hands to Jesus:

in the compassion of our neighbour, we know your love, O Christ.

We feel the breathe of the Spirit:

in our bodies and in our souls, the Spirit whispers hope.

Let us worship God who reigns,

by entering the depths of our humanity

and setting us free; soaring on the wings of the Spirit.

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: From heaven you came helpless babe (TIS 256)

From heaven you came helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live

Chorus:

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' he said

Chorus

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

Chorus

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer
for it is Christ we're serving.

Chorus

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: Jesus Christ is waiting (TIS 665)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

2. Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
let my care be active,
healing just like you.

4. Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Reading: **Marian**

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 123 is the fourth Song of Ascents and is a community lament. Although it begins with the voice of an individual, in verse 2, the community of pilgrims adds its voice. They stretch out their hands in supplication to God.

Psalm 123 (The Inclusive Bible)

I lift my eyes to you,
you who sit enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of a dog
look to the hand of its owner,
as the eyes of attendants
look to the hand of those they serve,
so your eyes look to you, YHWH,
until you show us your mercy.
Have mercy on us, YHWH, have mercy.
We have endured so much contempt.
We have endured far too much
ridicule from the wealthy,
too much contempt from the arrogant.

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents,^[f] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then

the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Heather

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: The law of the Lord

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
converting the soul.
The testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple.

Chorus:

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold.
Sweeter also than the honey,
and the honeycomb.

2. The statutes of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart.
The commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes.

Chorus

3. The fear of the lord is clean,
enduring forever.

The judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether

Chorus

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: Christo & Brian

Acknowledgements:

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Image: pericope.org

Call to worship – adapted re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/call-to-worship-lift-your-eyes-to-god.html

Opening Prayer ~ adapted from ministrymatters.com & seasonsonline.ca

Offering Prayer: adapted Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

Benediction – adapted ministrymatters.com