



15th September 2024 – Pentecost 17
Season of Creation

Greeter: Mehry

Meditation Song: Jesus, remember me (TIS 730)
(please remain seated)

Jesus remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me.
when you come into your kingdom.
(x2)

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:

Our land is alive with the glory of God
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing
and mountains breathe their stillness.

All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even the stones shout out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;
may our hearts join the beat of her joy,
for the Holy One is with us;
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.
Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.
The Spirit moves within and between us.
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

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: Loving Spirit (TIS 417)

1 Loving Spirit loving Spirit
you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to Your wonder
you have set Your sign on me

2 Like a mother You enfold me
hold my life within Your own
feed me with Your very body
form me of Your flesh and bone

3 Like a father You protect me
teach me the discerning eye
hoist me up upon Your shoulder
let me see the world from high

4 Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

5 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

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...

Jesus, wounded healer, we come to you
as wounded and wounding people.
We have trodden on tenderness, trust has been broken,
expectations dashed, hopes crushed.
Give us the courage to know our own pain
and the pain we have caused,
and wisdom to take time for your healing.
Merciful God, mend us, bend us to new knowing,
bathe us in the balm of your care.
Lend us insight to see the hurt we deal,
and fearlessness to name injustice we see dealt.
We ask this for ourselves and
for all your vulnerable creation
Through the power and love of Christ,
in whose name we live and breathe and have our being.
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: O Master let me walk with thee (TIS 601)

1. O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
thy secret tell, help me to bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move

by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4. In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: Rick

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Psalm 19 is one of five psalms in the Psalter categorised as a creation psalm. From Beethoven's "The Heavens Are Declaring" to Bach, Handel, and Haydn, magnificent musical compositions have incorporated its words. C.S. Lewis declared that Psalm 19 was a treasure trove in the Psalter, writing, "I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world."

Psalm 19 (The Living Bible)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of creation. ² Day and night they keep on telling about God. ³⁻⁴ Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world. The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it ⁵ and moves out across the skies as radiant as a bridegroom^[a] going to his wedding, or as joyous as an athlete looking forward to a race! ⁶ The sun crosses the heavens from end to end, and nothing can hide from its heat.

⁷⁻⁸ God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light. ⁹ God's laws are pure, eternal, just.^[b] ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb. ¹¹ For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them. ¹² But how can I ever know what sins are lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. ¹³ And keep me from deliberate wrongs; help me to stop doing them. Only then can I be free of guilt and innocent of some great

crime. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Mark 8:27-38 (NRSV)

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”^[a] ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[b] will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: ?

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: The power of your love (Geoff Bullock)

1: Lord I come to You,
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in You.
And the Lord I've come to know,
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the power of Your love.

Chorus:
Hold me close, let Your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with You,
Your spirit leads me on
in the power of Your love.

2: Lord unveil my eyes,
let me see You face to face,
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord renew my mind,
as Your will unfolds in my life
in living every day by the power of Your love.

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: Brian

Acknowledgements:

Image: olegagafonov | Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

Call to worship – The Presbyterian Church of Canada, “Making Connections: Staying rooted in an uprooted world”.

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 Julie Perrin: A prayer, a plea, a bird

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher

Offering prayer: Carol Penner

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