



August 24

27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Pentecost 23

**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: Children**

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 Country: Children (led by Willian) (written by 1E – Dobroyd Point Public School)**

Thank you to the Gadigal and Wangal people  
of the Eora Nation for letting us use your land.

We promise to look after it; the people and the animals too.

Hello land

Hello sky

Hello me

Hello friends

## ***Call to Worship:***

Creator of all, God, we open ourselves to the gift of all Creation.

**Jesus Christ, Beloved of God, have mercy on us, for we need you.**

Loving Christ, we open our arms to your love and your healing.

**Jesus Christ, Beloved of God, have mercy on us, for we need you.**

Holy Spirit, come fill us with your power and your grace.

**Jesus Christ, Beloved of God, have mercy on us, for we need you.**

**We worship in gratitude, in trust and in joy. Alleluia!**

## ***Opening Prayer:***

Blessed are you, Creator of all,

to you be praise and glory forever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made.

As we gather together from our different places,

open our eyes to behold your presence

and strengthen our hands to do your will,

that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (TIS 580)**

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy

### **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...

Let us pray our confession together:

**Merciful God,  
our maker and the one who brings justice,  
we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and deeds:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we are sorry for all the ways we have failed to live in your light.  
God, our loving parent, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
In the name of Christ, in whom we live and breathe and have our being  
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*

**Hymn: Christ is alive (TIS 387)**

1.Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2.Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

3.In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

4.Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5.Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

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

## Bible Reading: Milton

### Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

We come to the last of our four weeks on Job. Here, after all his struggling with suffering and faith and the apparent absence of God, the story raps up with Job getting it all back, twice over. The problem with this is that it dishonors the reality of the struggle, both Job's and our own. Real-life struggles are almost always messier, and there is rarely a magical happy ending to fast-forward to. So, what do we do with the ending of Job? Perhaps it is about the continued wrestling with the difficult questions; the clinging on to the knowledge that we are part of a much bigger story and God's ways are not our own.

### Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Then Job answered the Lord:

- <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things,  
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.  
<sup>3</sup> 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'  
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.  
<sup>4</sup> 'Hear, and I will speak;  
I will question you, and you declare to me.'  
<sup>5</sup> I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye sees you;  
<sup>6</sup> therefore I despise myself,  
and repent in dust and ashes."

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. <sup>11</sup> Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money<sup>[a]</sup> and a gold ring. <sup>12</sup> The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. <sup>13</sup> He also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>14</sup> He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. <sup>15</sup> In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. <sup>16</sup> After this Job lived one

hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. <sup>17</sup> And Job died, old and full of days.

### **Mark 10:46-52**

<sup>46</sup> They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher,<sup>[a]</sup> let me see again." <sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

**Reflection: Judith Townsend**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: David**

**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:**

**Mission Conversation: Children**

**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: Let us build a house (All are welcome) (TIS 821)**

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions  
rock of faith and vault of grace.  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.  
All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger.  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;  
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;  
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,  
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit



be upon you and remain with you always.

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

### **Pastoral Prayers: Alison**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: friarmusings.com*

*Acknowledgement of country: adapted National Assembly Working Group on Worship*

*Call to worship: unfoldinglight.net*

*Opening Prayer – adapted from churchofengland.org*

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

*Prayer of confession ~ adapted Uniting in Worship 2*

*Words of assurance - 1 John 4:16*

*Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher*

*Offering Prayer: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona*

*Benediction: billabong.com*