

**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 9
Holy Communion
2 August 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 twentieth consecutive Sunday that the doors of the Leigh Memorial Church are closed for face to face worship services. We are sorry and it will remain so until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.)

(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. Before the service you may prepare a worship space for yourself by placing a cross, a lighted candle and if possible, some flowers. Today we will celebrate the Holy Communion as permission for this has been granted by the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Standing Committee, for the period of COVID-19 isolation measures only. You are welcome to take part in it. But if you choose to abstain from taking the elements in this context, be assured that you too would be held in the love of Christ and of this community. So please keep a small size bread and some juice ready for the Communion service. At the end of the service if there is any leftover bread or juice, please use them up with reverence. Thank you.)

God calls: We gather

Greetings & Welcome:

Grace to you and peace from God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer and Holy Spirit the Sustainer.

In this time of protracted uncertainty, fear, frustrations and suffering we gather today to worship God who is our refuge and strength, a sure help in times of trouble.

We are also here to celebrate life's beauty in simple things – in sharing of broken bread and crushed grapes, the singing of birds, clear blue sky, dew drops on the blades of grasses, phone calls or a text message from a friend or a loved one, our kinship with each other and with the earth, and to be inspired to create a more compassionate world, beginning with ourselves.

Hymn: *Together in Song No. 154*

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

1. Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.

*Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon from sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
these are the blessings your love will provide.

Prayer of Adoration:

Your glory flows
through all generations,
as you name every family
in heaven and on earth.
And so we come to you this day,
O Mother and Father God.

Your grace is
higher than the farthest star;
your peace is
deeper than our greatest emptiness;
your love spans
the abyss of death;
your hope stretches
into all eternity.
And so we come to you this day,
O Jesus Christ.

When our lives bottom out,
your grace is still our bedrock;
when our spirits run dry,
you fill us with your joy;
when we falter in our faith,
you strengthen us
to serve with hope and peace.
And so we come to you this day,
O Holy Spirit.

God our parent,
Jesus our friend
Holy Spirit our source of strength
We adore you, we praise you and we worship you. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

God looks at us, to see if we are wise enough to offer confession, to receive forgiveness, and to seek the healing love of Christ. Let us prove our wisdom, and set aside our foolish pride, as we confess our sins together.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Most merciful God,
 We confess to you and to one another,
 that we have sinned against you
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our
 whole heart and mind and strength.
 We have not fully loved our neighbours as ourselves.
 We have not always had in us the mind of Christ.
 You alone know how often we have grieved you
 by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways.
 Forgive us, we pray to you, O most merciful God;
 Free us from our sins.
 And renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. Amen.**

Words of assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness:

The love of God is our firm foundation.
 By faith we are rooted deeply in the Lord.
 May we know the breadth and length
 and height and depth of the love of Christ
 as we hear Christ's word of grace to us:
 Your sins are forgiven
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song: Together in Song No. 720

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

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
 Halle, hlale, hallelujah!
 Halle, halle, hallelujah!
 Halle, halle, hallelujah!

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

Genesis 32:22-31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man[a] said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,[b] for you have striven with God and with humans,[c] and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel,[d] saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Matthew 14:13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: *Together in Song No. 429*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQpj4TSe-Ec>

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.

2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All in all!

3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Reflection:

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:

In our hands, the gifts seem so paltry, but in yours, they can bring plentitude of grace to those who are so hungry for hope. In our hearts, we wonder how effective our ministries might be, but joined with yours, we can indeed bring healing, community, peace, and joy to our struggling communities. Bless us and our gifts, multiply our hopes and our efforts, that your wonders might come into the world around us. Amen.

Prayers of the people:**God Feeds : We are nourished**

Hymn: *Together in Song* No. 537

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYnF86ZzHH8>

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
 bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
 gives us love to tell, bread to share:
 God-Immanuel everywhere.

Refrain.

Invitation:

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.
 Everyone is welcome to be here.

**In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion,
 where all people live with respect and dignity.**

Everyone present will receive a share.

**In this way, we lift up a world of generosity,
 where, as in the examples of Jesus,
 abundance overcomes scarcity so all are fed.**

Everyone is invited here to take a portion,
 and to see others also receive.

**In this way, we lift up a world of sufficiency,
 where entrenched systems of privilege are challenged,
 wealth is shared equally, and all are satisfied with enough.**

Setting apart of the Elements:

Let us now follow our Lord's example in words and action.

As Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread,

I take these elements of bread and wine to be set apart from common use to
 this holy purpose and mystery;

And as he gave thanks and blessed,

let us come to God with our prayer of thanks giving.

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.

With all we are, we give you glory,
O Holy God, sovereign of all time and space.
We bless you for this wide, red land,
for its rugged beauty,
its changing seasons,
for its diverse peoples,
and for all that lives upon this fragile earth.

You have called us to be the Church in Parramatta.
With Jesus Christ as our head
we are here with the mission
to be a community transforming lives
with grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.
We rejoice with all that you have made,
as we join the company of heaven in their song.

**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.**

You alone are holy, God of every moment,
and in your Child, Jesus, we find that love we cannot understand.
He could have stayed on the safe shores of glory,
but came to bring us hope in every storm we face.
He could have kept your abundance for himself,
but took your gifts and poured them out for us,
so much that there were leftovers to share with those around us.
He could have left us to our foolish lives,
but confounded the plans of sin
by defeating death at its own game,
and restored us in that refuge called the resurrection.

As we try to understand his willingness to restore
our fragmented lives through his brokenness,

as we ponder that miracle which is beyond death,
 we proclaim that mystery we call faith:
We know God's love, by the death of Christ;
we received the grace of God, by the resurrection of Christ;
we will be fed in glory, by the return of Christ.

We gather at this Table which is blessed
 by your Spirit of transformation.
 The broken pieces of the bread
 are just enough to strengthen us
 so we can go out to serve our fragmented world.
 The cup of grace overflows with hope,
 so we can see those around us,
 the families without hope,
 the children without food,
 the elderly without friends,
 the world without peace.

And when that day comes
 when this creation would reflect your kingdom,
 you will gather us around the Table of the Great Banquet
 with our sisters and brothers
 of every time, of every place,
 and we will sing our thanks to you forever and ever. 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 now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread:

Christ is the bread of joy,
who shares food with all.

Christ is the cup of life,
who has compassion for all.

Let us receive what we are;
 let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Lamb of God:

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.

The Communion:**Prayer after Communion:**

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love and strengthened by your life.

Now we are sent forth into this world to live into the vision God has laid on
 our hearts:

To feed as we have been fed,

To forgive as we have been forgiven,

To love as we have been loved.

Amen.

God sends : We go**Hymn: *Together in Song No. 569***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3NmfmVGblw>

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou are mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore!
feed me now and ever more!

Open now the living fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield!
be thou still my strength and shield!

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee!
I will ever give to thee

Commissioning:

As we prepare to leave this virtual space where we have
lifted our voices in song and thanksgiving
may we now show forth our thanks
in simple acts of kindness and concern,
so the essential nature of our faith
may be evident in our daily lives.

So go now, to find the thirsty.

We will show them where the living water flows.

Go now, to find the hungry.

We will share from our abundance to feed them.

Go now, to find the stranger.

We will embrace them as sister and brother.

Blessing Song: Together in Song No. 778

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u-WxpmOpN4>

Shalom to you now,

shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies

bless you my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom,

Christ be your shalom.