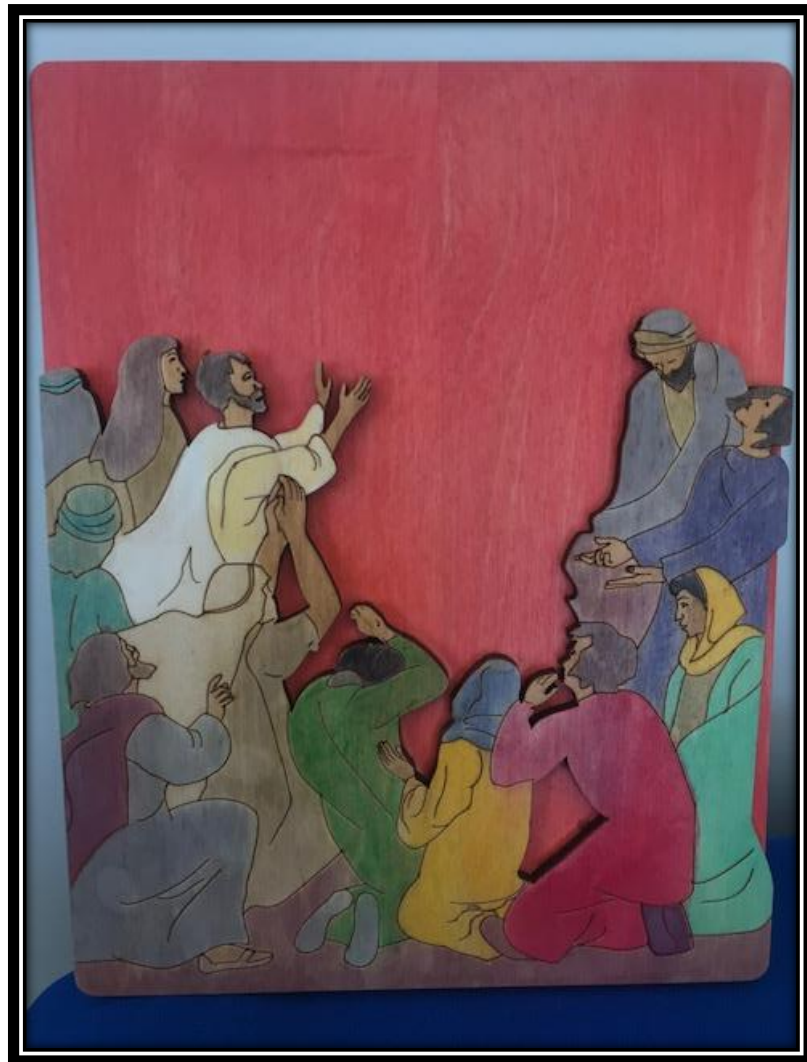


Leigh Memorial Congregation

Parramatta Mission

Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday 31 May 2020



Gathering God's People

Prelude: 'Come down, O love divine'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trA_o1x3fRQ

Lali

Introit

Acknowledgment of Country:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

If you have a candle in your room, one of the children might light it
and someone in your home read these words

**Christ Jesus is the light of the world.
May the Spirit of God lead you into all truth.**

Greeting:

We are a people of many languages,
Many cultures, many colours,
We are the body of Christ.

To the community of Christ
Scattered throughout the suburbs of this city:

Grace and peace to you.
And also to you. (And in Fijian)

Call to worship: Ps 104:24-25, 30,33-34.

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
The earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number -
living things both large and small.

When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the Lord.

Hymn.: TiS 179: 'Praise with joy the world's creator'

(Tune: Praise, my soul; Lyrics: John Bell and Garam Maule)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQnFlu8HcOg>

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.

Litany: 'Come, Spirit of God'.

Come, Spirit of God, come disturb us,
On this day of Pentecost:

Come, Spirit of God, enter into our homes, our rooms,
In this season of social distancing and lockdown.

Come, Spirit of God, blow where you will.
Disrupt our apathy: encourage our dreams.

Come, Spirit of God, hover over this groaning creation,
Rouse us to care and compassion.

Come, Spirit of God, source of life,
Let us worship God the Creator,
The God of Jesus Christ:

We worship you in spirit and in truth.

Amen:

Hymn: TiS 418 Enemy of Apathy (She sits like a bird)

(Tune: Thainaky; Lyrics: John Bell).

<https://link.smule.com/gtDBwf4sN6?channel=Copy-Link&lyricStyle=0>

1. She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters
Hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;
She sighs and she sings, mothering creation.
Waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.
2. She wings over the earth, resting where she wishes,
Lighting close at hand, or soaring through the skies;
She nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
Nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.
3. She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
Waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;
She weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
Nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.
4. For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
Gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;
She is the key opening the scriptures,
Enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

The spirit of God comes sailing on the wind

God is good, **All the time!**
All the time, **God is good!**

First time altogether, second time children

An Act of Confession and Trust in God

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times

**We have turned a deaf ear
To your Spirit of Life.**

For those times we have allowed
Our hopes to be dashed;
Our hearts have become heavy.

**We have forgotten that you call us
To love our neighbour as ourselves.**

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times

**We have looked away
And denied your Spirit of Truth.**

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times

**We have not always stood up
For what is right and just.**
Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times

**We have neglected the way
Your Spirit hovered over the face of creation.
We have not cared for your earth;**

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times

**We have lost sight of how
it is the Spirit's work
To create within us the confession
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**

A time of silent confession

Song: Spirit of the living God
<https://link.smule.com/mTw25tatN6?channel=Copy-Link&lyricStyle=0>

**Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me,
Mould me, fill me,
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.**

Reading from John 20:19-23

⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Words of Assurance:

So, if anyone is in Christ.
There is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away;
Behold, the new has come.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

SONG: Halle, halle, hallelujah (2x)

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

(And in Fijian)

Learning Together: 'Pente-what?'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqG_lvZhU-A

Song for children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAe1WnHrVkM>

The Service of the Word

New Testament:

Acts 2:1-21.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

- ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
- ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Reflection on Acts 2:1-13:

Conversation: 'A Church for all God's People'.

Conversation among Manas, Clive, Amelia
Using the biblical reflections from the church statement
'A Church for all God's People'. (see attachment)

Ending with this prayer from the statement

God our Creator,
You brought this Uniting Church into being.
You have called us to be your diverse
and multi-coloured people.
Show us how to value one another
as those made in your image.

Christ Jesus,
You reached out across the barriers that divided
Jews, Samaritans and Romans,
Enable us to cross the barriers that separate us
from one another.

Holy Spirit,
You are the Giver of Unity,
Unite your people in love that we may be
a community of justice, love and reconciliation -
A Church for all God's People!

Amen

Hymn: TiS 421. 'Where the spirit is, there is freedom'.

(Tune: Gus Ande: Lyrics: Per Harling).

<https://link.smule.com/ZnXwbFXsN6?channel=Copy-Link&lyricStyle=0>

*Where the Spirit is, there's freedom,
Where the Spirit is, there is life.*

1. Not in the word can our freedom be nourished,
Not by our things, only by Spirit.
Practice my children, to live by the Spirit,
Drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!

*Where the Spirit is, there's freedom,
Where the Spirit is, there is life.*

2. Heaven on earth, here we live, free to
Love and to share, carried by joy,
Practice my children, to live by the Spirit,
Daring today, to taste God's future

*Where the Spirit is, there's freedom,
Where the Spirit is, there is life.*

3. Wounds will be healed and eyes will be opened,
Imaging God and reflecting Jesus,
Practice my children, to live by the Spirit,
Heaven is here, time is made eternal.

*Where the Spirit is, there's freedom,
Where the Spirit is, there is life.*

Offering Prayer:

Prayers for Others

Lord, in your mercy
HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Song: 'May our lives and prayers be one'.

May our lives and our prayers be one - by Paul Somerville

May our | lives and our prayers be | one — —
As our | hopes shape the roads we walk | on,
And when our | work and our dream-ing's | done.
May our | lives and our prayers be | one.

* Within the rhythm of our days	———
* We take the time to muse and pray	———
* The fears we face, the tears we taste	———
* We view in light of holy grace...	———

May our lives...

We name our deepest hopes and dreams
For those we love and all in need.

We picture how the world could be.
We live the change we want to see.

May our lives...

Notices:

Hymn: TiS 411: 'Filled with the Spirit's power'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43wnrzFb73c>

1. Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
The infant church confessed its risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
No less your power of fellowship display.
2. Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
That unity may be our great desire:
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
And readiness in each work for all.
3. Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
In your strong care all those of every race:
Like wind and fire with life among us move
Till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

Dismissal and Blessing: