



**Epiphany 3 Yr B – 21st January 2024
Aboriginal Sunday 2024**

(Leader: Judith Townsend / Greeter: Roger Thompson)

***Meditation Hymn Jesus, remember me (TIS 730)
(please remain seated)***

***Jesus remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me.
when you come into your kingdom.
(repeat)***

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this third Sunday in Epiphany and Aboriginal Sunday.

May the light of the Lord
And the God of all justice and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light, we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

Today, as we gather to worship,
we acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal peoples,
the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering

We acknowledge that through this land,
God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country,
the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

We acknowledge that the First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers;

the Spirit was already in the land, revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

We acknowledge that the same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways;

and so we rejoice in the reconciling purposes of God found in the good news about Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship:

Praise the God of all Creation.
Worship the One who calls us—

speaking with a different voice,
offering an unexpected invitation.
Celebrate the presence of our loving God.
Rejoice, the realm of God is near.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious Christ,
you came to the fishermen when the prophet John was taken away.
Come to us now, as we fear losses of our own.
Grant us courage to cast aside the nets that bind us,
to follow you into true freedom and newness of life.
Help us to be faithful disciples, that we might inspire others
to follow in your ways.

Amen.

Song: TIS 547 - Be thou my vision

***1 Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.***

***2 Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord;
be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.***

***4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.***

***5 High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.***

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, lament the injustice that
has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.

We lament the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture, law and spirituality was suppressed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved First Peoples and other neighbours as ourselves.

God of mercy, forgive us for our failures, past and present and give us the grace today to make a fresh start.

By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts so that we may love as you have loved us, that we may boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Words of assurance:

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator.
You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others.
Be at peace and live in hope.
Hear then the words of Christ to us:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

Thanks be to God

Amen.

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another from where we are seated.

Hymn: Community of Christ TIS 473

***1. Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,***

*to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.*

**2. Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.**

**3. Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.**

**4. When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.**

Moment for the young at heart:– Tonia Abrahams

Bible Readings: Marian Grills

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

God repeated his command to Jonah to go and preach in Nineveh, and this time Jonah obeyed. God's message was that within forty days Nineveh would, because of its wickedness, be overthrown. The Ninevites, leaders and common people alike, heeded the warning and turned in repentance to God

Jonah 3:1–10

Conversion of Nineveh

3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. 8 Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. 9 Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Chris Longfoot

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: John Read

The Lord's Prayer:

Let us share the Aboriginal Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley"

You are Our Father, you live in heaven

We talk to you, Father you are good

We believe your Word Father

We your children, give us bread today

We have done wrong, we are sorry

Help us Father not to sin again

Others have done wrong to us

And we are sorry for them, Father today

Stop us from doing wrong, Father

Save us all from the evil one

You are Our Father, you live in heaven

We talk to you, Father you are good

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

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.

Help us to be gracious givers

in response to all that you have given us.

Use these gifts, here today, to be your light in the world

Amen.

Song: Isn't He

Isn't He, beautiful

Beautiful, isn't He

***Prince of Peace, Son of God
Isn't He***

***Isn't He, Wonderful
Wonderful, Isn't He
Counselor, Almighty God
Isn't He, isn't He, isn't He***

Yes You are, beautiful...

Benediction & Blessing:

People of God, go from here to live out the covenant into which we, the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered with one another. Confront and challenge injustice wherever you see it. Act justly yourselves and insist that others do the same. Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them. Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share in Jesus our Lord. Commit to worship, witness and serve as one people under God, Until God's promised reconciliation of all creation is complete.

Go in the power of God's good Spirit:
with the gentle fire of God's zeal,
with the breath of life,
ready to work for justice and peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Almighty God, Christ and Spirit.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Alison Burnett

Acknowledgements:

Image: A collection of artwork from Mrs. Taylor's art program at The Kinkaid School.

Call to worship: Posted by Thom M. Shuman

Opening Prayer: Adapted from prayer written by Lea Maslen for the 2020 National #ChangeTheHeart Service.

Prayer of confession: Adapted from Prayer for January 26th written by Rev Katherine Rainger

*The Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley
Diocese of Broome, Western Australia.*

Blessing :Uncle Vince Ross