



### **Epiphany 4 Yr A – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

**Meditation Hymn: Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace.***

***You alone, O Lord, are holy.***

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
alleluia. (3x)***

**Welcome: Ron Brown**

**Greeting: Ron Brown**

On this fourth Sunday in Epiphany

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:**

As we gather to worship God, we acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

**We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.**

### **Call to Worship:**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the downtrodden and despairing,

They will rejoice in God's reign forever.

Blessed are those who mourn, who are grieving

They will be comforted in God's reign forever.

Blessed are the ones who seek justice and righteousness

They will find it in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we when we love our neighbours and seek their needs

We will live in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others in God's name.

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God.

**Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Speak with authority 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.  
Let it be so.

**Amen**

**Hymn: What does the Lord require (Albert F. Bayly)**

***1. What does the Lord require***

***for praise and offering?***

***What sacrifice, desire***

***or tribute did you bring?***

***Do justly,***

***love mercy,***

***walk humbly with your God.***

***2.Rulers of earth, give ear!  
Should you not justice know?  
Will God your pleading hear  
while crime and cruelty grow?  
Do justly,  
love mercy,  
walk humbly with your God.***

***3.Still down the ages ring  
the prophet's stern commands:  
to merchant, worker, king,  
he brings God's high commands:  
do justly,  
love mercy,  
walk humbly with your God.***

***4.How shall our life fulfill  
God's law so hard and high?  
Let Christ endue our will  
with grace to fortify.  
Then justly,  
in mercy,  
we'll humbly walk with God.***

**Prayer of Confession:**

Creator God, we thank you for this extraordinary world

and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life:  
for when grass shoots break through concrete  
when the sun emerges after storms  
for 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 when we reduce you to being like the cycle of nature  
or the best of humankind, when we diminish your power to make the  
impossible real:

to break apart the impenetrable evils of oppression,  
to cast out the very real fears that paralyse us,  
to banish the negative thoughts in our lives of judgement and  
worthlessness

In our brokenness

**Make us new again**

Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable  
awfulness in our lives and world.

In the silence we name the parts of our lives and our world 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**

**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.  
The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Peace:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

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

**Moment for the young at heart: Phil McCrea**

**Bible Readings: Alison Burnett**

**Micah 6:1-8 NRSV**

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I

come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

### **Matthew 5:1-12 NRSV**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Dr Andrew Thornley**

*Moment of Stillness:*

**Prayers of the People: Rev Clabon Allen**

**Communion Hymn: A Place at the Table: (Shirley Murray.)**

***1. For everyone born, a place at the table***

*To everyone born, clean water and bread  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing  
For everyone born, a star over head*

**Chorus**

*And God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice and joy,  
Yes God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice...justice and joy*

*2.For woman and man, a place at the table  
Revising the roles, deciding the share  
With wisdom and grace dividing the power  
For woman and man, a system that's fair*

**Chorus**

*And God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice and joy,  
Yes God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice...justice and joy*

*3.For young and for old, a place at the table  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song  
The hand of a child in hands that are wrinkled  
For young and for old, the right to belong*

**Chorus**



*And God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice and joy,  
Yes God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice...justice and joy*

*4. For everyone born, a place at the table  
To live without fear and simply to be  
To work to speak out, to witness and worship  
For everyone born, the right to be free*

**Chorus**

*And God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice and joy,  
Yes God will delight, when we are creators  
Of justice...justice and joy*

**Communion: Rev Carolyn Thornley**

May God be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts.  
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God we love.  
**We freely give God thanks and praise.**

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy  
that we should, in ceaseless joy,  
give our thanks and praise to you,

Holy and merciful God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise  
with the church that is, was, and shall be forever,  
we glorify you, joining this unending song:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of steadfast love.  
All creation waits in trust for you.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who brings the kingdom near.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, Eternal One.  
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth  
setting light into being, casting the stars in the sky,  
founding the evolving earth and all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power and great is your wisdom.  
You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures.  
You visit upon the downtrodden  
with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus,  
who reached into unexpected places,  
calling women beyond the limits of their times,  
equipping men for nurturing love,  
welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion  
the light of the world took bread, broke it  
and gave it to the disciples, saying:  
“This is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper,  
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to them saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant [in my blood]  
poured out for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink of it  
for the remembrance of me.”

Life's greatest feast before us.  
We excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died**  
**Christ is risen**  
**Christ will come again.**

Dear God, you transform.  
You transform all that is before you  
so that at the touch of your grace  
we are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.  
You bring light to all peoples, light to the nations,  
light into our hearts, light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.  
Transform, illumine, bless.  
Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup  
into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing, hold us as your own,**  
**renew us as your people**  
**for the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,  
through Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### ***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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory**

**are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

Christ is the bread of joy  
who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life  
who receives the faint-hearted

**Let us receive what we are**

**and let us become what we receive**

**The body of Christ.**

Jesus, firstborn of Mary,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Saviour of the world,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, monarch of heaven,  
**grant us peace.**

Come for all is prepared.  
Receive this holy sacrament  
of the body and blood of Christ,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**Let us pray:**

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.**

**We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.**

**May we bask in this glow  
now and forevermore.**

**Amen.**

***Blessing***

**Community News:**

4th February: Wednesday Morning Prayer & Communion Service  
(resumes)

16th February: Women's Spirituality Group (resumes)

18th February: Ash Wednesday - combined event - LUC

1st March: Welcome Liesel Homes

1st March: St David's Day

6th March: World day of Prayer

7th March: Music Team Meeting

### **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 you have given us.

Use these gifts, here today, to be your light in the world

**Amen.**

### **Song: The River is here**

**1.     *Down the mountain the river flows,  
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.  
Through the valleys and over the fields,  
the river is rushing and the river is here.***

**Ch:   *The river of God set our feet a-dancing,  
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer,  
the river of God fills our mouths with laughter,  
and we rejoice for the river is here.***

**2.     *The river of God is teeming with life,  
and all who touch it can be revived,  
and those who linger on this river's shore,  
will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.***

**Ch:   *The river of God set our feet a-dancing,  
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer,  
the river of God fills our mouths with laughter,***

*and we rejoice for the river is here.*

3. *Up to the mountain we love to go,  
to find the presence of the Lord.  
Along the banks of the river we run,  
we dance with laughter giving  
praise to the Son.*

*Ch: The river of God set our feet a-dancing,  
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer,  
the river of God fills our mouths with laughter,  
and we rejoice for the river is here.*

### **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.

**3-fold-Amen**

### **Acknowledgements:**

Image: by He Qi

Call to worship: Michael Morgan re: Worship: Psalm 111 Call to Worship  
Litany ([reworship.blogspot.com](http://reworship.blogspot.com))

Opening prayer: ~ written by Richard Bott, and posted on Sharing  
Liturgy. <http://liturgy.richardbott.com/We pray in Jesus' name>

Prayer of confession: ~ adapted from: Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold  
this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

Communion Liturgy: from Rev, Kji Dousa, United Church of Christ

Benediction: [thebillabong.info](http://thebillabong.info)