

Welcome to Worship - Sunday October 18, 2020

Celebrating a Season of Creation - Week 3



Parramatta Mission Online Services

Leigh 9.30am

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>



Leaders: Sunil Baek and Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

CREATING COMMUNITY

<https://youtu.be/Nu9A-I-XG38>

Call to Worship

<https://youtu.be/18rpSagixBw>

God calls to us, even with the sound of water!
Will we hear God in the voice of creation?
Will we worship the One who reigns over earth and seas?
Come! Let us worship God!

Hymn Oceans

<https://youtube/10w7MF6nLul>

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep - My faith will stand
 And I will call upon Your name
 And keep my eyes above the waves
 When oceans rise
 My soul will rest in Your embrace
 For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand - Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now
 So I will call upon Your name
 And keep my eyes above the waves
 When oceans rise
 My soul will rest in Your embrace
 For I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour [repeat]

I will call upon Your Name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine

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]

You hovered over the chaos of the first day
and brought new ways of being.
O God of the Wilderness,
look upon us in our homes, separated, yet together...
Come quickly to save us.
Help us gather today in new ways,
so that your Spirit is inspiring us for a common good.
Fill us with faith and trust in you so we may give you glory
now and in the world to come. Amen

Theme Reflection WILDING THEOLOGY

<https://vimeo.com/458824235?fbclid=IwAR2ex8eanV4qvVfMvqISfYXoh1luqOTIIZzZgVdR7Zf1OQJnOZ7c4zTt14U>

Confession Prayer

The waters of Baptism remind us of several images:
drawing and rising to new life,
the water of birth that takes us from one way of being in the world
into another way of being in the world,
the water we need to stay alive at all...
Baptism is a powerful symbol - so sacred that we call it a sacrament.
In baptism, we repent of doing our own thing and turn to God.
We commit ourselves to stop choosing our own way and, instead, choosing to walk
the path of discipleship.
When we are wild, we ask God to call us forward
on the path of Jesus Christ.
Sometimes this is the path of humility or care or concern,
sometimes it is a path that may involve creativity and healing,
or suffering and comfort.
In our prayer, we ask God to make us worthy of the path of Christ.

During the Season of Creation,
we also confess that the Way of Christ for the whole world
is now one of struggle.
We name the brokenness of the world around us
and ask God to save us and all creation.

Song Create i me a clean heart O God <https://youtu.be/noUeQQ64Q1I>

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
Let me be like you in all my ways
Give me your strength, teach me your song
Shelter me in the shadow of your wing
For we are your righteousness
If we die to ourselves and live to your death
we shall be born again to be blest in your love!

Words of Assurance

The One who created us is also a God of healing.
In Jesus Christ, God says to us, "Your sins are forgiven!"
Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace [Leigh - breakout rooms!]

God's peace be with you!
And also with you!

Song Tough the earth lightly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-js8Ko2qU1I>

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster--
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

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Readings 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Reflection Circle of Days - Francis' Canticle <https://youtu.be/l0FRoILkJ-Y>

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; [b] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,[c] we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Sermon

- 1) Now Christ lives here as he promised,
having once prepared the place:
Now we live as kingdom people
shaped, re-shaped at frightening pace;
Now, whilst still we live and struggle
Justice and Earth's voice speak loud
Now immersed in this day's trouble
Humble friends [3x] of Christ are proud!

- 2) Now the scriptures find their meaning:
told, re-told, refined by toil.
Choking air may yet be fragrant;
Fertile our degraded soil
Now the teaching we have sidestepped:
Love for all we can't evade:
Grace, forgiveness sets us free, in
joy to live [3x] as Jesus prayed.

- 3) Now and for our lives remaining;
Laurels offer feeble rest.
Times and seasons shape commitment
By immediacy blessed.
Be not tempted by 'Good Old Days'
Now, the days of Christ are best
Christ incarnate in Earth's family
Flesh and blood, [3x] God, manifest.

- 4) Yeast in dough and shining city
Salt for Earth and light for all
Not as domineering tyrants
but as friends for this long-haul!
Every day, the chance to follow
Not one step we walk in vain;
green our God is, sending Spirit:
energy [3x] from buried grain.

Prayers of the People

From before days were numbered,
the oceans pulsed sets of waves,
sometimes gently, caressing shore,
sometimes crashing with anxiety and anger.

We pray for the angry and the anxious in the world.
We especially pray for those who struggle with difficult behaviour.
We pray for their carers, families and households.
We pray for psychologists, counsellors, psychiatrists and therapists,
as they seek to find ways of helping people find their way.

From before woven fronds sheltered the weary,
rain and hail fell upon land and sea alike,
sometimes quenching and soaking the earth,
sometimes washing or beating ripples
into temporary patterns.

We pray for those who are experiencing storms in their lives.
We pray for first responders
and for long-term recovery and support teams.
We pray for wisdom in crisis management and resources to go
where they are most needed.

Over the chaos of waters, the air hovered,
thick with imagining and promise.
From the nothingness came somethingness,
sung into being by the eternal Artist.

We pray for those whose creative spirit
has been dampened or crushed during these strange times.
We pray for fragile relationships to be regrown and strengthened
as people begin to gather and try things out anew.
We pray for courage to face each day and the tomorrows yet to come.

Creation becomes God's delight.

So - we take some moments of silence
to hold all creation before God...

Intercessions / Silence

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

Song We walk on <https://vimeo.com/441506968>

We are a body - We're bothered and broken
We are a family - so fractured and frail
Here is a household - We're doubtful, divided
We are all pilgrims - together alone
And so we walk - And so we walk
We walk on - Lord, we walk on

We are a people - We're holding a promise
Once were full-bodied - yet now we are bones
Here was a heart-beat - still heaving and hoping
Life-blood now seeping - as cold as a stone
And so we walk ...

We are all travellers - with little direction
We are all followers - with future unknown
God of the twilight - God of the morning
God who stands by us - Our story unfolds
And so we walk ...

We are all worriers - We're anxious, despairing
We are all dreamers - still longing for home
Spirits are broken - Our hearts are wide open
just for ourselves and just for our world
And so we walk - And so we walk
We walk on - Lord, we walk on

This is our journey - a wilderness people
This is our yearning - of healing for all
Behind and before us - Within and beside us
Christ in the pathway - Christ in the call
And so we walk ...

Word of Mission

Sending Song Tasmanian Sung Blessing 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.

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