



Westmead Congregation
Parramatta Mission
Uniting Church in Australia
Pentecost 15A

20th September 2020

WELCOME

We welcome all who come together. No matter who we are, where we are and even when we are worshipping, we are brought together to worship the God who draws us together.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us sing about the holiness of God's name,
and tell of God's wonderful works.

With grateful hearts,
we rejoice in the great deeds of God.

So let us come and worship God.

SONG**TiS 152 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

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

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully.
3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to your joy above.

*Tune AHB 92 Ode To Joy. Copyright. CCLI licensed)
CCLI 237097*

**PRAYER**

We praise you, O God, for providing direction and nourishment for your people of old. We think of Abraham and Sarah, of Jacob, Rachel and Leah. We think of Moses and Miriam and Aaron and we think of Ruth and Naomi.

Just as you cared for them, we praise you for doing the same for us in the person of Jesus Christ. In him, you set before us a way of life to guide us through the wilderness experiences of our lives - those times common to us all - of illness and grief, disaster and depression, uncertainty and hopelessness.

The gift of Christ's life enables us to cope with these arid times and to have faith that through him, your presence is continually with us, strengthening and supporting us.

May this time of worship be an expression of our wonder and joy that you should care so deeply for us and all people.

We praise you for all you have done, all you are and all you are yet to be to us.

We come with praise and thanksgiving for you alone loves us unconditionally.

When we think of who we are, and our sense of justice and fairness, we cannot help but recognise our own frailty and greed.

Forgive us loving God and help us see our weaknesses.

When we think of our own faithfulness we recognise we cannot compare with you, and we know that our humanity too often gets in the way.

Forgive us loving God and help us to be the people you want us to be.

Your divine generosity astounds us and calls into question our values and our selfishness.

Open our eyes to see beyond our own needs,
and unclench our hands to share what we have with those in need.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The scriptures tell us that the generous love of God tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

Hear then Christ's words of forgiveness: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

STORY Images from Westmead

SONG TiS 685 Lord I come to you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6yQzQc0lnA> words and music

Lord I come to you:
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.
And, Lord, I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

*Refrain: Hold me close, let your love surround me;
bring me near, draw me to your side:
and as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you:
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love
as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind
as your will unfolds in my life,
in living every day
in the power of your love.

Refrain

Words and Music Geoff Bullock C.C.L.I. No. 237097

READINGS

Exodus 16: 2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but" against the LORD.

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.



¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

This is God's word,

Let us give thanks to God

Matthew 20: 1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is God's word,

Let us give thanks to God

SERMON *Trusting God in ALL things*

SONG Have faith in God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTIO6AosWZo> *words and music*

Oh Lord You lead me
By the still waters
Quietly restoring my soul
You speak words of wisdom
The promise of glory
The power of the presence of God

Have faith in God
Let your hope rest on the faith
He has placed in your heart
Never give up
Never let go of the faith
He has placed in your heart

Oh Lord You...

Source: Musixmatch Hillsong- used with permission

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious and eternal Source of life, in whom we find rest and shelter, hear the cries of our world ...

those for whom today is the beginning of life;
who face new ventures and new challenges;

who are engulfed by loneliness, despair or grief;
who feel cast off from your presence;

who are walled in by circumstance;
whose will to live is exhausted;

who this day will encounter eternal rest:

OFFERING

God of many blessings, we respond to your generosity with these gifts, praying that they, and the service of our lives, may be used to benefit those in need and to share the gospel of Christ. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

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 as we 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.***

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 687 God Gives us a Future**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kjEmbTS7hk> words and music

God gives us a future, daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power
We will let God change us, for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday
For God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back
God gives hope and insight and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs
How to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action, stir us into prayer
Till we choose God's life and find our future there.

*Tune: AHB 170ii CAMBERWELL John Michael Brierley 1932- C.C.L.I. No.
237097*

BENEDICTION

May your lives be blessed with the abundant grace of God,
the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ,
and the limitless power of the Holy Spirit.

