



16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Pentecost 4

**Greeter:** David

**Meditation Song:** *Holy holy holy* (TIS 723)  
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart knows how to say to you:  
Holy are you Lord.  
(x3)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:** Brian

The light shines in the darkness. We light this light to remind us that God's presence is always with us.

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

**Acknowledgement of First Peoples: *Christo***

God breathed life into this land and peoples. From time beyond imagining the Gadigal and Wangal people have blessed this place through story, wisdom and care. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

**May we walk together gently and respectfully on this land, working together for justice and reconciliation.**

**Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 20)**

May God bless us and keep us.

When we cry for help

**God will answer.**

When we are in trouble

**God will be there.**

When we are lost

**God will find us.**

When we are afraid

**God will support us.**

In the plans we make,

in all that we hope for,

in the deep desires of our heart,

**God is alive and at work.**

**May God bless us and keep us.**

***Opening Prayer:***

Loving God,

You tell us, the smallest grain of mustard seed is always enough.

Remind us, as we gather together in this place,

as we still our minds and lean into your stillness,

that we too are enough.

Remind us that your light breaks through our stumbling words,

our wayward thoughts, our random ideas, our scattered images,

and sees in them growth and purpose,  
and creates from them something beautiful for you.

**Amen**

**Hymn: Seek Ye First (TIS 745)**

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

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.  
Seek and ye shall find.  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

We shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

**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:

Merciful God, our maker and the one who brings justice,  
we have fallen short of wholeness found in you,  
in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds:  
We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent and are sorry for all the ways we have strayed from your love.  
Abba God, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life.  
In Christ's name we pray

**Amen**

**Words of Assurance:**

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.

We are 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 with one another*

**Hymn: A new heart Lord (TIS 559 to tune TIS 245)**

1 A new heart, Lord, create in me,  
a heart from sin and guilt set free;  
O close the gate and guard the door,  
that sin may enter in no more.

2 To you my soul I open wide;  
come, Jesus, and in me abide,  
and from the temple of my heart  
make all unrighteousness depart.

3 O let your Holy Spirit's light,  
with all your heavenly radiance bright,  
flow through my spirit like a flood,  
eternal source of every good.

4 Thus to my cleansed and contrite heart  
your heavenly riches, Lord, impart,  
so that your wisdom, truth, and grace  
may make my heart a fruitful place.

5 Then I will tell in grateful song  
the praises that to you belong;  
my joy will be, my whole life through,  
to consecrate myself to you.

**Moment for the young at heart: Hector**

**Children's activity: Carolyn**

**Bible Reading: Marian**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

While Samuel looks for a king based on the model of physical stature and poise, God instructs him to suspend human logic and trust in Divine guidance. When Jesse presents his youngest son, Samuel responds obediently to God's voice, anointing David's head with oil. In spite of Samuel's grief and failings, the prophet remains open to God's word and to new possibilities.

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.

The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

### **Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." <sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Chris W**

**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:***

Holy mystery of grace and love,  
as the rains urges the growth of the harvest,  
so may your Spirit urge the growth of our generosity  
in love, to neighbour and stranger.

Use these gifts and us to bring justice in your world.

In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**Song: From the waiting comes the sign (CCLI 4351472)**

1. From the waiting comes the sign  
come, Holy Spirit, come,  
from the Presence comes the peace  
come, Holy Spirit, come,  
from the silence comes the song  
come, Holy Spirit, come,  
and be to us, in truth,  
the sign, the peace, the song.

2. In the burning is the fire  
come, Holy Spirit, come,  
in the spending is the gift  
come, Holy Spirit, come,  
in the breaking is the life  
come, Holy Spirit, come  
and be to us, in faith,  
the fire, the gift, the life.

***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: progressiveinvolvement*

*Call to worship: [conversations.net.nz/psalm-20-god-bless-you.html](http://conversations.net.nz/psalm-20-god-bless-you.html)*

*Opening prayer — adapted [cloudfront.net](http://cloudfront.net)*

*Prayer of confession – adapted [Uniting in Worship 2](#)*

*Benediction: [thebillabong.com](http://thebillabong.com)*