



Leigh Memorial Congregation

Parramatta Mission

Uniting Church in Australia

Pentecost 10

9 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 twenty first 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.

Call to Worship:

In late winter it is a good morning to be together!

**Drawn by God's love and the warmth of friends
we have gathered in this sacred cyber space.**

In this safe place God welcomes us to
new understanding, reassurance, and hope.

For this is where truth, love and challenge meet.

It is indeed a very good morning

so we join our hearts and hands and voices to worship God.

Song: (Amelia, Alan and Stuart on Smule)

Have Faith in God

Geoff Bullock

© 1993 Word, Inc US

Oh Lord you lead me by the still waters,
quietly restoring my soul.

You speak words of wisdom, the promise of glory,
the power of the presence of God.

Chorus Have faith in God, let your hope rest on the faith
 he has placed in your heart.
 Never give up, never let go of the faith
 he has placed in your heart.

Oh Lord you guide me through all the darkness,
turning my nights into day.

And you'll never leave me, never forsake me,
the power of the presence of God.

Chorus x2

Prayer of Praise:

Gracious God,

By your kind invitation we gather here, which thanks to your love, is our spiritual home.

Lord, now in response to your invitation, we add our human voices to the chorus of praise and adoration, raised to you by wind and water, and all life in your creation.

O God, we come as we are – distracted and weary, fearful and anxious, tired and heavy laden, yet hopeful and open – knowing that you are with us, and are ever mindful of our cares and joys.

Still in us now the many voices that clamour for our attention, and many concerns and cares of the world that try to swamp us, that we may centre ourselves upon you.

Speak to us, O Spirit of life, in silence, word and melody, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

We make mistakes in our life's journey and drift away from God. And our deepest longing is to be forgiven and embraced by God. When we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us, embraces us in his love and makes us whole. Shall we spend a few moments in silent confession?

(Time for silent confession)

In truth, God of silence and seas, we are more adept at making waves than calming storms. We find it easier to push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those who are different from us. And our lives are such a whirlwind of activity, that we do not notice your presence or hear your sheer silence singing your shalom to us. Have mercy on us, God of patience. Grab hold of us to keep us from drowning in our oceans of temptations. Give us the words to speak of your hope to others. Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine.

Amen.

Words of assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness:

Take heart in the forgiving love of God
for in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven, your life is restored.

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

Readers:

Bible Readings:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

1 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.
2 This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." 14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, 15 and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" 16 "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." 17 The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. 18 They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." 21 But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." 22 Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves[b] that he wore; 24 and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. 28 When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: Together in Song No. 589

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYIQw8w2TEw>

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me':

As, of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying,
'Christian, love me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'

Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

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:

Not only with our lips, but with our lives and with our treasure we will proclaim that you are in our midst, Loving God. Take these gifts and use them so all might know that your love, your life, your hope, your healing is near to them. Amen.

Prayers of the people: Margie Gray**God sends : We go**

Song: *Will You Come and Follow Me* (Wild Goose Songs, Vol.1, p.116)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK6lUaIJ3sk>

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you let the blinded see
 if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free
 and never be the same?
 Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you kiss the leper clean,
 and do such as this unseen,
 And admit to what I mean
 in you and you in me?
 Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you love the "you" you hide
 if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside
 and never be the same?
 Will You Come and Follow Me

Words of Commissioning:

Go forth into the world as God's people.

We will share God's hopes for all.

Go forth into the world to serve the world as followers of Jesus,

With our lives we will show that we all are part of the kingdom.

Go forth into the world to share the Spirit,

We would work to bring peace where there is war, to share love where there is hate.

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.