



PENTECOST 12 yr C Sunday 31st August 2025

Meditation TIS 723 Holy holy holy

*Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee*

*Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity x3*

Leader: Chris Westworth / Greeter: Chris Longfoot

Welcome:

Welcome to the 12th Sunday after Pentecost. We welcome Roger Abrahams this morning who will share the reflection with us

Greeting:

May the light of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let 's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

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 First Peoples:

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the beautiful lands on which we worship God today, the Gadigal and Wangal people, and we celebrate their enduring knowledge and connections to Country. We honour the wisdom of and pay respect to Elders past and present.

May we walk together gently and respectfully on this land, working together for justice and reconciliation.

Call to Worship:

Creator God, you call us to hospitality,
to give as generously to others as you have given to us.
For there are angels among us.

Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another.

To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love.

Opening Prayer:

Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet
where the last may be first,

and the humble and the mighty trade places.

Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity.

let us greet strangers as angels you have sent!

Send your Spirit now so that we may find a place at your table
and welcome others with profound hospitality.

In the name of Jesus, Guest at all our tables, we pray.

Amen

Hymn: TIS 690 BEAUTY FOR BROKENNESS

1.Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

Lord in Your suffering world

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase

2.Shelter for fragile lives

Cures for their ills

Work for the craftsmen

Trade for their skills

Land for the dispossessed

***Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak***

***Chorus:
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark, to a flame***

***3.Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain***

***Chorus:
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark, to a flame***

***4.Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future our dreams***

***Lord end our madness
Carelessness greed
Make us content with
The things that we need***

***Chorus:
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark, to a flame***

***5. Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until Your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of Your ways
Seek Your salvation
And bring You their praise***

***Chorus:
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark, to a flame***

Prayer of Confession:

For the times we are afraid of the stranger,
for the times we refuse the stranger,
because we think our resources are just too meagre,
Lord, forgive us.

For the times we stereotype the stranger
as enemy,
as dangerous,
as somehow inferior,
Lord, forgive us.

For the times we are too busy trying to impress our guests—
the times we think we are being hospitable,
but are instead serving our own needs—
Lord, forgive us.

For the times we miss the gift of the stranger,
for the times we close our door in fear,
for the times we miss your face in the other
Lord, have mercy.
Forgive us
Amen

Words of Assurance:

This is the good news:
after what God has done for us,
what can anyone or any thing do to us?
We are new people, graced by our loving God.
Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God,
we will offer open hearts and serving hands
to everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God.
Amen

Peace:

May the peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another.

Hymn TIS 668 - TOUCH THE EARTH GENTLY

***Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.***

***We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster—
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!***

***Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.***

***God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.***

Moment for the young at heart: Phil McCrea

Bible Readings: David Pigott

Jer 2:4-13 NRSV

4 Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. 5 Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? 6 They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" 7 I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. 8 The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. 9 Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. 10 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. 11 Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. 12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Luke 14:1 NRSV

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Luke 14:7-14

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Roger Abrahams

Prayers of the People: Alison Burnett

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:

Song: HERE IN THIS PLACE /GATHER US IN

***1. Here in this place,
new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space,
our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.***

Chorus

***Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

***2. We are the young,
our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung
throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.***

Chorus

***Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song***

**3. Here we all take
the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call
your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

Chorus

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**4. Not in the dark
of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away,
but here in this space,
the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day**

Chorus

**Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Benediction & Blessing:

May God, who has begun a good work within you,
continue that work until the day when Christ Jesus returns.
May your love overflow more and more;
may you continue to grow in knowledge and understanding,
so that you can clearly discern what really matters,
so that you may stand pure and blameless before God on the
day of Christ's return.

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Threefold Amen

***Pastoral Prayers:* Brian Lenehan**