

**Leigh Memorial Congregation - Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday July 5th July, 2020 - Pentecost 5 - 9.30am**



***Come to me, all you who are heavily burdened - I will give you rest!
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...***

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>
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Although the Government has lifted some restrictions, to stop the spread of Corona virus, the Church Council of Parramatta Mission have decided to continue online worship. This decision is made on the recommendation of the wider church and responds to our commitment to be mindful of the most vulnerable in our communities.

This service allows people to worship together from a distance. Our Liturgist today is Student Minister Sunil Back and our Sermon is from 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 as God's Community

Greeting and Call to Worship (*Sunil*)

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

The Prophet Zechariah proclaims:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

In praise of God, we come together online to shout aloud.
Glory to God!

Glory to God!

Together we read Psalm 145:8-14:

[Sunil will lead and AKB will read the bits in bold print with the congregation]

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power, to make known to all people your
mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures
throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious
in all his deeds.

**The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

Song: God bless to us our bread

<https://youtu.be/jppSy27tixM>

**God bless to us our bread,
And give food to all those who are hungry**

**And hunger for justice to those who are fed.
God bless to us our bread.**

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Confession
Assurance of Pardon

Song: Mungu ni mwema

<https://youtu.be/1e0Zd8jXvmk>

**Mungu ni mwema [x3]
Ni mwema, Ni mwema**

**Know that God is good [x3]
God is good! God is good**

God invites us to encounter Human and Divine

Reading Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" --let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose

daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.



Poem Rebekka - AKB (read by Mary Pearson)

My parents, filled with pioneer spirit.
Came from the great city of Ur.
Pioneering halted with home by the river.
From Haran town, they'd no longer stir.

My lot seemed tame, by compare.
I would pause to wonder at stars at night.
Where did they shine? Upon what distant place?
Servant's story came to my ears delight.

He told of One God calling to journey.
He told of the Oaks of Mamre tall.
As he told of a family looking for kin,
I heard of a life into which I might fall.

And so to Shechem, Bethel - at each stop,
we prayed to reach our destination.
Could this One truly promise us
That we might mother many nations?

I prayed, I too, could hear such words.
I prayed, I too, could build new home.
I prayed with every passing step
I would no longer need to roam.

Approaching those great trees of oak,
Well met, we were, by Abraham's son.
I wore my veil, but keenly glared,
Was this to be the looked for one?

Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Reflection on the Gospel Sunil

Sermon Casting off golden crowns for new yokes Amelia

MISMATCH Matt 11: 28-30

The oldtimer chuckled
remembering bullocks
harnessed to pull a plough;
one powerful beast
and one weak runt
together yoked somehow.

The small one strained
and did its best
to make a useful team,
the big one bore
without complaint
the weight of that crossbeam.

The oldtimer said
that's how it was
with him and his best Mate,
he did his bit
as best he could
but Christ took all the weight.

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Hymn TIS 409 O Breath of Life <https://youtu.be/dRAYbpe1HM0>

**O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and pow'r;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.**

**O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore, for this we plead.**

**O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.**

**Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.**

Holy Communion

FOR PEOPLE AT HOME...

INVITATION

We are all invited to God's table,
wherever we are, whoever we are with, whoever may be absent...
It is God's table, not the church's table!
Today, may our tables at home all become God's tables!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today, may we remember that every time we break bread at home, we can be like the friends at Emmaus who knew they were in the presence of God.

ONLINE GATHERING

The Invitation

This is the table of Jesus Christ
We come to this table to be nourished
We come to this table to be re- membered as one body
We come to this table to be made new
We come to this table because Jesus calls us by name.

The Institution

On the night in which he was betrayed,
As the disciples were sharing a meal,
Jesus took a piece of bread and after giving thanks he broke it
And he gave it to his disciples and said:
This is my body - It is broken for you - Do this to re-member me.

In the same way also the cup after supper, saying:
This cup is the new covenant with God made possible because of my
Death. Drink this, all of you, to re-member me.

So we do as Jesus invites
We set aside this bread and this wine, and we come to God with our
prayers of thanksgiving.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is right you made us,

And before us you made the world we live in

And before the world, you made all that is and all that will be.

Through the stories of the past

you reveal that you call the most unlikely people to leadership

You do not shy away from hardship or suffering

but in brokenness you breathe new life,

In suffering you breathe comfort and in despair you breathe hope

You came to us and entered time in Jesus.

He confronts our arrogance. He challenges our truth.

He notices the overlooked, respecting the gifts of each and valuing

those considered worthless

We give you our thanks

We broke him but he did not stay broken.

He rose to life, breathing forgiveness and giving us hope.

our gratitude rises inspired by the Holy Spirit

We join with and the whole creation in every time and place saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

We come to be re-membered

to the one who knows us and calls us by name.

We share at a table spread across households ...

Different bodies, different homes, different plates and cups,

And one heart, your heart coming alive in us

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all our households

and these gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with the fullness of Jesus.

We pray for all the world...

The 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 forever. Amen.

Would you all join me in lifting you bread ...

The body of Christ is broken for us...

Will you join me in lifting you cup...

The cup of the new covenant is poured out for us.

[We share in the feast of heaven wherever we are...]

The Prayer after Distribution

We thank you God, for being present in our community.
You have come into our homes and our bodies to remake us,
Fit for mission in your world. May our homes and our hearts be enlarged
With your love for the world. Amen.

Tasmanian Sung Blessing. https://youtu.be/Kxd5XyZ6y_o

**May the west wind breathe softly on your shoulder
and the gentle rain refresh all life around.
May the light across the mountain paint your world with brighter days
as the tall trees lift their heads from fertile ground.**

**May the pain of the past meet truth and healing
and our hoping, loving, giving, bloom and grow.
May the wonder of our island nurture caring in us all
and the sacredness of land and living grow.**

**May the deep waters carry us to others
and the gleaming skies direct our thoughts above
may the beauty all around us fill us body, soul and mind
and regenerate our world with peace and love.** - (c) John Macrae, Hobart 2019