



8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Pentecost 16  
Season of Creation

**Greeter:** Roger T

***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:**

We light this light to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

**As we light this light, we remember that God; Creator, Christ and Spirit is present among us.**

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples:**

As we gather, we recognise that this land is sacred land, this land is holy ground.

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this land on which we worship God today, the Gadigal and Wangal people. We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories, of dreamings and connections with the deep earth and oceans.

**We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging and commit to walking with them for justice and reconciliation.**

### **Call to Worship:**

God who gave us the creation to play in,  
with rolling landscapes of delight,  
with wonders of earth and sea  
and endless discoveries of beauty

**We worship you**

God who made us in infinite diversity,  
with all the vivid colours of our differences,  
all the magic of our unknowns  
to be explored and celebrated

**We worship you**

God who in your being carries the One  
who loved to feast with friends,  
who sat in silence on the mountain tops alone,  
whose Spirit dances in all the earth

**We worship you**

**in Spirit and in truth**

## **Opening Prayer:**

Let us pray a song of thanksgiving to our God!

Creator God,  
you hover over our life  
like the beauty of the northern and southern stars,  
and flow through our existence like the rivers of the earth.  
You breathe among us like the gentle winds  
and stand firm under our feet like the rock of ages.  
We thank you that you are here with us, and we are never alone.

Teach us to see you, our Creator  
in all things seen and heard;  
in the beauty of the ancient land,  
in the singing of the bird.

**Amen**

## **Hymn: God has spoken through the prophets (TIS 158)**

1. God has spoken by the prophets,  
spoken God's unchanging word.  
Each from age to age proclaiming God,  
the One the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil,  
one firm anchor holds us fast.  
God is King, God's throne eternal,  
God the first and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ the everlasting Son.  
Brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father ever one.  
Spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God of God ere time was born.  
Light of Light to earth descending,  
Christ as God in human form.

3. God is speaking by the Spirit,  
speaking to our hearts again,

in the ageless word expounding  
God's own message now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith yet standing fast.  
God abides, God's word unchanging,  
God the first and God the last.

### **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 and Lover of all that is,  
we confess to you that we have turned away from you.  
We have failed in our care for the land and its creatures,  
we have been greedy, destructive, and wasteful  
of the resources you entrusted to us.  
We have polluted air and water,  
eroded soil and salty earth,  
deprived birds and animals of their habitat,  
and left our neighbours hungry and thirsty by our selfishness:  
all these cry out to us.  
We struggle to know the way to restore what we have damaged,  
and are in great sorrow and distress.

Forgive us, we pray.  
Give us grace to change our ways, to make amends  
and to work together for the healing of the world.  
In Jesus name we pray

**Amen**

### **Words of Assurance - Taize chant** (sung twice)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone O God are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia.

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: Forth in your name I go (TIS 571)**

1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,  
my daily labour to pursue,  
you, Lord, alone resolved to know,  
in all I think or speak or do.

2 Each task your wisdom has assigned,  
still let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.

3 You may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes my inmost substance view  
And labour on at your command,  
and offer all my works to you.

4 For you delightfully employ  
all that your bounteous grace has given,  
and run my course with even joy,  
and closely walk with you to heaven.

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

**Bible Reading: Alison**

**Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:**

The book of Proverbs is the most well know book of "Wisdom" in the Hebrew Bible and is associated with Solomon. Wisdom literature seeks to teach its hearers how to live well. This wisdom is handed down from parents to children and is based not on revelation but on experience and observation. In the words of Ellen Davis, "The proverbs are spiritual guides for ordinary people,

on an ordinary day, when water does not pour forth from rocks and angels do not come to lunch.”

### **Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (The Message)**

A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich;  
a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor shake hands as equals—  
God made them both!

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows sin reaps weeds,  
and bullying anger sputters into nothing.

<sup>9</sup> Generous hands are blessed hands  
because they give bread to the poor.

<sup>22-23</sup> Don't walk on the poor just because they're poor,  
and don't use your position to crush the weak,

Because God will come to their defence;  
the life you took, he'll take from you and give back to them.

### **Mark 7:24-37 (NRSV)**

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.<sup>[a]</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, “Sir,<sup>[b]</sup> even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak”.

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

**Reflection: Judith Townsend**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: Brian**

**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:**

Giver of all good things,  
let your grace flow through us;  
a generous stream,  
unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.  
We release these gifts into your river of love,  
flowing out to all the world.  
**Amen.**

**Song: Give me oil in my lamp**

1. Give me oil in my lamp,  
keep me burning.  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.  
Keep me burning till the break of day.

*Chorus:*

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings.  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King.

2. Give me joy in my heart,  
keep me praising.  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Keep me praising till the break of day.

Chorus

3. Give me peace in my heart,  
keep me resting.  
Give me peace in my heart I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Keep me resting till the break of day.

Chorus

4. Give me love in my heart,  
keep me serving.  
Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.  
Keep me serving till the break of day.

Chorus

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Go in faith, for there is God,  
riding in the light on the water,  
singing in the songs of the birds,  
sitting in the midst of the parties of life.  
Go in faith to play in creation  
and to drink deeply of the gracious cup of life



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

### **3-fold-Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers: David**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: The Crumby Dog – reverendally.org*

*Call to worship – Dorothy McRae-McMahon - ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’*

*Opening Prayer ~ ~ Adapted from Maker of All - David Adam in ‘Tides and Seasons’ and Dorothy McRae-McMahon - ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’*

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

*Prayer of confession: adapted from <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/61492/Confession-and-Absolution-Stewardship-of-Creation.pdf>*

*Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher*

*Offering prayer: Carol Penner*

*Benediction: adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon – ‘Liturgies of the journey of life’*