



**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Easter 3
ANZAC Day Commemoration
26 April 2020**

(To stop the spread of Corona virus, in response to Government's ban and Uniting Church of Australia NSW & ACT Synod's strong recommendation, the Church Council of Parramatta Mission have decided to suspend all meetings and gatherings including Sunday worship. As a result, this is the fifth consecutive Sunday that the doors of the Leigh Memorial Church are not open for worship services. We are sorry and it will remain so until further notice.)

(Here is a full worship service prepared by Leigh Memorial Congregation minister, Rev Dr Manas Ghosh for this Sunday, 26.4.2020. to worship from the safety of people's home. This week's reflection is prepared by Rev Keith Hamilton, CEO and Senior Minister of Parramatta Mission. Before the service begins, you may prepare a worship space for yourself by placing a cross, a lighted candle and if possible, some flowers on a table. The hymns/songs can be said as prayers if not possible for solo/family singing. Have a blessed worship!)

God calls: We gather

Greetings and Welcome:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Welcome to worship God.

Today is a special day for as we worship God, we also commemorate the ANZAC Day. This day is celebrated annually on 25 April which was yesterday but today being the closest Sunday we commemorate ANZAC Day today.

Now that we have become an international congregation it would be helpful to give a brief introduction of the ANZAC Day to our non Australian friends.

The acronym ANZAC stands for the **Australian and New Zealand Army Corps** who served in the Gallipoli Campaign, their first engagement in the First World War.

In 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the Allied navies. The objective was to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, which was an ally of Germany during the war.

The ANZAC force landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Army commanded by Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk). What had been planned as a bold strike to knock the Ottomans out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months.

At the end of 1915, the Allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. The Allied deaths totaled over 56,000, including 8,709 from Australia and 2,721 from New Zealand.

As an Australian of Indian origin I would like to add that according to historians up to 15,000 Indian soldiers, who were part of the then British army, fought alongside the allied troops at Gallipoli. Among them 1,400 Indian soldiers died and up to 3,500 were wounded.

Though the Gallipoli campaign failed to achieve its military objectives it bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as an "Anzac legend" became an important part of the national identity in both countries which are evidenced in their mate ship, sacrifice and solidarity.

This day is observed with Dawn Service at Cenotaphs, ANZAC Day march and special services as all Australians come together in remembrance.

But this year due to Corona virus instead of in person we come together in spirit, to remember those who, in the tragedy of war gave their lives for Australia; and those who died for the freedom of all people.

We remember those who found rest on the ridges of Gallipoli;
those who rest in the cemeteries of the great wars;
those who rest in the haze of desert and jungle;
those who rest in the depths of the seas.

We remember those who have fallen in the defense of peace, on land, in the air and on the sea.

We remember each man, woman and child who has died so that the light of freedom, justice and humanity may continue to shine everywhere in this world. On this day people wear the red poppy, which has been used since 1921 to commemorate the war dead.

Hymn: *Together in Song* No. 47

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsHlwXTjAOU>

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure:
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all of us away:
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
remain our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Prayer of Praise:

Loving God,

We thank for this morning when you have enabled us to gather from different places around the world to worship you.

We praise you, O God, for every servant of yours who has lived out their lives truly and courageously, and ventured into dangerous places and difficult situations to fight for freedom, peace and justice.

Today, we praise you as we remember with gratitude the sacrifices made by thousands of Australian and New Zealander men and women who sacrificed their lives in the Great War fighting for a better world.

We praise you, O God, for the people of our own time, who stand by the truth which Christ has brought to the world, and work for the future Christ has promised us; those who stand up to governments and choose hardship and pain, rather than live a lie.

Above all, O God, we praise you for Jesus Christ – his life, death and resurrection – the climax of our faith and the source of faith for many nations.

Keep us strong, O Holy God, as we fight at this time the deadly corona virus; keep us firm in the faith that promises us that “no trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword would be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”. For we pray in his name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

(The following prayer of confession is an adaptation of a prayer which was spoken on the rubbles of the Cathedral in Coventry immediately after it was destroyed by German bombers in 1940. It is interesting that the same prayer is found on a stone plaque in Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church which was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1943 by the allied forces.)

Let us pray:

We all have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

The hatred that divides nation from nation, race from race. class from class –

Forgive us, O Merciful God!

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lay waste the earth –

Forgive us, O Merciful God!

Our envy of welfare and happiness of others –

Forgive us, O Merciful God!

Our indifference to the plight of the impoverished, imprisoned, the homeless, the refugees –

Forgive us, O Merciful God!

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children –

Forgive us, O Merciful God!

Amen.

Words of assurance and declaration of forgiveness:

When we confess our sins God is merciful and forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Hear then Christ's words of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: *(In the spirit of the Lord's Prayer please feel free to pray in our own mother tongue)*

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the times of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace: *(You may pass on the peace to your family members present with you, or, you may hold your two hands gently for some moments and think of those people you would like to pass on the 'Peace of the Lord'.)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

God speaks: We listen

Bible Readings: (Our readers are Neil and Darlene McGrath)

Acts 2:14, 32-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at^[a] the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.”’

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,^[b] this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers,^[c] what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.^[b] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us^[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection: Rev Keith Hamilton

Offering and Dedication: (This is an excerpt from an important email from Ian Gray in regard to your offering which I endorse.

The stark reality of this time is that since we have not been able to meet in person to worship God, congregational giving has dropped by 70%. Unfortunately, all the costs associated with our congregation are continuing. So please consider setting up a direct electronic transfer of financial giving to support the continued ministry of our congregation. The process is simple and straightforward. You need to ask your bank to send funds to the nominated account below. You can amend or stop these arrangements at any time.

The bank account details for Giving Direct (Offerings) is:-

Bank account name: Parramatta Mission Giving Direct

BSB: 634634

Account number: 100025901

So, would you please give this request a serious consideration. Thank you

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, receive and bless our gifts which we bring in response to your many gifts to us. May this reflect our gratitude for the diverse gifts with which you have enriched our lives - especially the gift of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People: Below are some prayer points. You may add your own prayers.

- All those suffering from COVID19
- All medical staffs, emergency staffs, chaplains and carers of COVID19 patients
- WHO and Governments of all nations fighting against COVID19
- Doctors, scientists and researchers trying to find a vaccine
- People who are under quarantine or self-isolation
- People who have lost their jobs
- People who are under lockdown
- Students, overseas students, children at home

- Teachers and education staffs
- Parents who are looking after their children
- Small business owners, daily labourers
- Victims of violence including domestic violence
- Disarmament of deadly weapons
- Organisations and individuals working for peace
- Churches all over the world
- Uniting Church in Australia
- Parramatta Mission, our three congregations and the Korean faith community
- PM staffs and volunteers, especially those working in the Mental health area, *Mealplus* and Emergency shelters
- Members of Leigh memorial Congregation, especially our senior friends and those who are unwell.

Amen.

We Remember

Recitation: “*Sir*” (written by Damian (Dib) Morgan)

Sir—would it help if I shed a tear
 I swear it’s the first time since this time last year
 My spine is a tingle—my throat is all dry
 As I stand to attention for all those who died.

I watch the flag dancing half way down the pole
 That [young] bugle player sends chills to my soul
 I feel the pride and the sorrow—there’s nothing the same
 As standing to attention on ANZAC Day.

So Sir—on behalf of the young and the free
 Will you take a message when you finally do leave
 To your mates that are lying from Tobruk to the Somme
 The legend of your bravery will always live on.

I’ve welcomed Olympians back to our shore
 I’ve cheered baggy green caps and watched Wallabies score

But when I watch you marching (Sir) in that parade
I know these are the memories that never will fade.

So Sir—on behalf of the young and the free
Will you take a message when you finally do leave
It's the least we can do (Sir) to repay the debt
We'll always remember you—Lest We Forget.

Prayer:

Dear God, we pray that the sacrifice of those who have gone before us will not be in vain. We dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and for the wisdom and strength to build a better world. **Amen.**

The Ode of Remembrance: (The Ode recited at Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations is the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's For the Fallen, first published in the London Times in 1914.)

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

A minute's silence:

The last Post: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McCDWYgVyys>)

Lest we forget.
Lest we forget.

God sends : We go

Hymn: Together in Song No. 607

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Benediction:

Go forth into the world to be a channel of God's peace.
Whoever you meet and wherever you go,
may you be a beacon of Christ's light,
radiating his love, friendship and joy.
The peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.