



4th February 2024 – Epiphany 5
Communion

Greeter: *Wendy*

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:

May Christ be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within us 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 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.

We are grateful for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all. **May we work together for justice and peace.**

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40)

Have you not known?

Our God is the everlasting God,
Creator of the ends of the earth.

Have you not heard?

God does not faint or grow weary.

Have you not known?

God's understanding is unsearchable.

Have you not heard?

**God gives power to the faint and strengthens the
powerless.**

Have you not known?

Those who wait for God will renew their strength
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Thanks be to God

Opening Prayer:

O Lord, give us yourself above all things.
It is in your coming alone that we are enriched.
It is in your coming that your true gifts come.
Come Lord, that we may share the gifts of your presence.
Come, Lord, with healing of the past,
Come and calm our memories,
Come with joy for the present,
Come and give life to our existence,
Come with hope for the future,
Come and give a sense of eternity.
Come with love for our heart,
Come and give affection to our being.
Come Lord, give yourself above all things,
And help us to give ourselves to you.

Amen

Hymn: Let all creation dance (TIS 187)

1 Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time,
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

2 God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
'Your will be done.'

3 Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight,
cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,

a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.

4 Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend
and kindly tend
creation's song.

Prayer of Confession

Let us come before God in our prayer of confession. Let us pray:

Creator God,
we thank you for this extraordinary world
and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life:
when grass shoots break through concrete
when the sun emerges after storms
when people share our laughter and when they share our tears.
In these moments we see glimpses of who you are –
and we are grateful.

Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable
awfulness in our lives and in the world.
In the silence we name these things that we believe are
too broken to ever be made whole...

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we contribute to the brokenness of the world
and the lives of people around us.
In the silence we name the things we have done that separate us
from you and from others...

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we trust darkness more than we trust your light.

In the silence we name the things we think we need to keep hidden.

In our brokenness

Make us new again

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:

The light of God's love
shines into the dark places of our world,
healing its brokenness,
and bringing hope to places of despair.

The light of God's love
makes us a forgiven people.

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: Chris W

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

The chapters following Isaiah 40 address a tired and weary people who likely had some trouble imagining a new future. At the beginning of Isaiah 40, the call went out to comfort the people who have been exiled from their homeland and for a desert highway to be built for their return. Verses 21-31 proclaim God's power that will make this vision a reality.

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint

Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they^[a] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

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: Eat this bread (TIS 714)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in him and you will not thirst.
(repeat)

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;
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.

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that we have received from you.
We give these gifts of money and our lives
trusting and hoping that you will use them and us
to be your light in the world.
Amen.

Song: Joyful, joyful we adore you

1. Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, God of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness.
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness
fill us with the light of day.

2. All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays.
Stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise,
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery paddock, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in you.

3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our Brother,
all are yours who live in love.
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to the joy above.

4. Mortals join the mighty chorus,
which the morning stars began.
Father love is reigning o'er us,
brother love binds us all.
Ever singing we march onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Benediction & Blessing:

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

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

Pastoral Prayers: Hector

Acknowledgements:

Image: Healing Country – The Healing Foundation

Acknowledgement of Country: adapted National Assembly working group on worship

Call to worship – spaciousfaith.com

Opening Prayer ~ O Lord give us – Tides and Seasons by David Adam

Prayer of confession - adapted from Cheryl Lawrie <http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

Benediction – thebillabong.info