



12th May 2024 – Easter 7

Greeter: Mehry

Meditation Song: Meditation Song: Seek ye first (TIS 745)
(please remain seated)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.
alleluia, allelu, alleluia

(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the risen Christ,
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Christ Candle:

We light this light to celebrate that Christ has risen!
Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through story, custom and ceremony. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and any Aboriginal people here with us today.

We pray that we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.

Call to Worship:

Among the poor, among the proud, among the
persecuted, among the privileged,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an honest word, with
abounding grace, with burning love,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might
believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the
hidden might be seen,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, behind us, before us, in this
place, in every place, for this time, for all time,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Opening Prayer:

You, loving God, are the ground of our being and the river of life;
you both steady our roots and draw them to seek the living waters.

You are like the sunlight enticing us taller
and like the breeze rustling our leaves.

You are with us through hard seasons of summer heat,
and in the nights when winter's frost ice the landscape
your love warms and sustains us.

You are everything to us.

O let our gratitude be great,
let our praise be plentiful,
let our worship be wonder-full!
In Jesus name we pray
Amen

Hymn: Our God be gracious unto us (TIS 37 to tune TIS 425)

1 Our God, be gracious unto us,
and look upon our need,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power all heed.

2 Let all the people praise you Lord,
the nations sing for joy;
for you our judge and guide shall be,
and justice shall employ.

3 So let the people praise you, Lord,
your earth supplies our food,
and all approach with thankful hearts,
for God, our God, is good.

Prayer of Confession

In our prayer of confession, we trust that no matter what we do or don't do,
this story begins and ends with love. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

God of each new day
and all the days that have gone before us,
we thank you for the rhythm that you bring to life,
for guiding light,
for expansive love,
for your sustaining grace.

We confess, this day,
just how often we lose sight of you
in all the spaces and the changes.

We confess, this day,
those parts of our lives that have become dull and shaded
by an absence of love and light.

We confess, this day,
our tendency to walk out of step
with your Spirit and truth.

Give us, this day,
the grace to recognise and experience the love
that embraces and shapes and fills
not only our world
but our innermost being.

Open our hearts and minds
to your living Word
who calls us
to be hopeful,
to take risks,
to dream of what can be
as we take his lead
and tell a story –
about You and about us –
that sets us free
to live and breathe and move and have our being
in Jesus' name.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

God, in Christ Jesus, holds us in love
and will lead us into a new journey together
and a future filled with hope.

We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Peace:

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Hymn: Thuma Mina (TIS 749) ('thuma mina' means 'send me Lord')

The first verse will be sung by our music team

1 Thuma mina.

Thuma mina,

thuma mina,

thuma mina,

Somandla.

(repeat)

2 Send me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Send me, Jesus,

send me, Jesus,

send me, Jesus,

send me, Lord.

(repeat)

3 Lead me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Lead me, Jesus,

lead me, Jesus,

lead me, Jesus,

lead me, Lord.

(repeat)

4 Fill me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Fill me, Jesus,

fill me, Jesus,

fill me, Jesus,

fill me, Lord.

(repeat)

5 I will go, Lord. *(first line solo)*

I will go, Lord.

I will go, Lord.

in your name Lord, I will go.

(repeat)

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Reading: Milton

Introduction to the Hebrew Reading:

The image of a prosperous tree is central to this psalm. However, as beautiful and inspiring as this image is, the psalm paints a very simplistic view of how life works. After all, it is rarely the case that things are as neatly ordered as this psalm promises. Psalm 1 doesn't grapple with the many realities of what it means to be human. Yet the psalms that follow do, wrestling with all of the facets of human emotion.

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

John 17:6-19

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy

Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that^[b] you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,^[c] so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.^[d] ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.^[e] ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Brian

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:

God of great gifts:
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.
We joyfully give these gifts to you,
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.
Amen.

Song: A prophet-woman broke a jar (TIS 696)

1 A prophet-woman broke a jar,
by Love's divine appointing,
with rare perfume she filled the room,
presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar,
the sneers of scorn defying,
with rare perfume she filled the room,
preparing Christ for dying.

2 A faithful woman left a tomb
by Love's divine commission.
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word,
arising from submission.
A faithful woman left a tomb,
with resurrection gospel.
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word,
apostle to apostles.

3 Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,
for centuries were hidden,
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,
derided and forbidden.
The Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
on free and slave descending,
can tumble our dividing-walls,
our shame and sadness mending.

4 The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls,
by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need, to serve and lead,
their power and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
from women, men, and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead.
Rejoice, and make them welcome!

Benediction & Blessing:

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

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Christo

Acknowledgements:

Image: <https://i1.wp.com/firstreadingpodcast>

Call to worship: adapted - A Wee Worship Book

Opening prayer: adapted www.bruceprewer.com/

Prayer of confession: adapted <https://waggaunitingchurch.org/tag/confession/>

Words of assurance: Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Benediction: thebillabong.com