



25<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Pentecost 14

**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:**

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 84)***

How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place of God!

**The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restores us.**

There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

**The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God's house.**

Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

**Praise to God who heals and sends us out to serve.**

## **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: From heaven you came helpless babe (TIS 256)**

1. From heaven you came helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live

Chorus:

This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.

2. There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' he said

Chorus :

This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.

3. Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

Chorus:

This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.

4. So let us learn how to serve  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer  
for it is Christ we're serving.

Chorus:

This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.

### **Prayer of Confession**

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our God of Grace, let us make our confession, beginning with a time short time of silence...

Holy God, Creator of all that is,  
Giver of Grace, and Giver of Life, hear our prayer.  
There are chasms in our lives, as individuals and as communities,  
deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You.  
We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,  
for fear of admitting our part in the separation,  
for fear of being rejected when we reach out.  
You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,  
to a wholeness with each other and with You.  
Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations  
Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.  
**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: We have a gospel to proclaim (TIS 245)**

1. We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

3. Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free;  
he broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand  
by all creation glorified;  
God sends the Spirit on the church  
to live for Christ, the Lamb who died.

6. Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
this gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

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

**Bible Reading: Rick**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

Psalm 84 is classified as a pilgrimage psalm, sung as praise by those who travelled to Jerusalem to worship. Such journeys were often beset with hardship as the traveller moved through the wilderness over great distances in order to reach Jerusalem. The psalmist speaks of the intense desire of these pilgrims and creation even finds rest in the sanctuary.

**Psalm 84 (NRSV)**

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> As they go through the valley of Baca,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
God bestows favour and honour.

No good thing does the Lord withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts,  
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

## **John 6:56-69 (NRSV)**

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> 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.” <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

**Reflection: Rev Joy**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Alison**

**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:**

***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: **Chris W**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Communion.MaryWalsh*

*Acknowledgement of country: NAIDOC Week*

*Call to worship: ministrymatters.com*

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

*Invitation and prayer of confession: adapted Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.*

*Candle /intro confession: adapted - Threads of love – Installation of the 17<sup>th</sup> 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*