

**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 14
Celebration of the Holy Communion
&
Father's Day
6 September 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 fifth 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, and for the last time of his ministry at Leigh Memorial Congregation, to worship from the safety of people's home. Before the service you may prepare a worship space for yourself by placing a cross, a lighted candle and if possible, some flowers. Today we will celebrate the Holy Communion as permission for this has been granted by the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Standing Committee, for the period of COVID-19 isolation measures only. You are welcome to take part in it. But if you choose to abstain from taking the elements in this context, be assured that you too would be held in the love of Christ and of this community. So please keep a small size bread and some juice ready for the Communion service. At the end of the service if there is any leftover bread or juice, please use them up with reverence. Thank you.)

God calls: We gather

Greetings & Welcome:

Call to Worship:

Look up; look around!

Love comes to us with joy!

The world is filled with God's handiwork.

Flowers appear on the earth,

birdsong brightens the day.

Crops yield their produce in abundance,
the air is filled with sweetness.

The Spring of God's love is with us.

Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

Let us praise God with joy in our hearts. Amen.

Hymn: *All creatures of our God and King*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-SRySEc5Y0>

Prayer:

Creating God,

you are the source of Spring's splendour—
the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers,
and sweet sound of birdsong.

We come to you this morning
with delight and gladness,
grateful for all of your wonders.

As the gardens smile with blooming flowers
fields produce their harvest,
may your love grow within us,
that we too may produce a harvest
of love, hope, and joy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

(silent confession)

Unison Prayer:

**Most Merciful God,
we confess to you now that we have sinned.
We confess the sins that no one knows
and the sins that everyone knows.
We confess the sins that are a burden to us
and the sins that do not bother us
because we have grown used to them.**

**We confess our sins as a church.
We have not loved one another
as Christ loves us.
We have not forgiven one another
as we have been forgiven.**

**We have not given ourselves
in love and service for the world
as Christ gave himself for us.**

Father, forgive us.

**Send the Holy Spirit to us,
That he may give us power to live
as by your mercy,
you have called us to live.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Declaration of Forgiveness.

To those who truly believe,
God has promised forgiveness of all sin.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven.'
Thanks be to God!

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!

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:

1 Corinthian 13:1-8a

The Gift of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Mark 12:28-31**The First Commandment**

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Song: *Together in Song No.636 God has spoken to his people, hallelujah*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4pdEzutri8>

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:

Heavenly Father,

your word and your sacrament give us food and life.

May our gifts bring together more and more

the weak with the strong,

the sick with the healthy,

the marginalised with those at the centre of power

so that this gift of Jesus

will encourage us to accept one another

and live together in love and peace. Amen.

Prayers of the people:**God Feeds : We are nourished**

Invitation Song: *Come to the banquet there's a place for you*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czRLWLOoqj8>

The Institution of the Lord's Supper:

Hear the words of institution of this sacrament
as recorded by the apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord
what I also delivered to you,
that the Lord Jesus,
on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said:
This is my body which is for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way also the cup,
after supper, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this as often as you drink it,
for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you this bread
and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

Setting apart of the Elements:

Let us now follow our Lord's example in words and action.
As Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread,
we take these elements of bread and wine to be set apart from common
use to this holy purpose and mystery;
And as he gave thanks and blessed,
let us come to God with our prayer of thanksgiving.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayer of Consecration:

May the God of all seasons be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open our hearts to the One who loves us.

People of God, lift up your voices in songs of praise.

We make a joyful noise to the One who is the source of our life.

With all we are, we give you glory,
O Holy God, sovereign of all time and space.
We bless you for this wide, red land,
for its rugged beauty,
its changing seasons,
for its diverse peoples,
and for all that lives upon this fragile earth.

You have called us to be your Church in Parramatta.
With Jesus Christ as our head
we are here with the mission
to be a community transforming lives
with grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.
We rejoice with all that you have made,
as we join the company of heaven in their song.

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

You alone are holy, God of every moment,
 and in your Child, Jesus, we find that love we cannot understand.
 He could have stayed on the safe shores of glory,
 but came to bring us hope in every storm we face.
 He could have kept your abundance for himself,
 but took your gifts and poured them out for us.
 He could have left us to our foolish lives,
 but confounded the plans of sin
 by defeating death at its own game,
 and restored us in that refuge called the resurrection.

As we try to understand his willingness to restore
 our fragmented lives through his brokenness,
 as we ponder that miracle which is beyond death,
 we proclaim that mystery we call faith:
**We know God's love, by the death of Christ;
 we receive the grace of God, by the resurrection of Christ;
 we will be fed in glory, by the return of Christ.**

As we come to this table, O Loving God, we pray,
 pour out your Spirit upon this bread
 that it may be for us the body of Christ
 that we may be strengthened
 to go out to serve our fragmented world.
 Bless this cup
 that it may be for us the blood of Christ,
 that your grace may overflow with hope,
 so we can see those around us,
 the families without hope,
 the children without food,
 the elderly without friends,
 the world without peace.

And when that day comes
 when this creation would reflect your kingdom,
 gather us, O God, around the Table of the Great Banquet
 with our sisters and brothers
 of every time, of every place,
 and we will sing our thanks to you forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Christ is the bread of joy,
who shares food with all.
 Christ is the cup of life,
who has compassion for all.
 Let us receive what we are;
 let us become what we receive.
The body of Christ.

Lamb of God:

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.

The Communion:

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love and strengthened by your life.
Now we are sent forth into this world to live into the vision God has laid on our hearts:
To feed as we have been fed,
To forgive as we have been forgiven,
To love as we have been loved.
Amen.

God sends : We go

Song: *Together in Song No. 547 Be thou my vision*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMXAp6LpP-8>

Words of Commissioning:

Go forth into the world as God's people.
We will go forth with songs of love on our lips.
Go forth into the world to serve beside Jesus.
We will go to help him tear down the barriers of injustice.
Go forth into the world to join the generous Spirit.
We will go to be doers as well as givers with our gifts.

Benediction:

And now may the blessings of God – the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be upon us, and upon this congregation.
May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.
May the love that we share bring strength and joy to our hearts,
and the peace of this community be with us until we meet again.
Amen! May it be so!

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.