

WELCOME

As we gather, as individuals, as families, in our homes or in another place, we are all welcome to this worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

For some there is a need to be in community, and for others a need to be on our own.
For some we feel God's presence most in nature and for others, it is together.
Wherever we are, whatever our preference, in our heads and in our hearts,
We come to worship God.
For God alone is worthy of praise.
So let us come and worship God.

SONG TiS 227 When Morning gilds the sky (adapted verses)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT7Kh88CrL4> words and music

When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Sing this eternal song through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Words early German tr. Edward Caswall/Music Joseph Barnby C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYER

God of all creation, your beauty and your blessings are visible not only in our wide, sweeping plains, and unique land forms, but also wherever people gather to worship you.

We, who gather here in this time and this place, come, grateful for all your blessings towards us.

We praise you for linking our lives with yours through the gift of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In and through him we have been blessed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring your dreams of a just and peaceful world to reality- a world, where the barriers which separate people from you and from one another, are peacefully and willingly broken down forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, you swept away centuries of prejudice and legalism when you reached out and accepted people as they were - accepted them as loved fellow human beings.

We confess our failure to be as inclusive as you...if people feel excluded from our fellowship because of their appearance, their poverty, their lack of power or low self-image:

Please forgive us.

If people feel excluded from our fellowship because of their sexuality, their addiction, their lack of a job, their ability or their disability,

Please forgive us.

Strengthen us, Lord, where we are weak, and make us strong to withstand the seduction of a society which seems obsessed with the acquisition of wealth and power. We know in our hearts that discipleship demands an utterly new way of seeing people as you did, and being with them unconditionally, as you were, but the journey from heart to eyes and hands and feet can be long and difficult .

We pray for your forgiveness Lord when we fail, and as people who have receive your mercy over and over,

***may we be as merciful and as compassionate as you,
in all we say and do in your name. Amen***

ASSURANCE 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. Those who believe in him are not condemned. Hear then Christ's words of forgiveness- your sins are forgiven

Thanks be to God!

STORY "He came after me."



Indigenous didgeridoo player Isaac Harrison had moved from Queensland to Victoria when, just two weeks after his son was born he was made redundant. Instead of heading home where high-paying jobs were plentiful, he felt called to stay in Melbourne.

His mum had a dream of an immense gateway

with an inscription on it, like the towering entrances in The Lord of the Rings. Jesus was there to meet Isaac and his family, and they had to decide whether to follow Him through the door into the unknown.

Isaac had grown up as part of a country church but had walked away from the faith of his childhood. He was down in Brisbane when he encountered a street preacher from his hometown. The preacher invited him to church. He was 'nah'.

The following week a man knocked at his door about insulation. As the man turned to leave, he asked, 'Can I pray for you?' Isaac was powerfully touched as the man prophesied over him and then invited him to church. But again it was 'nah, too far.'

The third week Isaac was shopping and kept bumping into people from his hometown. An Indigenous elder came up and asked to pray for him. Suddenly people were laying hands on Isaac and praying for him.

'God moved on all these people to reach out to me,' Isaac said. 'He came after me.'

The loss of the job in Victoria soon after moving there was a catalyst for Isaac starting to think differently. An entrepreneurial spirit was emerging. 'Jesus loves to take you out of your comfort zone. He's like: how are you going to walk across this water?'

Isaac admits to many fears in starting his business: cash flow, insurance, loans, rentals, delivering, finding customers. He's now the founder and director of Bunjil Energy. His original vision was to provide infrastructure for the future take-up of electric cars. As more electric cars come on the scene, people will come home from work and all want to plug into the grid at the same time. Isaac wanted to give people their own power supply through a renewable source.

However, his vision has now moved into large scale power generation and to be a blessing back into communities across Australia.

SONG TiS 229 Jesus loves me this I know

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpPidVGq-Dc&t=57s> words, music and signing

Jesus loves me, this I know,
and the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.'

Yes, Jesus loves me,

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

Yes, Jesus loves me, ...

Words Anna Bartlett Warner/Music William Batchelder Bradbury C.C.L.I. No. 237097

READINGS

Genesis 45: 1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

¹² "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

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

Matthew 15: 16-28

¹⁶ “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

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 God's word,
Let us give thanks to God

SERMON ‘The heart of the matter’

SONG All are welcome

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKJgcv8SdnQ> words and music

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place*

Words and Music Marty Haugen LicenSing No. 604575

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



God of love and compassion, we pray for the people of Beirut

In the midst of the challenge in trying to come to terms with the loss of lives and injuries, may they find hope that they can rebuild and move into a brighter future.



Good of hope and creation, we pray for all who have been affected by flooding- in Australis, in China and many other countries. In the midst of the waters, may

you lead people to a place of dry land- where they can feel safe.



In this, the strangest of times, we stop and pray for the people of the world. In the midst of this pandemic there are too many people who are suffering, dying and fear consumes our thoughts. We pray especially for the health workers, and for all who are working so hard to help keep others safe.

And we pray for our community- scattered and wondering when we can meet together again. Please help us to keep the faith, keep each other in our thoughts and prayers, and remember that we are never alone, but always held in the midst of your care and love.



These things we ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.

OFFERING

Loving God, bless what we bring, what we have and what we offer. May you continue to bless us that we truly might be a blessing to others, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should always give thanks to you, O God
for making your love evident since the very beginning of time
when you spoke the word which brought the world into being.

We give thanks that you are not a distant God,
But one prepared to respond to the cries of those
seeking refuge and strength in times of trouble.
You eased their fears by speaking words
of hope and justice to them through the prophets.

You communicated your love anew
by entering our history in the person of Jesus Christ.
He spoke words of healing and wholeness and love;
love - which like yours - is unending and unconditional.
And so, with all the company of heaven and earth
we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

And so, O God, we give thanks that you gave your Son Jesus Christ,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit came upon him
declaring him to be your beloved Son.
With your Spirit within him he resisted temptation;
proclaiming justice to all peoples, good news to the poor,
release to the captives, sight for the blind,
and liberty for those who are oppressed.
He emptied himself of self-serving power,
and filled with the empowering love of your Spirit,
he loved people to the uttermost limits of love,
giving himself over to death to defeat the power of evil.

On that never-to-be-forgotten night, the night of his betrayal,
as he sat at the table with his friends, he took bread, gave you thanks,
broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.”

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave you thanks,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this all of you; this is my blood, poured out for you and for all,
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

On that never-to-be-forgotten day when you raised him from the dead,
he was recognised by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your people have continued
in the breaking of the bread and in prayer.

When we eat this bread and drink from this cup
we experience anew the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ .

Remembering his death and resurrection, and his promise to be with us
always, we pray that you will send the power of your Holy Spirit upon
us and upon these gifts, blessing this sharing of bread and wine, Christ's
life in us. Send us as your witnesses into all the world, empowered by
your Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name
we are bold 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.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
The gifts of God for the people of God

THE DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we praise, worship and adore you for the food received at your table. You have sent your Holy Spirit among us, to make our eating and drinking here a memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ. We go from here, strengthened, refreshed, and empowered by your Spirit to make our living and working, our loving and doing and thinking, a true and joyful memorial of him. We look to that day when, with the great company of witnesses that surround us, we may eat and drink and be glad with him in the glory of your kingdom. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG TiS 231 At the name of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI2rKRCWmOU> words and music

1. At the name of Jesus
 every knee shall bow,
 every tongue confess him
 King of Glory now:
 this the Father's pleasure
 that we call him Lord,
 who from the beginning
 was the mighty Word.

2. Humbled for a season
 to receive a name
 from the lips of sinners
 unto whom he came,
 faithfully he bore it
 spotless to the last,
 brought it back victorious
 when from death he passed.

5. When this same Lord Jesus
 shall appear again
 in his Father's glory,
 there with him to reign:
 then may we adore him,
 all before him bow,
 and our hearts confess him
 king of Glory now.

BENEDICTION

The gathering of the people of God is ending,
the scattering to of the people of God to be agents of Christ in many places
is about to begin.

Go in peace to love and serve your God.

In the name of Christ. Amen!