



Leigh Uniting
&
Westmead
Uniting Churches



EPIPHANY 5B



On the Sabbath
Jesus freely heals a woman

Jesus means freedom

7 FEBRUARY, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Or Dial in by phone +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together here in Leigh Memorial Uniting Church and at Westmead Uniting through zoom.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

Amen.

The Christ candle is lit

THEME Jesus means freedom!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of power,
God of people,
You are the life
of all that lives,
energy
that fills the earth,
vitality
that brings to birth,
the impetus
toward making whole
whatever is bruised
or broken.

In You we grow
to know the truth
that sets all creation free.
You are the song
the whole earth sings,
the promise
liberation brings,
now and forever!

(Miriam Therese Winter)

HYMN *God present to all* (Tune 567 TiS)

Creation sings amazing songs;
This is a place where God belongs
In movement, colour to behold
In past and future yet untold.

Source of all life's vitality
Enlivens love consistently;
We see God's presence in each face,
In kindly deeds and acts of grace.

Deep in our soul with vision clear
We see God's presence re-appear
Each time a human babe is born,
Each time we rise to greet the dawn.

Wonderful visions constantly
Express great beauty as we see
God's presence in humanity,
So vivid once in Galilee.

G Stuart

PRAYER OF SELF-EXAMINATION

God help us to find our confession;
The truth within us
which is hidden from our mind;
*The beauty or the ugliness
we see elsewhere
But never in ourselves;*

The stowaway which is smuggled
Into the dark side of the heart,
Which puts the heart off balance
and causes it pain,
*Which wearies and confuses us,
Which tips us in false directions and inclines us to destruction,*

The load which is not carried squarely
Because it is carried in ignorance.
God help us to find our confession.
*Help us across
the boundary of our understanding.*

Lead us into the darkness
that we may find what lies concealed;
That we may confess it
towards the light;
That we may carry our truth

in the centre of our heart;
That we may carry our cross wisely
And bring harmony into our world.
Amen.

The Prayer Tree by Michael Leunig

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Jesus Christ,
Love is the way and the gift.
It is never withdrawn from us,
but lies in the heart of God
in encouragement and grace.

We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.
Amen!

HYMN

We cannot measure how you heal, John Bell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc67jeCWxt0>

1. We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.
2. The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.
3. So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39 (Inclusive Text)

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew.

Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told Jesus about her straightaway.

Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up.

And the fever left and she began to minister to them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to Jesus all who were sick and those who were possessed with devils.

The whole town came crowding round the door,

and Jesus cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.

Jesus also cast out many devils, but would not allow them to speak, because they knew who Jesus was.

In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went out to a lonely place and prayed there.

Simon and the others set out in search of Jesus, and when they found him, they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.'

Jesus answered,

'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.'

And Jesus went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Response

O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.

And colour our living.

Amen!

SONG

Phil Collins, Another Day in Paradise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt2mbGP6vFI>

She calls out to the man on the street
"Sir, can you help me?
It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"

He walks on, doesn't look back
He pretends he can't hear her
Starts to whistle as he crosses the street
Seems embarrassed to be there

Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise

Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you, you and me in paradise

Think about it

She calls out to the man on the street
He can see she's been crying
She's got blisters on the soles of her feet
She can't walk but she's trying

Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise
Oh think twice
It's just another day for you, you and me in paradise

Just think about it

Oh, Lord, is there nothing more anybody can do?
Oh, my Lord, there must be something you can say

You can tell from the lines on her face
You can see that she's been there
Probably been moved on from every place
'Cause she didn't fit in there

Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise
Oh think twice
It's just another day for you, you and me in paradise

Just think about it
Just think about it

It's just another day for you and me in paradise
It's just another day for you and me in paradise
It's just another day for you and me in paradise

Just think about it

SERMON *Nemo seeks freedom!*

HYMN *Dreams and Visions* (Tune: 'Jerusalem')

<https://www.sixmaddens.org/dreams-and-visions-aov-261/>

1. As a dream receive your history
From the martyrs and the saints.
Let their story be your story,
Yours the laughter, yours the pain.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

2. Jesus, we stumble in the darkness,
We cry for visions in these days.
Pour on us your living spirit,
In all ways, always.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

3. Jesus, save your nomad people,
Bring us face to face with you.
Start in us a new creation,
Christ be with us as we go.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

© Andrew Tanner 1981.

OFFERING An offering of our lives and the gifts of creation.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Jesus Christ, call to us
in the streets around us and beyond.
*Enable us to see where you wait
on the margins of life,
with those who are pushed
to the edge of hope.*

Guide us towards
wise decisions and actions,
so that we truly share true life,
rather than charity and dependencies.

Let us pray for these issues, people and our church:

Prayer is offered

May we walk with them, Jesus Christ,
because we are faithful
to your dreams for them
and as the witnesses to your being.

***Create in this place, a community of prophetic life
which announces to this community
that your friends embrace
all who come in humility and love.***

Stand in our midst,
we pray Jesus Christ,
warming us with your encouragement
and inspiring us towards
living out your Gospel.

***Then make us brave enough to walk into the unknown,
confident that you will never leave us alone.***

Build up this trust among us,
so that our life and prayers
come from the depths of our hearts
and give us strength in all we do.

***This we pray in faith.
Amen.***

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Host of life, You invite us to this table
to share the fragrance of generosity,
***the gift of your life given for us,
the gifts of bread and cup.***

At this table we give thanks
for justice, love, peace and freedom.

***At this table we give thanks
for friends and strangers.***

At this table all are welcome!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of generosity
and all things new be with you!
And also with you!

Let us open our hearts
to the One who restores us to new life!
*May our hearts be emptied of fear
And filled with grace and love.*

Beloved of God, let us give thanks
to the One who draws near to the world.
For the person we name Jesus and his message of peace,
justice and inclusiveness that is the realm of God.
For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit
always present on the breath of life.
*We give thanks for the love,
peace and justice,
for prosperity, strength and freedom,
and for God in the midst of life.*

Holy God of wonder, feed us with the bread of life,
so we might share food with those who know true hunger;
as your justice shines in the shadows of our hearts,
may we light the way for the lost and despised;
as you reshape our brokenness into wholeness,
may we bind up the wounds of our world.

THE INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
“This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me”

In the same way, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and again giving thanks, said:
“This cup is the sign
of my new covenant with you.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.”

THE INVOCATION

Be present risen Jesus Christ,
by your Holy Spirit, as you were with your disciples
and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread,
for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take
is a sharing in the life-blood of Christ.
The gifts of God
for the people of God.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE

The body of Christ given for us.
The life-blood of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

And now, God sends us out into our communities,
not to cling to a faded past,
but to discover all things new God is doing.

And now, Jesus calls us to notice those around us,
to receive and share generous hope,
to find each other in community
to welcome each other as family.

And now, the Spirit anoints us with grace,
to make a way through the injustices around us
so we might walk with our sisters and brothers
into the kingdom springing forth in all of life.

Amen!

HYMN

Sent forth by God's blessing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q9HOEDvBwI>

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

BLESSING

God sends us forth into the world,
so we will go to walk miles in the shoes of others.
Jesus calls us to serve everyone we meet,
so we will become all things to all people.
The Holy Spirit encourages us to let go of our gospel-given rights,
so we may breathe new life into the faint.
Amen.