

**Leigh Memorial Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 15**

Sunday 13 September 2020 - 9:30 am



Theme: 'Becoming a Community of Forgiveness'

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>
Meeting ID: 545 078 6355 OR One tap mobile
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Dial by your location +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Gathering God's People

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Christ Jesus is the light of the world.

Acknowledgement of Country:

Greeting:

Jesus said: I have called you friends

Jesus said: you are the salt of the earth:

The apostle Paul wrote:

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now
Philippians 1:3-5

To all God's beloved
the body of Christ
scattered throughout the suburbs
like seeds
dispersed on the wind:
online, on phones,
in homes, at work, in the car,
One in Christ.

Grace and peace to you.
And also to you.

Hymn TiS 693: 'Come as you are'. Deirdre Brown
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD4KAq_W8tY

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

A Prayer of Approach:

To whom shall we go, Lord,
But to you?
To whom shall we turn, Lord,
But to you?
To whom shall we return, Lord
But to you?

For you, O God, are the one
In whose image we are made:
For you, O Christ, are the one
Who humbled himself
And was obedient unto death
For our sake.

For you, O Spirit of God,
Are the source of life
And the one who leads us
To confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

To whom shall we go,
three-in-one God,
But to you?

We gather in this hour
To praise you,
To wait upon the words
That you whisper to our hearts. **Amen.**

God is Good

An Act of Confession and Trust in God

Song: Purify My Heart (Stuart and Alan)

Brian Doerkson ©1990 Mercy Publishing

https://www.smule.com/recording/arrangement-by-alan-oreilly-purify-my-heart/2431482977_3716518536

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within
and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin deep within.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will,
ready to do your will.

The apostle Paul wrote:

Only let your manner of life be worthy
Of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said: Follow me.

Take up your cross.

Be merciful.

Forgive one another.

Love the Lord your God.

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Jesus said: Come unto me all who labour,
And are heavy laden,
And I will give you rest.

[Silence]

Song: 'Spirit of the Living Lord'.

<https://link.smule.com/mTw25tatN6?channel=Copy-Link&lyricStyle=0>

Spirit of the living God,

Fall a fresh on me

Spirit of the living God,

Fall a fresh on me

Melt me

Mould Me

Fill me

Use me

Spirit of the living God,

Fall a fresh on me

Words of Assurance: (Matthew 7:24-27)

Jesus said:

Each of those who hears these my words
And does them is like the wise person
who builds their house on rock.

The rain came down, the rivers rose,
And the winds blew and beat against that house;
But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

Believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are loved,
Forgiven, and set free!

Behold salvation has come to this house.
Thanks be to God!

Song TiS 666: We are marching in the light of God".
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn16ABWn20c>

We are marching in the light of God, *x4*
We are marching, marching, we are marching, Oh ohhh!
we are marching in the light of God. *x2*

We are living in the love of God, *x4*
We are living, living, we are living Oh ohhh!
We are living in the love of God. *x2*

We are moving in the power of God, *x4*
We are moving, moving, we are moving Oh ohhh!
We are moving in the power of God *x2*

And we are marching, marching, we are marching, Oh ohhh!
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, Oh ohhh!
we are marching in the light of God.

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Learning Together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-DI5dqLz5M>

The Service of the Word

Readers: Tomasi and Seini Vulawalu

Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

The Pursuers Drowned

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[b] times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents^[c] was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;^[d] and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[e] from your heart."

In conversation: inSpiring the Common Good:

Principle 4:

Leigh Memorial Church seeks to be:

- A nurturing place of **forgiveness**, the healing of life's wounds, mercy, compassion, reconciliation, love, friendship and grace,

Hymn TiS 607: Make me a channel of your peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Chorus O Master, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Chorus

Repeat verse 1

Sermon: 'Becoming a community of forgiveness'

Hymn Tis 598: Dear Father, Lord of humankind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

Dear Father, Lord of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclathe us in our rightful mind:
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love,
interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of thy call
As noiseless let thy blessings fall
As fell thy manna down
As fell thy manna down

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm.

The Offering and Prayer:

Prayers for Others:

Samantha Vulawalu

Lord, in your mercy
HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Notices

Hymn TiS 473: Community of Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1I4i3IOPBU>

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread,
and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Dismissal and Blessing:

May the love of God
The creator in whose image
We are made:

Watch over all your days

May the peace of Christ
The beloved Son:
Be with you and sustain you.

May the Spirit of God,
The life giver,
Raise you to new hope:
Now and always,

Song: Thuma mina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eik2HK7u9xA>

Thuma mina	Somandla
Send me Jesus	
Lead me Jesus	
Fill me Jesus	
Thuma mina	Somandla