



BLESSING

Go, strengthened by the power of God which raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

Go to be witnesses in what you say and what you do.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and upon you this day and every day.

Westmead Uniting

*A Congregation of
Parramatta Mission*

Pentecost 8A

Sunday 2nd August 2020



WELCOME

Welcome to everyone as we join together in worship. It doesn't matter whether we are together in person, reading this at home on our own, or joining through technology - all are welcome.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of challenge and in the midst of change,
we can count on God to be with us.
There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.
God alone is worthy of praise so let us worship God.



OFFERING

May you bless these gifts, O loving God, so that they might be used for mission and ministry in this place and the wider community. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

So may the Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us share a sign of peace as we pray for God's world.

SONG TiS 161 Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf3mgRUZkAk> Words and music

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926- C.C.L.I. No. 237097

We praise you, Lord God, for your faithful servants in every age, and ask that we may share with them Christ's resurrection glory, through his death and rising again for our salvation. Hear us, Creator God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us 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.*

SONG **TiS 152 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxEUIJuDQfA>

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.

PRAYERS

God of grace,
We hear your call but we are not always at our best.
We are not always open-minded or accepting when we come to worship.

Often we rush in,
bursting with the circumstances of our lives,
and so preoccupied with other things.
So here and now, we stop.

We breathe out and we let go of distracting noise and we settle
in your company.

We praise you O God, for mercy that reaches out,
For patience that waits our returning,
And for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.
We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with
forgiveness,
and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent, to rejoice and receive your love.

Though we are sinners, and even though we try, nothing we
can ever do makes us worthy of your love.
You are faithful and worthy of all praise. So we praise you and
thank you for who you are, for all you offer, and for all you have
done in Jesus.
We praise you, Great God, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving God we have betrayed you by following our own way.
We have denied you, by fearing to follow yours.

We have mocked you by not taking your death seriously.
Lord we are lost. Let your forgiveness find us.

Hold us in your strong arms and give us your new life.
Live in us and be with us day by day,
That together we may make a world that is new,
***for we need you in the name of Christ,
Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God
your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when
we ask in faith:
receive the prayers we offer.

Strengthen your people for their witness and work in the world.
Fill your ministers with your Spirit that they may faithfully preach
the gospel and administer your holy sacraments. Unite in the
truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in
love and proclaim your glory in all the world. One faith, one
Lord, one God.
Lord, hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Give wisdom to those in authority in every land, and give to all
peoples a desire for righteousness and peace, with the will to
work together in trust, to seek the common good and to share
with justice the resources of the earth,.
Lord, hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for ourselves and each other, our families, our
neighbours, and our friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in
love for you and for one another.
Lord, hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Comfort and heal, merciful Lord, all who are in sorrow, need,
sickness, or any other trouble. We pray for all in the hospitals in
Westmead, for all in need and all who care for them. We think
of those who need your healing hand, Jean, Adrian and
Nicholas, Col and Nancy and the others whom we love and
care for.
Lord, hear our prayer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Keith Hamilton

SONG AHB HYMN 565 "Feed us now, O Son of God...."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_HATMnrtqg&t=5s Music only

The people came to hear you, the poor, the lame, the blind;
they asked for food to save the, and you fed them, body and
mind.

*Feed us now, O Son of God,
as you fed them long ago.*

The ones who didn't listen, the rich, the safe, the sure,
they didn't think they needed the offering of a cure...

It's hard for us to listen, things haven't changed at all;
we've got the things we wanted, we don't want to hear your call.
Yet millions still have hunger, disease, no homes, and fear;
we offer them so little, and it costs them very dear...

So help us see the writing written clear upon the wall;
he who doesn't feed his neighbour will get no food at all.

*Feed us now, O Son of God,
as you fed them long ago.*

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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God who loves us extends grace to each and every one of us.
No-one is excluded by this gift. So we can be reassured that
the Spirit of God binds us together in peace, and brings God's
forgiveness so hear then the words of Jesus Christ bringing that
reassurance:

Your sins are forgiven

Thanks be to God.

STORY Even in the Worst of Situations

A shining example of living with hope is Victor Frankel, a former
prisoner in a Nazi prison camp.

"As a long-time prisoner in bestial
concentration camps he [Viktor
Frankly] found himself stripped to
naked existence. His father,
mother, brother, and his wife died
in camps or were sent to gas
ovens, so that, excepting for his
sister, his entire family perished in these camps.



How could he - every possession lost, every value destroyed,
suffering from hunger, cold and brutality, hourly expecting
extermination - how could he find life worth preserving?"

In one of his darkest moments while digging in a cold icy
trench, he writes:

"In a last violent protest against the hopelessness of imminent
death, I sensed my spirit piercing through the enveloping
gloom. I felt it transcend that hopeless, meaningless world, and
from somewhere I heard a victorious 'Yes' in answer to my
question of the existence of an ultimate purpose.

At that moment a light was lit in a distant farmhouse, which
stood on the horizon as if painted there, in the midst of the
miserable grey of a dawning morning in Bavaria.
'Et lux in tenebris lucent'--and the light shineth in the darkness."

SONG SIS 27 BE STILL AND KNOW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zN0XfOTC8U> Music only

Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee (x3)

In you O Lord do I put my trust (x3)

Be still and know that I am God, (x3)

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READINGS

Romans 8: 26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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 God's word,

Let us give thanks to God

Matthew 14: 13-21

¹³Now 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. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is God's word,

Let us give thanks to God

