



23rd June 2024 – Pentecost 5

Greeter: **Betty**

Meditation Song: As the deer pants (TIS 703)
(please remain seated)

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:
You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you

(repeat)

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:

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:

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:

What have we to fear?

In the midst of life's storms, God is with us.

Of whom shall we be afraid?

In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

In all of life's storms we know that we are loved and saved.

Thanks be to God whose love surrounds us always.

Opening Prayer:

Restless God, we know that you never rest in your love and concern for all of creation.

We know that you ceaselessly search us out, calling us to be here together in prayer and song and word.

We know that you will not rest until justice rains down on the earth and until mercy flows like a river.

We are your people, your community, your family.
Today we open ourselves to your restless Spirit,
God of all creation we live in expectation of your work in our lives.

Amen

Hymn: God truly is present (TIS 121)

1. God truly is present:
let us now adore him
as with awe we come before him.
God is in our midst now
in our hearts keep silence;
worshipping in deepest reverence.
God we know,
God we name,
come and let us make God
our renewed surrender.

2. O majestic Being
I would praise you duly
and my service render to you
in the selfsame spirit
as the holy angels,
ever standing in your presence.
Grant me now
so to strive
evermore to please you
dearest God, in all things.

3. Let your glorious light, Lord,
permeating all things,
reach my face and eyes to touch them;
as the tender flowers
open out their petals,
to the sun, their hearts unfolding,
so my I,
calm in joy,
hold your rays from heaven,
power within me working.

4. Lord, make me your dwelling,
let my heart and spirit

be for you an earthly temple:
come Immediate Being,
my whole life illumine,
so I'll always praise and love you,
so where'er
I may be
there I may perceive you,
ever bow before you.

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.

Compassionate One,
we have failed you.
You were a refugee, seeking safety and freedom,
and we did not welcome you.
You were naked and exposed, with inadequate shelter and insufficient pay,
and we did not fight for equal rights.
You were fearful of being detained or deported without a just trial,
and we did not provide you sanctuary.
We seek forgiveness for the ways we have forsaken you,
and offer our thanks for the communities,
people, and organisations who have
extended welcome,
advocated for justice; and
provided sanctuary to people seeking refuge.

Help us to advocate for the human rights of all people.
Give us the steadfast persistence needed to follow your commandment to love, in these challenging times.
Help us to remember that the love and respect we show to each other is the love that we show to you.
In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

Words of Assurance:

Our loving God never tires of inviting us into fullness of life.
We are called.
We are loved.

May God forgive us.
Christ befriend us,
and the Holy Spirit renew and change your lives.

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: There's a spirit in the air (TIS 414 tune TIS 83)

1. There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world!"

2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

3. Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

4. May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

5. There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:

Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Reading: Rick

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

The primary proclamation of this Psalm is that full harmony is possible because the source flows from on high. Full harmony seems so unlikely that the Psalmist has to turn to a series of similes in order to describe it. Both similes emphasise the abundance that accompanies unity. Even if we are not yet fully there, God willing, full harmony is a place toward which we are moving.

Psalm 133

¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: David

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:

Mission Conversation: UCA 47th Anniversary President's Message
<https://uniting.church/presidents-uca-anniversary-message-2024/>

Offering Prayer:

Generous God;
Over and over your grace sustains us,
over and over your love provides for us,
over and over your arm steadies us.
We give you these gifts,

of money and of ourselves
with gratitude and joy,
thankful that you are God over all.
We pray that you will use these gifts and us to bring justice in your world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Song: Give thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ his Son. *(repeat)*

And now,
Let the weak say "I am strong!"
Let the poor say "I am rich!"
Because of what the Lord has done
for us. *(repeat)*
Give thanks.

Benediction & Blessing:

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and her ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and her love bring you home.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Heather

Acknowledgements:

Image: He Qi – Jesus calms the storm

Call to Worship: adapted from ministrymatters.com

Opening prayer: Rev Paul Thurley

*Prayer of confession – adapted from *Refugee Rights Day in Canada**

*Assurance of forgiveness: adapted *A Wee Worship Book* – Wild Goose Worship Group*

Offering prayer: adapted Carol Penner

Benediction: adapted thebillabong.com