Join Zoom Meeting  https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355
Meeting ID: 545 078 6355 OR One tap mobile
+61280156011,5450786355# Australia
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Dial by your location
   +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Gathering God’s People

Lali    Siaki

Introit:  https://www.smule.com/c/2408445286_3614239931

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.

Acknowledgement of Country.

Greetings:

Jesus said:    I have called you friends

The apostle Paul said:

\[ 3\text{ I thank my God every time I remember you,} \quad 4\text{constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,} \quad 5\text{because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now} \]

Jesus said:    you are the light of the world:

To the body of Christ
Scattered like seeds
through the western suburbs of city:

Grace and peace to you.
And also to you.
Call to worship:

From Psalm 13:1-2a; 5-6.

1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
   How long will you hide your face from me?
2 How long must I bear pain[a] in my soul,
   and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
5 I trusted in your steadfast love;
   my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
6 I will sing to the Lord,
   because God has dealt bountifully with me.

Sere: https://www.smule.com/c/2408445286_3614232346

A Prayer of Approach:

In this mid-winter season
Of long nights and cold mornings
We set aside this time,
In our homes, in our own homes,
To gather together with others,
The body of Christ,
A fellowship of the Spirit,
A people of God:
To worship you,
The Creator God
In whose image we are made;
To hear once again
The words of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Words of forgiveness and healing,
Reconciliation and welcome.
To be touched by
The Spirit of God, the Source of Life,
Who comforts us,
Who strengthens us,
And who would have us dream
Dreams of what might be,
In this midwinter season
Of sunlit days and scurrying clouds,
We gather to worship you,
Three-in-one God.
Donu, donu, donu.

Amen.
God is Good
All the time. (everyone)
All the time
God is good

God is Good
All the time. (children)
All the time
God is good

**Mungu ni mwema / Know that God is good** (Congo)

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F   C7
| * - Know that - - | God is good -
  Mun – gu —— ni mwe- ma ——

C7 F
| * - Know that - - | God is good -
  Mun – gu —— ni mwe- ma ——

F7 Bb
| * - Know that - - | God is good -
  Mun – gu —— ni mwe- ma ——

F / C  C7 F
|God is good - - |God is good - - ||
  ni mwe- ma —— ni mwe- ma ——
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**An Act of Confession and Trust in God**

The apostle Paul wrote:

Only let your manner of life be worthy
Of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

: We are a pilgrim people:
We are a people on the way.
Forgive us, faithful God,

For those times we follow other paths;
For those times we lose the way.
The apostle Paul wrote:

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

You call us to love you
And to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Forgive us, faithful God,

For those times we have forgotten you;
For those times we did not love ourselves;

The apostle Paul wrote:

10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity,
let us work for the good of all,

You call us to act justly,
With mercy and compassion.
Forgive us, faithful God:

For those times that we showed
Through thought, word and deed
That our neighbours’ lives did not matter.

Silence
The apostle Paul wrote:

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Words of Assurance: (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Behold, I make all things new: the old has passed away.

Believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are loved,
Forgiven, and set free!

Behold salvation has come to this house.
Thanks be to God!
Song: ‘We are marching in the light of God’.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn16ABWn20c

The Peace (and in Fijian)

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Learning Together:

- Abraham and Isaac
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvs2Pf6elQM

- Action song for children:
  - ‘Father Abraham had many kids’
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPKp4AWmQol

Sharing (including Covid 19 update)
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUTLi2uIvGA

The Service of the Word

Hebrew Bible reading: Genesis 22:1-14 Suli Sadrata

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.
9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there
and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top
of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his
son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham,
Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or
do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your
son, your only son, from me.” 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a
thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt
offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:40-42  Sam Sadrata

40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the
name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes
a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the
reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to
one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of
these will lose their reward.”

Akisi Allison reflects on Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon: Coming to terms with difficult stories

The Offering and Prayer:

Prayers for Others: Penisoni Sadrata

Lord, in your mercy
HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Lord’s Prayer.

Notices:

Sere: https://www.smule.com/c/2408445286_3614221172

Dismissal and Blessing: Amelia or Sunil?
11 Finally, brothers and sisters, [a] farewell. [b] Put things in order, listen to my appeal, [c] agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of [d] the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

May the love of God  
The creator in whose image  
We are made:

Watch over all your days

May the peace of Christ  
The beloved Son:  
Be with you.

May the Spirit of God,  
The life giver,  
Raise you to new hope:  
Now and always,

Song: Thuma mina

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eik2HK7u9xA