



Epiphany 3 Yr C – 26th January 2025

Greeter: Betty

Meditation Song: Seek Ye First (TIS 745)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things
Shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

May the light of Christ be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

**May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.**

Acknowledgement of Country:

For this Land - **We give thanks!**

For the Gadigal and Wangal people - **We give thanks!**

We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories and their connections with the deep earth and oceans. We give thanks for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all.

May we walk together for justice and peace.

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 19)

We come into this sacred space to worship God

whose teaching is perfect;

whose directions are sure.

We come into this holy place to worship God

whose standards are right;

whose judgements are true.

We come with holy awe

to be given life, and learn wisdom,

to have our hearts stirred and our eyes opened wide.

Come, let us worship God.

Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts

be according to your will, O God.

Opening Prayer

Speak clearly

in our lives, O Christ.

Speak to us,

and to what is in us,

so that we might be whole.

Speak to us,

with love,

with hope,

and with strength,

so that we might hear you,

and know, deep inside,

that we are your people,

and that you are our God.

Creator God, we wait for your presence.
Reconciling Christ, we wait for your presence.
Comforting Spirit, we wait for your presence.

Amen

Hymn: Praise with joy the world's Creator (TIS 179)

1. Praise with joy, the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness, without cease.
Celebrate the maker's glory –
power to rescue and release.
2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,
friend and stranger, guest and host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe,
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Prayer of confession:

We come to God knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus to love God and one another with our whole hearts; but we come also to a God who reaches out to us with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

Creator God,
we thank you for this extraordinary world
and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life:
when grass shoots break through concrete
when the sun emerges after storms
when people share our laughter and when they share our tears.
In these moments we see glimpses of who you are –
and we are grateful.

Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable
awfulness in our lives and in the world.
In the silence we name these things that we believe are
too broken to ever be made whole...

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we contribute to the brokenness of the world
and the lives of people around us.
In the silence we name the things we have done that separate us
from you and from others...

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we trust darkness more than we trust your light.
In the silence we name the things we think we need to keep hidden...

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image.
In Jesus name we pray
Amen.

Words of assurance:

The light of God's love
shines into the dark places of our world,
healing its brokenness,
and bringing hope to places of despair.

In the light of God's love
we are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

Peace:

May the peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace from where we are seated.

Hymn: Holy Spirit come confirm us (TIS 413)

1. Holy Spirit, come confirm us
in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding
through your helping gifts alone.

2. Holy Spirit, come, console us,
come as advocate to plead;
loving Spirit from the Father,
grant in Christ the help we need.

3. Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
come yourself to make us live;
holy through your loving presence,
holy through the gifts you give.

4. Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
you the love of Three in One;
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Readings: Rick

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

C.S. Lewis called Psalm 19 “the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” The song contains beautiful imagery, playful poetry, and elegant prayer-petitions.

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament^[a] proclaims God’s handiwork.
² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
⁴ yet their voice^[b] goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens^[c] God has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong person runs its course with joy.
⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
¹² But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;^[d]
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

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

Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Ron

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:

As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this place and in the world, let's pray our offering prayer.

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that we have received from you.
We give these gifts of money and our lives
trusting and hoping that you will use them and us
to be your light in the world.
Amen.

We hear from our children:

Song: A Blessing Hymn for Australia. (Michael Herry)

1. Ancient land of wide and sunburnt plains
Where feet have long since trod
You have known the stories of our search
To find the face of God
God, you hovered over darkness,
When the road was silent still
Then your voice rang out in splendour
Creation knew your will.

And your eyes in love beheld in light
Our land of sweeping plains
Now our voices too rejoin again
Creation's song of praise.

2. Holy Spirit, gift of love divine
With you we dare to dream
So to walk in justice all our days
This land of gold and green.
From all nations we have gathered
Lead us on in unity
In this vast and rugged homeland
May you our centre be.
May our lives show forth your tender love
Compassion, strong and bold
Help us bring Good News to all the world,
Your Spirit love unfold

3. Holy Spirit, breathe your life in us,
Your truth to guide our way.
Now with open hearts we hear your call,
To follow you each day
Bring us all as one together,
Under southern stars above
So the Cross will lead us onward
Great south land of your love.
Give us joyful hearts in days to come
All fear and dark remove
Help us build in Christ a world reborn
In justice and in love.

Benediction & Blessing:

Go into God's world,
bearing the light of hope and peace.
Bring the Good News of the love of God
through Jesus Christ to all people.
Go in peace.

And may Almighty God bless you;

Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always

3-fold-amen

Pastoral prayers: Heather

Acknowledgements:

Image: aninformedfaith.com

Acknowledgement of Country: adapted National Assembly working group on worship

*Call to worship: adapted - Copyright © 2000 Jeff Shrowder, and posted on **The Billabong** website*

Opening prayer: adapted - [liturgy.richardbott.com/We pray in Jesus' name](http://liturgy.richardbott.com/)

Prayer of confession: adapted from Cheryl Lawrie <http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

Assurance and benediction: adapted from – ministrymatters.com