



6th October 2024 – Pentecost 20
Communion

Greeter: Mehry

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.

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 look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this land by those who have cared for it since time beyond measure. We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come.

May we take the lead from the Gadigal and Wangal people, whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them for justice and reconciliation.

Call to Worship:

All you who are thirsty,
this is the place for water.

**All you who are hungry,
this is the place to be fed.**

Here without money, here without price,
**all are welcome, all belong,
all are invited to enjoy the bread of heaven.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Mystery, Spirit of Wonder, Bread of Heaven,
you have made us your children
and call us your beloved.

You have called us to be your witnesses,
to proclaim the good news of your love and grace.

Sanctify us and help us see ourselves in you,
the living body of the risen Christ,
broken and poured out to feed a hungry world.

Come to us, here in this place
that we may witness to reconciliation in a divide world;
that we may gather around Christ's table as one people;
that we may affirm your hope, your love, your peace.

Amen

Hymn: God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens TIS 163 (tune TIS 152)

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space,
we your children, in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

2 Proudly rise our modern cities,
stately buildings, row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,
stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed
in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning,
scarcely caring where they go.

3 We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

4 As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honouring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavour well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

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,

Because you made the world and intended it to be a good place and called its people your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, you came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so gracious God, we gladly say:

Love is stronger than hate

Light is stronger than darkness

Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith; because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion; because we don't always get it right, we believe:

Love is stronger than hate

Light is stronger than darkness

Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us, and are willing to make our hearts your home, we ask you to confront, guide, forgive and encourage us, as you know best.

Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim with our lips:

Love is stronger than hate

Light is stronger than darkness

God of grace hear our prayer and change our lives

Amen

Words of Assurance:

God is love. Everyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them.

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: Brian

Bible Reading: Marie

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

During the month of October, we are treated to a rare opportunity—a run through the book of Job. Over these four Sundays, there are readings from the beginning, middle, and end of Job which provide a short synopsis of the book. Today we read about the heavenly wager that gets Job into his mess. This passage sets the stage for the critical issue that drives the book, an issue that is put into play in the exchange of Job and his wife. As he mourns in ashes covered with “loathsome sores” Job’s wife asks him, “Do you still persist in your integrity?”.

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings^[a] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^[b] also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ² The LORD said to Satan,^[c] “Where have you come from?” Satan^[d] answered the LORD, “From going to and from on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ³ The LORD said to Satan,^[e] “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” ⁴ Then Satan^[f] answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.^[g] ⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶ The LORD said to Satan,^[h] “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan^[i] went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job^[j] took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse^[k] God, and die.” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips

Mark 10:2-16

² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ He answered them, “What did Moses command

you?”⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.”⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’⁷ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,^[b]⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” ¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Chris Longfoot

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**

Communion Hymn: When at this table – Shirley Murray (tune TIS 587)

1. When at this table I receive a blessing,
The broken bread, the wine of life for me,
Then let me share the peace with you my neighbour,
And let the Spirit set our spirits free.
2. If at this table I have need of healing,
Unbidden grief, relationship gone wrong,
Then let me know the hands of God enfolding,
And let lament become believing song.
3. If at this table I forget the hungry,
The dispossessed and warfare's spreading stain,
Then let this bread become the bread of judgement,
This wine the sharp awareness of that pain.
4. If at this table I make dedication
To give my life in serving what is good,
Then let my centre be where God invites me,
And show the words of Jesus understood.
5. What faith I have, I bring to join this table,
What hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true,
With brothers, sisters, I will share the blessing,
The feast where God is making all things new.

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 to make me real to you.

Tell me what he said and did next (lift cup)

In the same way, he took the cup and said

'This is a new covenant in my love.

Drink it to make me real to you.

**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 whispering with us:

**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:

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: You are holy, you are whole (TIS 753)

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near;
blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,
let the cosmos praise you Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
our Lord!

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 serve God in all that you think, do and say.

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

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: **Christo**

Acknowledgements:

Image: [pinterest.com.au](https://www.pinterest.com.au)

Acknowledgement of country: adapted National Assembly Working Group on Worship

Call to worship – adapted from Wild Goose Worship Group - A Wee Worship Book

Opening Prayer – adapted ministrymatters.com

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

Prayer of confession ~ adapted from Wild Goose Worship Group - A Wee Worship Book

Words of assurance - 1 John 4:16

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher

Offering Prayer: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona

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