

WELCOME

Welcome to all who join together in worship- whether joined through the use of technology- or alone in following the printed material. All are welcome.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The love, mercy and peace, of Messiah Jesus be with you all.

And also with you.

Because of Christ, we can slip easily into worship, without apprehension or fear. But that should not lessen our sense of wonder in the presence of such an awesome Love.

So let us prayerfully and care-fully worship God.

SONG TiS 152 Joyful, joyful we adore you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxEUIJuDQfA> words and music Joyful, Joyful we adore thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully.
3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our brother,

all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to your joy above.

Words Henry Van Dyke/Music adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYER

Holy God, your desire to guide us far exceeds our capacity to imagine such blessing, and the assurance of such guidance and care has surely been realised in the person of Jesus Christ.

He enlightens our lives, dispelling the dark areas by planting the promise of newness and growth through the gift of his Spirit.

He demonstrated to the full the depth of your care through his love and compassion - a love which resonated in people's lives, and a compassion which permeated all his actions. We offer our praise and thanksgiving for such precious gifts and pray that this time of worship will be a worthy response to such blessings.

We give thanks for all those who commit their lives to seeking out and saving the lost, as Jesus did, and pray that their lives continue to be nourished by the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The stories of suffering we hear and see daily on our television screens resonate in our hearts and remind us of the times we do nothing in response.

Merciful God, when we fail to reach out to those whose lives are lived on arid landscapes devoid of hope,
please forgive us.

When we fail to recognise the pain of people of all ages whose lives are rooted in bitter and destructive memories,
please forgive us.

When we are eager to judge and condemn those whose appearance and actions disturb our sensibilities,
please forgive us.

Set before our hearts and minds each day, O God, the example of Jesus Christ,
so that we may love unconditionally, as he loved,

so that we may touch the lives of those who believe they are untouchable, as he did,
and endeavour to seek out and save the lost, even as he did.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, to this Word:

“Where sin abounds love much more abounds”.

Receive from such abundance and give thanks. You, my sisters and brothers, are among the richest people in the world. You have the wealth of Christ with you always, even to the end of time.

Thanks be to God!

STORY

Sarah

SONG Wide, wide as the ocean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QURo0UrQLy0> words and music

(Sing three times with a chorus)

Wide, wide as the ocean,
high as the Heaven above;
deep, deep as the deepest sea
is my Saviour's love.
I, though so unworthy,
still am a child of his care,
for his word teaches me
that his love reaches me ev'rywhere.

Words C Austin Miles Public Domain C.C.L.I. No. 237097

READINGS

Psalm 119: 105-112

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

¹⁰⁶I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.

¹⁰⁷I have suffered much;
preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth,
and teach me your laws.

¹⁰⁹Though I constantly take my life in my hands,
I will not forget your law.

¹¹⁰The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
¹¹¹Your statutes are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
¹¹²My heart is set on keeping your decrees
to the very end.

This is God's word,
Let us give thanks to God

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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."

This is God's word,
Let us give thanks to God

SERMON

SONG **Christ Taught Us Of a Farmer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ggiJCD6pjA> Music only

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.
But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.*
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.

We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.

Words Carolyn Winfrey Gillette C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear God,
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 nestles 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.

In the name of Jesus
who planted and grew nothing but good seed.

It is written: If you do not love your brother whom you can see, you cannot claim to love God who is unseen. Let us pray for our sisters and brothers, the world over.

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.

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

Today like everyday there are people falsely accused and wrong convicted, or imprisoned for religious and political conviction, and there are churches and agencies trying to set them free.

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.
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.

Today like every day there are many unemployed and unwanted, or addicted to alcohol and drugs, or in prostitution and crime, and there are churches and agencies trying to help them.
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.

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.
In all and above all and through all, keep us close to and aware of the heartbeat of your almighty love.
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Who taught us to pray

***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.
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.***

OFFERING

Receive and bless these gifts and our lives, O God, which we offer in response to your love revealed so clearly in Jesus. As he planted the seeds of love and life in our lives, strengthen us to nourish others with the fruits of our faith made visible through these gifts, our love and our witness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you

SONG Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oq9vcQqI93U> Words and music

1.
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
3. 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.

C.C.L.I. No. 237097

BENEDICTION

Grace, mercy and peace be with you
from God who creates

Jesus Christ who lives
and the Holy Spirit who sustains you this day and every day.

Prayers adapted from Rev Bruce Prewer and the late Rev Dr Moira Laidlaw Used with permission