

**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 8
26 July 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 nineteenth 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. Today our preacher is Rev Keith Hamilton. 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 the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer and Holy Spirit the Sustainer.

Opening Prayer:

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.

Song: *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One, is here.
Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith, receive from him.
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Music & words: David J. Evans (b. 1957) Copyright © 1986 Thankyou Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Loving God,

We thank you for this privilege to come to worship you with our sisters and brothers in Christ and we take this opportunity to thank you for your manifold blessings upon us.

We thank you for this land of ours, its people and the diversity of culture, traditions and languages. We thank you for its unity in diversity, its mateship, work, leisure, sports and charity.

We thank you for our families and friends, for the love, support and care they provide.

We thank you for our church, its worship, witness and service within its bound and beyond.

But most of all we thank you for your coming amongst us in the person of Jesus Christ, living among us, loving us and dying for us so that we can be saved. We thank you that in this time of pandemic you are with us providing us with your peace and comfort. What a wonderful manifestation of your love and mercy! And we thank you and adore you for this wonderful gift.

O God, may all that transpire us in this hour of worship be dedicated as a gift of love for Jesus Christ. May every song, every prayer, every thought and every word truly give honour and glory to his name and touch and transform us in such a way that we may go from this place restored and renewed to live and work as your people for your glory and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

(time for silent confession)

Most Merciful God, we live in a world that not only loves big things but almost worships them, like big cars, big houses, big bank accounts, big, big, big! And you must be disappointed in us when we forget that from even the smallest thing something mighty can happen. Today you remind us from your holy word of the smallness of the mustard seed and a pinch of yeast. Each of these things grew into something that offered shelter, peace, and hope, which became the treasures of compassion. Take away our need for the big possessions. Open our hearts to receive your word of love, healing, humility and compassion and let our spirits be ready to grow for you. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your faithful presence. For all things will work for the good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose. Amen.

Words of assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness:

Don't be frantic! God is working mighty things in your life. You have been given the spirit of hope and courage. Place your trust in God's absolute care.

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!

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

Romans 8:26-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes[a] with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God,[b] who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit[c] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.[d]

28 We know that all things work together for good[e] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.[f] 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. God's Love in Christ Jesus

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.[g] 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: *Together in Song No. 164* (Amelia, Could you please check the music)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sdMssEBQol>

The great love of God
 is revealed in the Son,
 who came to this earth
 to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream
 flowing clear to the sea,
 makes clean every heart
 that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world,
 every barrier it breaks,
 the hills it lays low,
 and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours,
 O how lavishly giv'n!
 the pearl of great price,
 and the treasure of heav'n.

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:

We glorify you, O God, through the harvest of our lives. May they be used to reveal your glory in ways which proclaim Jesus as your beloved Son, and in ways which show that we have indeed listened to him. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Prayers of the people:

God sends : We go

Hymn: *Together in Song* No. 594

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgl4Sol-5sk>

Fight the good fight with all thy might,
 Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
 lay hold on life, and it shall be
 thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
 lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
 life with its way before us lies;
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; and on thy Guide
 lean, and his mercy will provide,
 lean, and the trusting soul will prove
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not, nor fear; his arm is near;
 he changes not, and thou art dear;
 only believe, and thou shalt see
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

Commissioning:

Go forth into the world as mustard seeds.

We will offer shelter, hope and courage to those who have none.

Go forth into the world as yeast.

We will leaven the world with love, compassion and kindness.

Go forth into the world as God's treasure. .

We will help those who have no means of assistance, who feel abandoned, who are lost.

Benediction:

And as you go

May you be wrapped in the shawl of God's love.

May you be cherished by Jesus Christ.

May you be blessed by the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.