



18th August 2024 – Pentecost 13

Greeter: Mehry

Meditation Song: O Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)
(please remain seated)

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me
(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

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: Christo

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 111)

Come, and praise God!
In the company of God's people,
let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**Great are the works of God,
full of glory and majesty.**

Our God is gracious and compassionate;
our God is merciful and forgiving
our God is faithful and trustworthy,
our God is just and good.
So come, let's worship God together.
God's praise will last forever!

Opening Prayer:

Feed us now, Child of God, as you fed your first disciples.
Feed us with that soul-food which nurtures enough love within us
to outstrip the fears and hostility that ties the world up in knots.
Feed us with that spiritual bread which strengthens our hands
for serving those people who are broken and lost
and who this world says don't matter.

Feed us, so that we may be filled with your joy
which the universe cannot contain.

Jesus, Living Bread, hear our prayer

Amen

Hymn: Immortal Invisible (TIS 143)

1. Immortal invisible,
God only wise.
In light inaccessible,
hid from our eyes.
Most blessed most glorious,
the Ancient of Days.
Almighty victorious,
Your great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light.
Nor wanting nor wasting,
but ruling in might.
Your justice like mountains,
high soaring above.
Your clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

3. You give life to all, Lord,
to both great and small.
In all life now living,
the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
then wither, but ever
unchanged you will be.

4. All praise we would render,
reveal to our sight
What hides you is only
the splendour of light.
And so let your glory,
Almighty, impart

through Christ in the story,
Your Christ to the heart.

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 and help us live in your love again.
Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life'. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (TIS 569)

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar,
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Reading: Marian

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 111 is an 'Individual Hymn of Thanksgiving'. In these psalms the psalmist gives thanks for God's goodness in delivering them from various life-threatening situations such as illness, oppression, or enemy attack. The words of thanks by this individual worshiper are unusual, however, because they don't recount an event of God's deliverance of an individual, but God's deliverance of an entire community.

Psalm 111 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Alleluia! I will thank you, YHWH, with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are your works,
to be pondered by all who love them.
Majestic and glorious are your works,
and your justice stands firm forever.
You make us remember your wonders;
you are compassion and love.
You feed those who revere you,
keeping your Covenant ever in mind.
You reveal to your people the power of your actions
by giving them the lands of the nations as their inheritance.
The works of your hands are truth and justice,
and all your precepts are sure,
standing firm for ever and ever,
and carried out uprightly and faithfully.
You have sent deliverance to your people
and established your Covenant forever.
Your name is holy and awe-inspiring!
Reverence for YHWH is the beginning of wisdom;
and those who have it prove themselves wise.
Your praise will last forever!

John 6:51-58 (*NRSV*)

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Chris Longfoot

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Clabon

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 abundant life and love,
We long for the time
when the meek shall inherit the earth
and all who hunger and thirst after justice
shall be satisfied,
and we believe that,
despite the persistence of evil,
now is always the time
when more good can be done
and we can make a difference.

**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts
and the offering of our lives.
Amen.**

Song: I walk by Faith

I walk by faith,
each step by faith,
to live by faith,
I put my trust in You. (repeat)

Every step I take,
is a step of faith,
no weapon formed against me
shall prosper.
And every prayer I make,
is a prayer of faith.
And if my God is for me,
then who can stand against me?

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 – Art & Theology

Acknowledgement of country: NAIDOC Week

Call to worship: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

Opening Prayer – adapted Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Prayer of confession: adapted Mikali Anagnostis

Candle /intro confession: adapted - Threads of love – Installation of the 17th President

Opening Worship.

Prayer of confession ~ adapted Mikali Anagnostis

Offering prayer - Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

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