



*Westmead Congregation  
Parramatta Mission  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Pentecost 14A Sunday 23  
13th September 2020*

**WELCOME**

Welcome to all who join us, in person, via zoom or in other ways. All are welcome - no matter where you are.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is the one who has called us into a reconciliation of the whole of Creation.

God call us to love, and to work peaceably with each other.

The same God acted in a way which brings us closer to each other - and to God.

Praise God who sets people free in unexpected ways and sustains them through unexpected acts of grace.

***Come and let us worship God.***

**SONG**      **TiS 156 Morning has broken**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Rifby1tVE8> words and music

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.

*Author Eleanor Farjeon /Music arr L.F. Bartlett Words and music from  
Enlarged Songs of Praise©Oxford Uni Press1931LicenSing No. 604575*

**PRAYER**

Liberating God, we worship you.

We praise you for freeing your people of old from enslavement in Egypt by opening up a new and unexpected future before them. They experienced your grace and mercy in awesome and life-sustaining ways that must have been like an impossible dream coming true.

Through these acts you showed your compassion for the weak and powerless of this world. We praise and adore you for opening up a new future for us when your love and compassion, your mercy and grace was revealed in Jesus Christ. He delivered us from the bondage of evil and sin through his death on the cross.

The impossible once more became reality when love defeated evil once and for all. We pray that this time of worship will be a true offering of our wonder and praise that you should care for us so deeply and so faithfully.

God of mercy, God of grace, we acknowledge that yours is a love which freely gives without any strings attached.

***An unconditional love.***

Jesus tells us that those who wish to be his disciples are to place no limits, no conditions on their mercy or their love.

***Forgiveness without limits.***

Jesus indicates that when we refuse to forgive those in our debt, we hinder the gift of God's grace and forgiveness from entering our own lives

***God of mercy, God of grace,  
we confess that we forget to love and serve  
you as we ought, as people made in your im  
age and likeness.***

Touch hardened hearts with your goodness, we pray, and remind us that forgiveness is one of the most precious gifts that we can offer one another. This we pray in Jesus' name. ***Amen.***

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

We rejoice because of God's great gift of love to the world - Jesus Christ - who came 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 - your sins are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God!***

## **READING**

### **Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

<sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died,<sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

<sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **SONG TiS 670 Jesus put this song into our hearts**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC8rpIIAc4w> words and music

Jesus put this song into our hearts,  
Jesus put this song into our hearts,  
it's a song of joy no one can take away:  
Jesus put this song into our hearts.

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony,  
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony;  
different faces, different races, he made us one:  
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

Jesus taught us how to be a family,  
Jesus taught us how to be a family,  
loving one another with the love that he gives:  
Jesus taught us how to be a family.

Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,  
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,  
changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy:  
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing.

*Words and Music Graham Kendrick Song no. 48119 C.C.L.I. No. 237097*

## READINGS

### ***Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13***

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> ***Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--***

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> ***who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,***

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> ***The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.***

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> ***The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.***

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> ***He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.***

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> ***as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.***

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

### **Romans 14:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

<sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

<sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.  
This is God's word,

***Let us give thanks to God***

**SERMON**

**Sarah**

**SONG**      **TiS 129 Amazing Grace**

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

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see

As grace first taught my heart to fear  
so grace my fears relieved  
how precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

*Words John Newton/American Folk hymn melody CCLI license no. 237097*



## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord, may justice flow like a river  
Reaching barren lands and sun scorched deserts

Where people feel forgotten and hopeless

***Let your water of life comfort them***

Where children lie abandoned or abused

***Let your water of life protect them***

Where communities suffer at the hands of prejudice

***Let your water of life shield them***

Lord, we ask for a mighty downpour from Heaven

May your sons and daughters hear your voice

May we live as you lead us to live,

Go as you bid us to go, and

Serve as you inspire us to serve.

Help us to give as you teach us to give

Until the earth is covered with the glory of God

As the waters cover the sea.

Almighty and most merciful God,

we remember before you all poor and neglected

persons whom it would be easy for us to forget:

the homeless and the destitute,

the old and the sick,

and all who have none to care for them.

Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit,

and to turn their sorrow into joy.

We pray especially for the many people, countries and cultures affected by Covid 19.

Grant this, loving God, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

...And now, let us join with the Christians of all nations in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples as we say

***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.***

### **OFFERING**

Gracious and loving God, we come offering these gifts in response to your great gifts of grace and mercy. Bless us as we proclaim that grace and mercy through the service of our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom every knee shall indeed bow. This we pray in his name. Amen

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord be with you

*And also with you*

### **SONG TiS 569 Guide me O thou great redeemer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofp6rdAgRrY> words and music

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou are mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore!  
feed me now and ever more!

Open now the living fountain  
whence the living waters flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield!  
be thou still my strength and shield!

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee!  
I will ever give to thee!

*Words William Williams/Music John Hughes C.C.L.I. No. 237097*

## **BENEDICTION**

In all of your lives, in our relationships and in our church,

May you be reconciled to each other.

May you live a life of love

In what you think, say and do.

And may God's blessing be upon you,

This day and all days.

