



Epiphany 7 Yr C – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

**Greeter:** **Betty**

***Meditation Song: Come Holy Spirit*** (TIS 710)  
*(please remain seated)*

Come Holy Spirit,  
gracious heavenly dove;  
come fire of love  
(x 2)

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

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

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Christ Candle:**

We light this light to remind us that Christ is with us.  
Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

**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 37)

Let us trust in God and do good,

**So our communities can welcome and flourish.**

Let us delight in our God,

**And gratefully receive the desires of our hearts.**

Let us commit our ways to God,

**We trust in God and God acts.**

Let us be still before God,

**And wait patiently.**

God illuminates the path of justice,

**So that we might follow in faith.**

God is our refuge in the time of trouble;

**Our helper, our rescuer, our saviour.**

**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: Where the wide sky rolls (TIS 188)**

1. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,  
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,  
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell  
their joy in the One who made everything well.

2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,  
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,  
let every sea-creature and tropical bird  
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,  
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,  
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days  
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

4. Now, people of faith, come gather around  
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!  
Australians, whatever your culture or race,  
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

**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:**

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:**

Jesus came to bring peace among us.  
Let us sow the seeds for peace in our world by  
sharing the peace of Christ with one another.

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

*Let's share Christ's peace with those around us.*

**Hymn: God when human bonds are broken (TIS 683)**

1. God, when human bonds are broken  
and we lack the love or skill  
to restore the hope of healing,  
give us grace and make us still.

2. Through that stillness, with your Spirit  
come into our world of stress,  
for the sake of Christ forgiving  
all the failures we confess.

3. You in us are bruised and broken:  
hear us as we seek release  
from the pain of earlier living;  
set us free and grant us peace.

4. Send us, God of new beginnings,  
humbly hopeful into life.  
Use us as a means of blessing:  
make us stronger, give us faith.

5. Give us faith to be more faithful,  
give us hope to be more true,  
give us love to go on learning:  
God, encourage and renew.

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

**Bible Readings: Rick**

### **Introduction to Hebrew Scripture reading:**

In Joseph's story reconciliation is front and center, a major part of the drama. Of the thirteen chapters, four of them cover his reconciliation with his brothers. No matter what happened in the past, Joseph and his brothers know that, ultimately, relationship is primary. They choose not to let the past stand in the way of reconciliation.

### **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of

Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **Luke 6:27-38**

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.<sup>[a]</sup> Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Rev Brian Woodhouse**

**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.***

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.**

**We hear from our children:**

***Song: I walk by faith***

I walk by faith,  
each step by faith,  
to live by faith,  
I put my trust in You.  
*(repeat)*

Every step I take,  
is a step of faith,  
No weapon formed against me  
shall prosper.  
And every prayer I make,  
is a prayer of faith.  
And if my God is for me,  
then who can stand against me?

### ***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: newcitychurch*

*Acknowledgement of Country: adapted National Assembly working group on worship*

*Call to worship – adapted spaciousfaith.com*

*Opening prayer: adapted - liturgy.richardbott.com/We pray in Jesus' name*

*Prayer of confession: adapted Uniting in Worship 2*

*Commentary on Hebrew Scripture: Working Preacher*

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

*Assurance and benediction: adapted from – ministrymatters.com*