

**Leigh Memorial Congregation - Parramatta Mission  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Sunday July 12th July, 2020 - Pentecost 6 - 9.30am**

What you say, LORD, lights up the track in front of us  
..... so we can see where to put our feet. (Psalm 119:105)

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Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>  
Meeting ID: 545 078 6355 OR One tap mobile  
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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 Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler and our Preacher is Sunil Baek, a final year Candidate for Ministry, doing his Placement with us. 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

Introit ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL  
<https://youtu.be/qY9G00WWUVI>



Covenant

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### Acknowledgement of Country

The Parramatta River holds the stories of our heritage.  
At this river, where the eels lie down to spawn, we are thankful for the gift of life.  
We remember the Darug people, who have nurtured life in this place  
from beyond our knowledge of time.  
Under the shared sky, where the Seven Sisters and the Southern Cross  
shine down upon us, no matter where we have come from,  
we pay our respects also to the many other indigenous peoples  
whose stories are entwined in creation.  
We commit ourselves to standing with those of this Land's kin and skin.  
We commit to behave as those who join together  
in the responsibility of caring and listening to the signs of the sacred in this land.

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### Greeting, Prayer and Call to Worship *(Amelia)*

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

Holy Friend,  
give us the sensitivity to know how great you are,  
the wisdom to understand how complete you are,  
the humility to accept how hidden you are,  
the faith to trust how close you are,  
and the love to adore how beautiful you are.

Together we read Psalm 119:105-112  
*[AKB will lead and Sunil will read the bits in bold print with the congregation]*

### **Psalm 119:105-112**

What you say, LORD, lights up the track in front of us  
.....**so we can see where to put our feet.**  
We are committed to doing what you say is right;  
.....**We give our word and sign on the line.**  
We have been put through the wringer here, LORD;  
.....**put us back on our feet, just as you promised.**  
We are giving you the credit for everything, LORD;  
.....**accept our gift and teach us how to do things your way.**

Even though our grip on life is shaky,  
.....**We never forget what you have taught us.**  
Ruthless thugs are always trying to derail us,  
.....**but you have shown us the right track and we're sticking to it.**  
Your guidance is a rich heritage for our future;  
.....**it put smiles on our faces forever.**  
Our mind fixes on following your directions,  
.....**come what may, forever.**

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Song: All good gifts      <https://youtu.be/KnUs7R9oFkU>

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land..  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand..  
He sends us snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain...  
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain...

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from Heaven above  
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love...

We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food,  
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts  
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from Heaven above..

So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love..  
I really wanna thank you Lord!

## Confession (AKB)

We know for sure that we do not have to talk God into forgiving us.  
God knows our need before we ask,  
and has provided in the crucified Jesus a therapeutic love  
that can never be exhausted.  
In confession we get honest  
and ask the Spirit God to come in and put things right.

*Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love,  
we admit to you that we are like stony fields,  
capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,  
but also we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.*

*Your mercy has taken root in us  
but we do not share enough of it with others,  
your justice has grown on us*

*but we have inadequately implemented it,  
your truth has showered on us  
but we have let it run to waste,  
your love has blossomed among us  
but we have been slow to set fruit*

Please sow your seeds of love in us.

If our hearts become like stony ground, please soften them.  
If our hearts are like busy footpaths, please save us from temptations.  
If our hearts sprout with nettles and thistles,  
please clean out all such weeds.  
When our hearts become like good, clean soil,  
please help us to harvest truth, kindness and happiness.

### 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.

Hear these words of assurance:

Jesus planted and grew nothing but good seed.  
Where sin abounds love much more abounds.

Receive from such abundance and give thanks.  
For we are blest with spiritual riches...  
We have the restoration and blessing of Christ with us,  
drawing us beyond present struggles  
to God's own promised Life.  
Our sins are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

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**

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## God invites us to encounter Human and Divine

Reading      Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came

out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.



Birth of Jacob and Esau

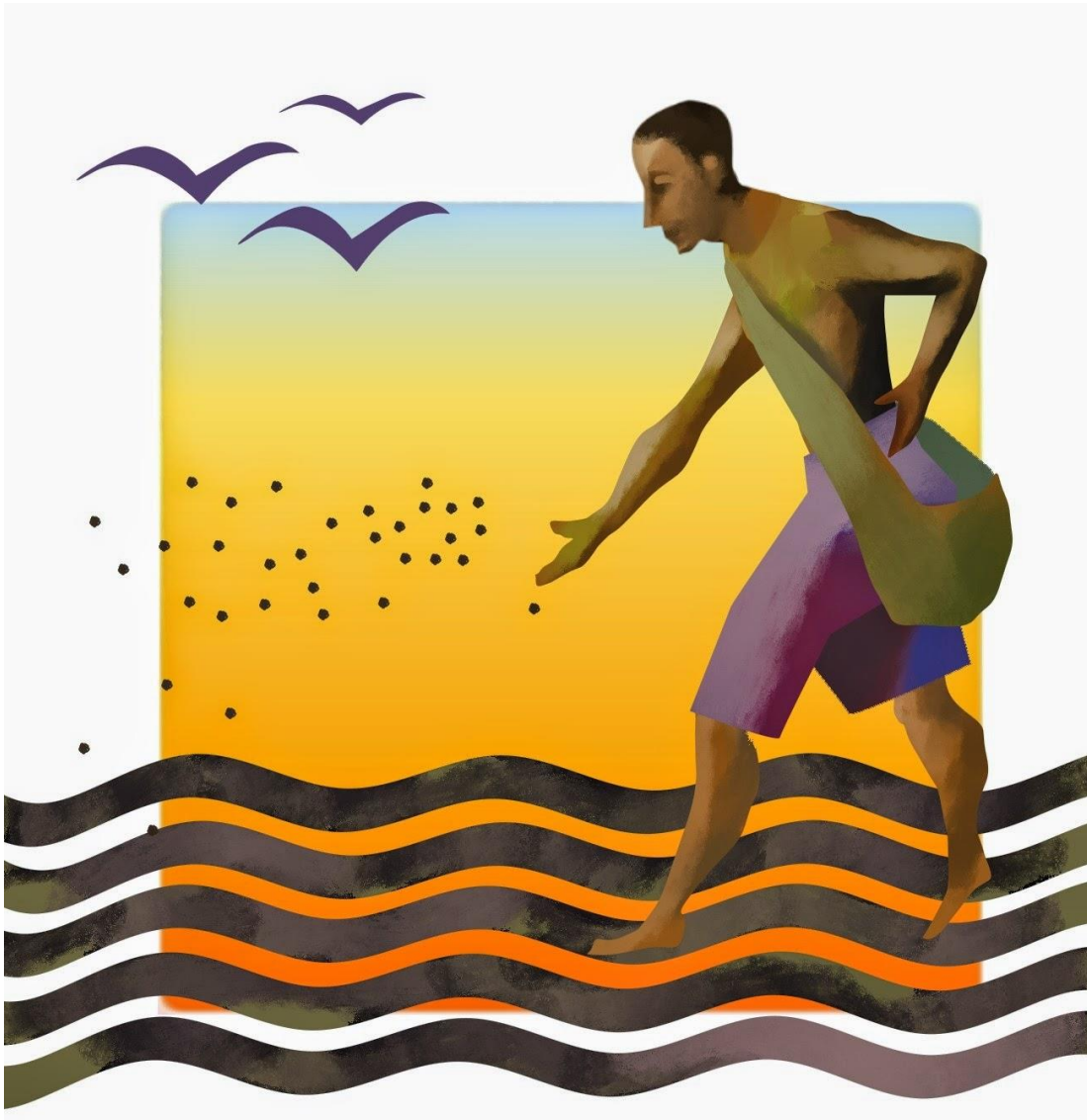
*When we hear the stories from Genesis, we are reminded that these were real people. The bible tells us of relationships, moving homes, marriages, new families. We can quickly gloss over the huge changes in people's lives. The event of a wedding is a big deal. It marks life changes... so - let us hear about a wedding and what it means for a couple of parents...*

### Reflection - after the wedding (Ian and Margie)

Reading      Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 [we will see a visual version of the story - Sunil]

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the

sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and



in another thirty."

Sermon - Sunil Baek

## Song - May our lives and our prayers be one

<https://youtu.be/2mnPokm2jUE>

May our lives and our prayers be one  
As our hopes shape the roads we walk on,  
And when our work and our dreaming'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.

\* - - 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 long to see.

Music by Paul Somerville, 2013 (Paddington UC), sung at Parramatta Mission, 2020

We pray for all the world...

Today like every day there are people who are desperately hungry for a slice of bread or a handful of rice, and there are churches and agencies trying to bring them nourishment.

We pray particularly for Meals Plus and Bula Feeding Ministry.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

Today like everyday there are people imprisoned for religious and political conviction or reasons of public safety, and there are churches and agencies trying to support them in their confinement and offer hope of liberation.

We pray particularly for those in detention and those in hard lockdown.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

Today like every day there are serious injustices perpetuated in our Australian cities and rural communities, and there are churches and agencies trying to bring about changes. We pray particularly for those involved in the ongoing responses to drought, cyclone and bushfire.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

Today like every day there are people accidentally killed and injured, or diseased and dying, shocked and weeping, and there are churches and agencies trying to ease their distress.

We pray particularly for the staff and work at 175,  
supporting health workers and families of those who are ill.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

Today like every day there are many unemployed and unwanted or on  
various forms of welfare, stressed about how to survive, and there are  
churches and agencies trying to help them. We pray particularly for Par-  
ramatta Mission's many welfare workers and volunteers.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

Today like every day there is hidden frustration and sorrow, loneliness  
and fear, mental torment and self hatred, and there are churches and  
agencies trying to bring relief. We pray particularly for Likemind and  
Headspace, for Weslars and our HASI services.

***Loving God, please hear the cry of human need  
and bless those who attempting to answer it.***

O God our help in ages past, nothing in space or time can come between  
you and us;

nor can we ever be lost, not even in the immensities of eternity.

We pray particularly for those we love and for ourselves.

*silence*

Keep us close to and aware of the heartbeat of your almighty love.

*Amen!*

Offering of Our gifts and Ourselves for the sake of the World

Tasmanian Sung Blessing. [https://youtu.be/Kxd5XyZ6y\\_o](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

**Blessing and Sending** - Sunil

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You are welcome stay online for social time and notices... this generally goes for 5-10 minutes.