

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SONG **TiS 154 Great is your faithfulness**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o> words and music

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.

*Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon from sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
these are the blessings your love will provide

Words Thomas Obadiah Chisolm/Music William Marion Runyan C.C.L.I. No. 237097

BENEDICTION

We give thanks to God for all those who have told your story!
We give thanks to God for the witness to the Gospel who
received the whispering of the Holy Spirit and proclaimed that
all might know Jesus Christ.
Go from this place and be courageous in all you do so you
might witness to Jesus Christ who is the Good News.

Westmead Uniting

*A Congregation of
Parramatta Mission*

Pentecost 9A

Sunday 9th August 2020



WELCOME

Welcome to all who gather together to worship, who join using the printed material and who join watching the video later. You are all welcome to join us in this, the strangest of times.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to come together, to be one in the midst of difference and to join as community.

We come in the midst of a strange time, unsure of what tomorrow will bring. Yet as we come we know that together we are strong.

So let us come and worship God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the midst of this time when we hear of catastrophic accidents in Beirut, hurricanes in America, and the ongoing challenges of Covid 19, we come to God in prayer to pray for others.

We pray this day for the peoples of the world.

We pray for peace

We pray for food for those who are hungry

And water for those who thirst.

We pray for the leaders of the nations- that they might act with justice and with wisdom for all.

We pray for those who suffer injustice-

For those incarcerated in detention centres,

For those waiting to escape from their homes to safety

And for those who seek to bring about justice for others

and are persecuted for their voices and their actions.

We pray for those who suffer and who grieve,

May your peace guide them through each day.

And we pray for ourselves- that we would give more of who we are,

In love and obedience to you.

Today we especially pray for brothers and sisters in Victoria, for their Premier Daniel Andrews, and for all medical staff and others in essential services. May you give them strength and perseverance that they may endure all that is happening and lies ahead of them. May they truly feel your blessings.

In who we are, in how we live and as we follow Jesus Christ, our Saviour, in whose name we pray. ***Amen.***

OFFERING

Holiness of grace and truth, this gift of offering is for the building of your Kingdom here on earth. Into your presence we give to you the offering in love for your Son Jesus.

Accept and bless these gifts to bless others as we recall your promise to us in Jesus' name. ***Amen***

SERMON

SONG TiS TiS 590 What a friend we have in Jesus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SCorW9r_Is words and music

1. What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer;
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour still our refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield you,
You will find a solace there.

Words Joseph Medlicott Scriven/ Music William Penfro Rowlands C.C.L.I. No. 237097

SONG TiS 132 Holy holy holy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIHD40CZY34> words and music

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning our praise shall be;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore you,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
through the sinful human eye your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and
sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Words Reginald Heber/Music John B Dykes Song no 1156 Public Domain C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYER

Most wonderful God, Creator of heaven and earth.
You are the one who came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ,
And through him we can come to know you more.

You are the source of all knowledge, and we pray that we might abide in your love.

You are the source of all wisdom and we are in awe of your love
Through Jesus emerges the idea of who we are as people of God.

Loving God

We come to you seeking to learn. We come seeking to know who you are- to love you and serve you, to seek you and to find you.

We come with who we are seeking to bring all of ourselves and lay ourselves before your feet.

We think of the women and men of the scriptures. We think of how we come to worship you, and how we recognise our own frailty.

The whispers of the Holy Spirit are like a spray of orchids that we may be reminded of the beauty and the fragility of life.

Loving God,

In thinking about you we cannot do anything but stop, and recognise ourselves.

Please forgive us for all the times we understood your words and dismissed the messenger as unreliable.

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.

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriters: David Evans Be Still Lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd. CCLI No. 237097

READING

Matthew 14: 22- 32

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is God's word,

Let us give thanks to God

Millions of people across this world- where difference no longer matters.

And echoes of the voices of hope seem so far away.

Yet still, in the midst of this, the strangest of times,
We know.

We know that you are with us.

We know that you are the one who is the beginning and the end,

The Alpha and Omega.

And this time is just a moment of strangeness - a blip in the fullness of eternity.

You are the One,

You are Love and Hope and Peace.

And in You we live and move and have our being -

So be with us as we wait. Help us to wait in you.

Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly August 2020

SONG Be Still for the presence of the Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vep_Ty4Zx1o Words and music

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.

Forgive us for allowing labels to govern our decision and limit for us what some people may do and others not.

Forgive us for allowing symbols to serve in place of knowledge and understanding.

Rid us of wariness and belief that we might be found worthy to speak the good news to all who long to hear it.

As we come to you today, we seek to grow beyond our weakness,

We pray that through your Spirit we might be better able to serve others and serve you

Help us walk in the way of Jesus here and through all eternity. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has come to us in our weakness, and in God's strength we are made whole.

Jesus has come to us in our sinfulness, and in Jesus' strength we are redeemed.

The Spirit has come to us in our weakness, and in the Spirit we are renewed.

So hear the forgiveness that is our in Jesus-

Our sins are forgiven

Thanks be to God!

READINGS

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12- 28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This 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. ³Now 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. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And 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." ¹⁴So 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, ¹⁵and 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." ¹⁷The 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. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come 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." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben 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.

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then 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. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, 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. ²⁸When 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

Let us give thanks to God

POEM Covid Time

I sit and watch the news,
Wondering what the numbers will be today.
This time of strangeness- a Pandemic beyond our
understanding.

There were times when people signed up and marched to war-
But this war is so different.
The enemy is a virus- one which attacks from within.

And so many peoples - afraid.

There is no marching, no call to arms,
Instead we stay at home, and wait, and wait and wait.

Where are you in the midst of the waiting, loving God?
Where are you when people lose their jobs,
lose their lives
and those on the battlefield are those who are tasked with
saving lives,
Healers and bearers of hope in the soothing touch and the
gentle word?