

Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 4
28 June 2020

(Despite Government's lifting of some restrictions, to stop the spread of Corona virus at the recommendation of Uniting Church in Australia NSW & ACT Synod the Church Council of Parramatta Mission have decided not to open Leigh Memorial Church for worship yet. As a result, this is the fifteenth consecutive Sunday that the doors of the Leigh Memorial Church are closed 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, to worship from the safety of people's home. Today our preacher is Rev Keith Hamilton and Prayers of the People would be offered by Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler. Before the service begins, you may prepare a worship space for yourself by placing a cross, a lighted candle and if possible, some flowers. Thank you.)

God calls: We gather

Greetings & Welcome:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship:

Sitting in the comfort of our own homes we have gathered in this cyber space to worship God. We bring our thoughts and minds to God. But maybe we are not yet fully present.

Our minds may still be racing with many thoughts – the conversation at the breakfast table, the load of washing, the thought about the much-longed for family gathering at lunch - they still cling to us.

But now it is time to let go of these thoughts and centre our lives within God...

(Silence)

May God's stillness and peace rest upon us.
May God's presence permeate all our living.
May God's blessing bloom within and around us. Amen.

Hymn: *Together in Song No. 106*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

1. Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
Lord keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to son
and Spirit now be given:
one Lord in highest heaven:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
who ever was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Prayer of Adoration:

Eternal God,
whose mystery defies our knowledge,
yet defines our meaning;
whose love transcends our understanding,
yet transforms our existence;
whose power incites our fear,
yet inspires our faith – we praise your holy name.

No matter in what direction we look,
whether up or down or around or within –
your handiwork amazes us.
No matter what we behold –
whether the spacious heaven above us,
the good earth beneath us,
the teeming creatures around us,
or the aspiring person within us –
your wisdom overwhelms us.

We cannot contemplate anything you have made without standing in awe
of its Maker.

You are indeed a Great and Wise God, O Lord!

But we adore you for something greater than your greatness and wiser
than your wisdom.

We adore you for your love that you manifested on the Cross, the love that
will not let us go. It is the love that tells us that no matter how far we try to
go away from you, it will always draw us back to you; no matter how badly
we deface your image on us, we can never destroy it.

We praise you. We adore you and we worship you, O God our Creator,
Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

(time for silent confession)

Most Merciful God,

It's so easy to offer a cup of cold water to a thirsty person, yet we know we worry more about how that might inflate our bill at the end of the month. We are to open our hearts to others, but they may need to be careful lest they slip on our icy attitudes towards them. In this cold winter people are looking for places to lay their heads, yet our spare bedrooms continue to be the place where only the dust bunnies sleep.

Forgive us, O Merciful God. You did not have to become one of us, but you did, so we might experience your love. You did not have to welcome us into your family, but you do, so we might experience unexpected grace in our lives. You did not have to die for us, but in Jesus Christ you did, so we might have life with you forever. Shape us – our heart, mind and spirit just like Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness:

Broken, we are made whole;

thirsty, we are filled with living water;

longing for a renewed relationship with God,

we are welcomed with open arms by the One who forgives us.

Without a doubt, God's love never comes to an end.

We will tell the world of the grace

and peace which is ours.

We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song: Together in Song 720

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjf6bYQRbtU>

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, hlale, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

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 now and forever. Amen.**

Story Time with Amelia:

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

Psalm 13

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?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

5 But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Matthew 10:40-42

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.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: Together in Song 636

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4pdEzutrij8>

Refrain

*God has spoken to his people,
 hallelujah!*

*And his words are words of wisdom,
 hallelujah!*

Open your ears, O Christian people,
 open your ears and hear good news.
 Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
 God has come to you,
 God has come to you.

Refrain

Israel comes to greet the Saviour,
 Judah is glad to see his day;
 from east and west the peoples travel:
 he will show the way,
 he will show the way.

Refrain.

Reflection: Rev Keith Hamilton

**Offering: (The details for direct electronic transfer of financial giving to support the continued ministry of our congregation:
Bank account name: Parramatta Mission Giving Direct
BSB: 634634; Account number: 100025901. Thank you.)**

Prayer of Dedication:

Bless these gifts, O Most Generous God, that they may lift up the downhearted; give hope to the despair; nurture the young; strengthen the aged; give confidence to the powerless; support the poor; empower the abused women, men and children, and through all these your name may be glorified. Amen.

Prayers of the people: Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler

God sends : We go

Hymn: *Together in Song* 629

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=when+i+needed+a+neighbour>

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
Refrain

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
Refrain

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
 When I needed a shelter, were you there?

Refrain

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
 When I needed a healer, were you there?

Refrain

When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?
 When they put me in prison, were you there?

Refrain

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
 Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

Refrain

Commissioning:

Let us go forth to walk in God's light.

We will show others the way to God's heart.

Let us go to bring hope and healing to the world.

With a gift as simple as a cup of water,

and as complex as our lives, we will join Jesus in serving those around us.

Let us go forth to gather up the little ones
 of our communities into our homes and hearts.

With the gift of the Holy Spirit,

we are no longer strangers but God's family.

Benediction:

And as you go

May the blessings of God almighty – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**