



3rd November 2024 – Pentecost 24
Communion

Greeter: **Chris L**

Meditation Song: Holy holy holy (TIS 723)
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you:
Holy are you Lord.
(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 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 life.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Mystery, Spirit of Wonder, Bread of Life,
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 divided world;
that we may gather around Christ's table as one people;
that we may affirm your hope, your love, your peace.

Amen

Hymn: I will sing the wondrous story (TIS 233)

1. I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross of Calvary.

Chorus:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it in the light of glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

2. I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me,
back into the narrow way.

Chorus

3. Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall
hope was gone, and shame possessed me,
but his love has pardoned all.

Chorus

4. Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread,
but his presence still is with me,
By his guiding hand I'm led.

Chorus

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

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Reading: Maire

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Over the next two weeks, we look at the story of Ruth. Set against a backdrop of national calamity, a more personal calamity comes upon Naomi and her family. Famine in the “house of bread” (the literal meaning of “Bethlehem”) forces them to migrate to Moab. There, the deaths of her husband and two sons leave Naomi bereft and empty. However, the bitterness of Naomi is not the whole of the story. Ruth’s loyalty and love for her mother-in-law holds the promise of something more.

Ruth 1:1-8, 14-18

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Chris W

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: Let us break bread together (TIS 511)

1. Let us break bread together with the Lord.
Let us break bread together with the Lord.

Refrain:
As we travel through this land,
all God's children hand in hand,
Lord, fill all our living with your life.

2. Let us drink wine together with the Lord.
Let us drink wine together with the Lord. [Refrain]

3. Let us sing songs together with the Lord.
Let us sing songs together with the Lord. [Refrain]

4. Let us all work together for the Lord
Let us all work together for the Lord [Refrain]

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 singing with us: (sung response TIS 761)

**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 great gifts,
we make our offerings, small and large,
with the hope and confidence
that all we do,
all we offer
and all we hope
will take root in this world
and be the source of new expressions
of your love, justice and reign.
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
through us, alongside us,
despite us, and for us.

Amen

Song: Lord the light of your love (TIS 675)

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory:
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story,
shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

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 your being and your doing.

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: pottypadre.com

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 Uniting in Worship 2

Words of assurance - 1 John 4:16

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Working Preacher

Offering prayer – adapted from pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au

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