

# Welcome to Worship - Sunday October 11, 2020

## Celebrating a Season of Creation - Week 2



### Parramatta Mission Online Services

Westmead 9.45am, Leigh 9.30am and Leigh Fijian 11.15am

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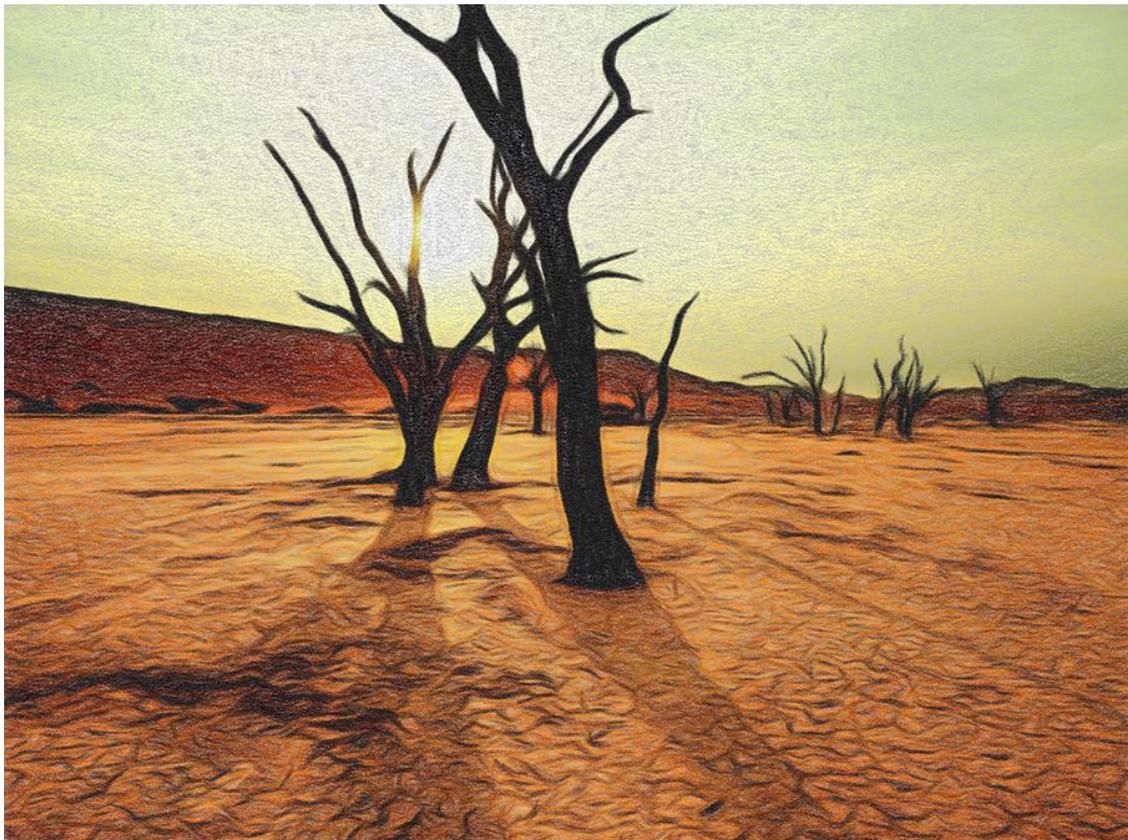
9.30am (Leigh Congregation) <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

9.45am (Westmead Congregation) <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

11.15am (Leigh Fijian Congregation) <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

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Note: Today is Fijian Independence Day - there will be a Special Service at 11.15am!



Preparation for Service (start 1'40" before service starts <https://youtu.be/Nu9A-I-XG38>)

CREATING COMMUNITY

## Call to Worship

Ldr: The Lord is great:  
ALL: our Lord is above all gods.  
Ldr: Whatever the Lord pleases he does:  
All: in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.  
Ldr: God makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth:  
All: God makes lightnings for the rain  
and brings out the wind from its storehouses. (Ps 135:5-7)  
Ldr: Come, let us return to the Lord,  
God has torn, and God will heal us;  
All: God has struck down, and God will bind us up.  
Ldr: Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;  
All: God's appearing is as sure as the dawn,  
Ldr: God will come to us like the showers,  
All: like the spring rains that water the earth. (Hosea 6:1,3)

## Hymn *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

<https://youtu.be/JEh7Vt9sxmc>

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - the King of creation  
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near  
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wonderfully reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings - Yes, so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen how all your longings have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper they work and defend thee  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with his love he befriend thee

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him  
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him  
Let the 'amen' sound from the people again  
Gladly for aye, we adore him.

- Words Joachim Neander (1680)

## Acknowledging Place

We are a short way from the river that holds stories of our heritage.  
At this river, where the eels lie down to spawn,  
we are thankful for the gift of life.  
We remember the Darug-speaking people  
who have nurtured life here from beyond our records of time.  
We pray especially for elders and law-keepers,

and offer respect to all First People in this Land.  
We stand with those of this River's kin and skin.  
We commit to behave as those who join in caring for  
and listening to the signs of the sacred in this land.

Prayer - Calling to God to come [Let us pray]

O God of the Waters, look upon flooded lands and parched earth.  
Come quickly to save us.  
Send your clouds of water to rain down  
as your love rains down upon our hearts.  
Dry the flooded places, as you dry our tears.  
Fill us with faith and trust in you so we may give you glory  
now and in the world to come. Amen

Theme Story DROUGHT <https://youtu.be/uW2KRJ4OS5w>

Confession Prayer in the Driest populated country...

Creative and nurturing God,  
we weep in the face of coming heat and fire,  
dying crops and animals, traumatised families and communities.  
We pray for those whose experience last summer  
makes them dread longer days.

This land evolved over the ages.  
Some learned to live in this Land, enjoying its fruitfulness,  
and humbly responding with thanks for Your gifts.

Sometimes ideas of progress and prosperity  
have pushed the land beyond its capacities.  
Teach us to listen to the land with humility.

Send the Spirit of Jesus to teach us respect.  
Guide us to be co-creators with You.  
Fill our hearts with patience and compassion.  
May we commit ourselves to face heat and drought, storm and fire,  
city and country cooperating in service and generosity,  
planning together to create a sustainable future,  
so we can again love the beauty of Your land fully alive.

Sometimes there are dry places in our lives  
or stormy relationships in our homes and workplaces...  
Sometimes our physical or mental health means there are some among us who  
are struggling...  
just as the Land longs for your healing - so do we.



So we keep on asking loudly, "What for?!"  
Why are we here? Where are we going?  
Don't like the scenery, don't like the plot.  
Is the Lord with us, Is the Lord with us,  
Is the Lord with us, with us or not?

Is the Lord with us when the house is burning to the ground?  
Is the Lord with us when a child is dead?  
Is the Lord with us when we have so much it weighs us down,  
while a countless number don't even have bread?

Though we know your love in Jesus,  
in his dying and pain,  
reassure us when the world seems insane.

Why are we here? Where are we going?  
Don't like the scenery, don't like the plot.  
Is the Lord with us, Is the Lord with us,  
Is the Lord with us, with us or not?

c.1999, Robin Mann

**Sermon**      Joining in the mission of Creation      - Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

**Offering Song**      **For the beauty of the earth**      [https://youtu.be/TTcJ\\_SQruhE](https://youtu.be/TTcJ_SQruhE)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.  
Lord of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above for our gentle thoughts and mild  
Lord of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For your church that evermore lifts its holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore God's pure sacrifice of love  
Lord of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words - Pierpoint, 1864, Tune - Dix

## Prayers of the People

### Candle/Fire

As we see the flame of the candle, we pray for those  
who work hard to protect us from the ravages of smoke and fire.  
We pray for those who respond to emergencies in storms.

We pray for those tasked with planning sustainable futures  
and those who can teach us to live responsibly.

#### Leaves

As we hold the prayer leaves, we remember that even when leaves

wither and die, we wait in faith for new life to come.

We pray for the mystery of the future.

We pray for goodness and mercy to be revealed.

We pray we might play our part in being the bearers of hope.

#### Water

As we sip from the cup of the water of life, we remember our baptism.

We ask that you continue, Wondrous Creator,  
to wash us and nourish us and call us into Life.

We pray your will strengthen us to honour your waterways  
and cherish Your oceans.

Make us mindful of water as a sign of you in everything.

#### Intercessions / Silence

In our heart languages we pray as the Lord taught us... Our Father...

#### Song

Make me a channel of your peace <https://youtu.be/XbZ4TK9xiAs>

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  
    Oh 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 pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Oh 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  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Songwriters: Sebastian Temple

## Word of Mission

**Sending Song** Tasmanian Sung Blessing [https://youtu.be/Kxd5XyZ6y\\_o](https://youtu.be/Kxd5XyZ6y_o)

May the west wind breathe softly on your shoulder  
and the gentle rain refresh all life around.  
May the light across the mountain paint your world with brighter days  
as the tall trees lift their heads from fertile ground.

May the pain of the past meet truth and healing  
and our hoping, loving, giving, bloom and grow.  
May the wonder of our island nurture caring in us all  
and the sacredness of land and living grow.

May the deep waters carry us to others  
and the gleaming skies direct our thoughts above  
may the beauty all around us fill us body, soul and mind  
and regenerate our world with peace and love.

(c) John Macrae, Hobart 2019