

**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 11
16 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 second 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. 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:

People of God, look around and see the faces of those we know and love –

**brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours –
a communion of kindred hearts.**

People of God, look beyond and see the faces of those we hardly know –

**strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends –
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

People of God, look about and see all the faces of God gathered at this virtual space this morning.

**In me, in you, in each of us everywhere,
God's Spirit shines for all to see!**

Let us join with one another in spirit to worship God. **Amen.**

Prayer:

Welcoming God:

you gather everyone,
especially the outsiders,
to worship you, for you are not an image or idol,
but a friend of the lonely
a protector of the helpless,
a parent to the poor

Accepting Christ:

there is not any place
you will not go to bring
God's grace to others.
In you,
the enemy is made a friend,
the broken are made whole,
the orphan finds a home.

Embracing Spirit:

your gentleness falls upon us,
and our fears of rejection disappear;
your truth is whispered in our ears,
and our arms embrace strangers;
your peace is poured into our souls,
and we are reconciled to all we hurt;
your love throws open our shuttered hearts,
and we see our sisters and brothers all around us.

Holy God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We worship you with our hearts and souls and strength
Here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: How Great Thou Art [Resonance, Music: Carl Boberg; Lyrics: Carl Boberg and Stuart K. Hine; modified by Kärt Lazić
Arrangement: Peter Manners-Smith]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oQCBJgiVRY>

Vs 1

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works your hands have made
Each precious heart that for your presence hungers
each pair of eyes of different shape and shade.

Ch

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art.

Vs 2

When I see how your love unites all races
how in your eyes there is no black or white
and how all hate and harmful prejudices
evaporate in your transforming light.

Ch

Vs 3

And when I think that you yourself not sparing
Came down to die, so we could live in peace
That on that cross, our burdens gladly bearing
you bled and died so fear and war would cease.

Ch

Vs 4

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 To take us home, what joy shall fill our hearts
 All then shall bow as one united nation
 And then proclaim: our God, how great thou art.

Ch

Prayer of Confession:

We praise God and wish to follow God's way, but often we prefer to live our way, becoming captive to our foolish choices. But God longs to set us free, so now let us come before God, and in silence, penitence and faith confess our sins and seek God's renewal.

(Time for silent confession)

Most merciful God, you call us to sweep away prejudice and legalism and accept people as they are. Forgive us if people feel excluded from our fellowship because of their appearance, their economic status, their lack of power or low self-image.

Forgive us if people feel excluded from our fellowship because of their sexuality, their addiction, their lack of a job. Forgive us, O Merciful God, if people feel excluded from our fellowship because of any kind of barriers that we put between us and them. We know in our hearts that discipleship demands an utterly new way of seeing people, and being with them unconditionally. But the journey from heart to eyes and hands and feet can be long and difficult. We pray for your forgiveness, O Holy God, when we fail, and as people who have received your mercy over and over, may we be as merciful and compassionate in all we say and do in your name. Amen

Words of assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness:

We rejoice in the good news that God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

When we confess our sins, God makes us new and helps us to see, understand and act in a new way.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

"Your sins are forgiven"

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:

Psalm 133

1

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

2

It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

3

It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 15:21-28 The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: *Together in Song No. 453* We limit not the truth of God

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

We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect,
crude, partial and confined:
no, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
*the Lord has yet more light and truth
to break forth from his word.*

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:

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and our lives as signs that our faith is expressed not in words alone, but in deeds - deeds of unconditional love and grace performed in the name and for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Prayers of the people:

God sends : We go

Hymn: *Together in Song No. 648* Help us accept each other

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practise your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

Words of Commissioning:

We have worshipped God in this cyber space as one body.
And now God sends us from here to the world to serve his people.

We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

We have listened to the words of the grace of Jesus.

We will love others just as we are loved.

We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be an inclusive community.

We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service.

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.

