



4th August 2024 – Pentecost 11
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:

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:

Jesus is the light of the world.
He brings love and peace to everyone.

**As we light this candle,
we remember that Jesus is with us always.**

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the beautiful lands on which we worship God today, the Gadigal and Wangal people. We celebrate their enduring knowledge and connections to Country and we honour their wisdom and pay respect to Elders past and present.

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

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 51)

God's guidance is given to us.
Lord, teach us wisdom in our secret heart.

God's mercy floods over us.
Lord, wash us clean of the pain in our lives.

God's love pours into us.
Lord, pour your love into every pore of our being.

God showers us with joy and gladness.
Let all that is in us rejoice.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.

Opening Prayer:

God of forgiveness and new beginnings,
you feed our hearts with compassion,
and nourish our souls with the bread of heaven.
As Jesus, the bread of life, fed the hungry crowds,

fill us with your generous spirit and your compassion.
Fill us with your bread that brings life, that truly satisfies;
the bread that makes us whole and makes us one with you.
Jesus, Bread of Life, hear our prayer

Amen

Hymn: All go to God (TIS 240 tune TIS 161)

All go to God when they are sorely placed:
They plead to God for help, for peace, for bread,
for mercy, for them sinning, sick or dead.
We all do so in faith or unbelief.

We go to God when God is sorely placed,
find the poor, scorned, unsheltered, without bread,
whelmed under weight of evil, weak or dead.
We stand by God then, in God's hour of grief.

God comes to us when we are sorely placed,
body and spirit feed us with God's bread.
For everyone, God as a man hangs dead:
forgiven life God gives all through Christ's death.

Prayer of Confession

As we stand in the light of God's boundless love and grace, we are also called to acknowledge the times where we have not lived up to this divine calling. Let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness and renewal. Let us confess our sins together:

Loving God, You created us from Your Love,
and ever draw us back into its embrace.
We come to You now without pretense,
knowing that You see all we are.

We have forgotten that we were created from love, for love;
sometimes we have knowingly ignored it.
We have become obsessed with our selfhood,
rather than finding who we are in communion with You and each other.

We have chosen to hide the truth of our lives,
rather than seek the vulnerability of connection.
We have hurt each other and ourselves,
and sought sustenance apart from our shared Source of Life.
Forgive us. We seek to live in your love again.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Sisters and brothers in Christ.
Hear the good news:
God's love for us is unending
and God's mercy is boundless.
In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

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

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: Chris L

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

The voice that we hear in this Psalm is one of desperation, a place that we may feel we are as well. The psalmist feels beyond mercy, and yet utters this prayer of desperation to the one from whom mercy is assured. Here is where we find the word for those in despair: despite our conviction that we are beyond mercy, the God who is mercy has bound Godself to us eternally.

Psalm 51 (NRSV)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from

heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[g] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Judith Townsend

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

Communion Hymn: Come to the banquet

1. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Though you maybe have no money,
though you maybe feel unworthy
in your strength or in your weakness
you are welcome, come.

2. Come to the banquet there's a place for you

See, you are an honoured guest,
from constant serving you may rest
so sit you down, be fed & blessed for
you are welcome, come.

3.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Woman, wise one, mother, maiden,
see your plate with food is laden,
and your place is set and waiting,
you are welcome, come.

4.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Worker, father, little boy,
old man or youth without employ,
come rest your worry, here is joy and
you are welcome, come.

5.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Whether you've been lost or faithful,
whether you've been wise or wasteful,
here's a place of rest and grace and
you are welcome, come

6.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Here is one who runs to meet you,
loving arms stretched out to greet you,
do not let your fear defeat you,
you are welcome, come

7.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Willing hands have made this bread ,
with salt and yeast and labour shared,
let all the hungry ones be fed;
it's time for feasting, come.

8.Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Abundant wine, enough for all,
our generous loving host has called,
the cup of blessing now is poured,
for sweet communion, come.

Come to the banquet there's a place for you.

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.

Why have we gathered here?

We come because we have been called to live out a story.

What story shall we live?

The story of saving love.

Where did this story begin?

It was whispered before time began.

It was sung in the melody of Creation.

Whose story is this?

This story is God's alone to tell.

It hums in the rivers and the trees.

It whispers in the skies and the seas.

It calls to the people of all places.

It speaks in our hearts, in our lives.

Why then should we speak of this story?

This story calls our name in Creation.

This story claims our lives through the Cross.

This story shaped our future through the Spirit.

We are its telling in this time and this place.

So tell me the story of this night and of this table.

**The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it (bread is broken).**

Tell me what he said and did.

'This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remember me’.

Tell me what he said and did next (lift cup)
**In the same was, he took the cup and said
‘This is a new covenant in my love.
Drink it and remember me’.**

**This is our common story,
our deep memory, our true destiny.**

So, let it also be our story-telling, our testimony.
Let’s celebrate the way that grace has shaped our lives.
I invite you to say aloud what you are thankful for...

(we share what we are thankful for)

Hear the storytelling of all ages singing with us: (sung response TIS 761)

**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!**

What is our prayer on this day?
(everyone holds their hands in blessing)

**Pour out your Holy spirit on us,
so that this everyday meal becomes an eternal feast.
So that our eating and drinking today
unites us with Christ making us one body.
So we know that you live in us and that we live in you.
So that we live in your world knowing it is indeed yours.
Living God, this is our prayer
Amen**

Distribution

Let us receive this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(we eat and drink together)

Concluding prayer

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.

May we live to your glory,
bringing your love and peace to your world.
Amen.

Community News:

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: Jude Doxology

1. And now all glory to Him,
Who alone is God,
Who saves us through his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
For he is able to keep
us from falling away.
He brings us into his presence
with love and joy.

Ch: All power, authority,
All splendour and majesty
Are Yours from the beginning
And ever more and ever more.

2: And now all glory to You,
You alone are God.
You've saved us through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
For You are able to keep
us from falling away.
You bring us into your presence
with love and joy.

Ch: All power, authority,
All splendour and majesty
Are Yours from the beginning
And ever more and ever more.
Forever more (x4)

Benediction & Blessing:

Be filled with the goodness of God;
the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Go now in peace to share this bread with the world.

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: Bread of Life, Pastel Mark A Hewitt Aug 2012

Acknowledgement of country: NAIDOC Week

Prayer of confession: adapted Mikali Anagnostis

Candle /intro confession/declaration of forgiveness/: adapted - Threads of love –

Installation of the 17th President Opening Worship.

Prayer of confession ~ adapted United in Worship 2

Offering prayer: adapted Carol Penner

Benediction: adapted from Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com