



*Combined congregations of  
Parramatta Mission  
Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian, Westmead  
and Parramatta Mission staff*

*Uniting Church in Australia  
Conclusion of Ministry placements for*

*Rev Keith Hamilton  
and  
Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler*

*Leigh Memorial Church and Zoom  
<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>*

*28 February 2021 10.00 am*

## The sounding of the Lali

### Introit / Sere ni Curu Mai

**Ni voleka mada** (Jesus stand among us)

**Fijian choir**

1. Ni voleka mada  
Na Karisito  
Nomuni Kaukauwa  
Me kilai oqo. Jesus, stand among us  
in your risen pow'r.  
Let this time of worship  
Be a hallowed hour.
2. Ni ceguva tiko  
Nomuni talai  
Nona cakacaka  
Me sa yaga mai. Breathe the Holy Spirit  
Into ev'ry heart  
Bid the fears and sorrows  
From each soul depart.
3. Me sa rogo tale  
Na domomuni,  
Me macala kina  
Na Lomamuni. Thus with quickened footsteps  
we'll pursue our way  
watching for the dawning  
Of eternal day.

### Gathering

**Clive**

We come together here, and in our different places,  
people of the congregations of Parramatta Mission:  
Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and Westmead,  
people of Parramatta Mission and of Western Sydney University.

We come to worship God,  
to give thanks for God's ongoing work among us  
and for the ministries of those who have served God in the name of  
Christ in these places and whose ministries are now ending.

### Acknowledgement of country

*In Fijian and English: **Tupou and Callum***

Eda rokova ka vakananumi ira na wekada nai Taukei ni qele ena vanua eda sa mai tiko kina, kei ira na wekada na Torres Strait Islanders, ko ira era sa liu, era bula tiko ena gauna oqo kei ira era na muri mai.

Eda vakananuma na nodrai talanoa, nai i tovo kei na nodra i vakarau ni bula ko i ira nai taukei ni uma qele eda sa tiko kina oqo.

Eda vakananuma na veika rarawa era lako curuma ena gauna sa oti, ka so se lako curumi tiko ga ena oqo, ka da tu vata kei ira ena vakanuinui ni na ia na veisereki kei na veivakasaututaki.

Me da vakadeitaki keda ena cakacaka vata, me da veivueti cake,  
ka vakanuinui ena veisiga vinaka ni mataka.

We acknowledge the Burrmuttagal people of the Darug Nation,  
the first inhabitants of this place.

We honour them for the custodianship of the land.

We acknowledged their elders past and present, and emerging  
leaders.

We commit ourselves to build reconciliation with First Peoples  
wherever Parramatta Mission gathers or holds activities.

Let us worship God

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Christ Jesus is the light of the world.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Confession**      Clive

Creator God, you have called all things into being.

Throughout the ages, you have continued to draw your peoples  
Into your life-giving purpose.

You have formed us to live in relationship with each other  
and with the whole of creation.

You have shown us the richness that we are offered

And the beauty that surrounds us

When we open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to life in You.

**We offer You our thanks and praise.**

Jesus Christ, in you we have heard the voice that calls to us,  
That speaks the words of wisdom, truth and life.

You have shown us how the path of discipleship leads us  
into ways that challenge, deepen and strengthen us

as we learn more of your love, your justice and your grace.

You have been there in the midst of the connections we have  
found

across cultures, across so many things that would otherwise  
divide.

For all that has enriched our journeys of faith

**We offer you our thanks and praise.**

Holy Spirit, ever present energy of God,  
You have sought us out, you have guided us  
Through darkness with a light that is never quenched.  
You have woven connections, inspired and renewed us  
Even when we have not fully understood.  
Yours is the thread that connects our past through our present  
And into our future.  
Your unfailing presence holds us safe.  
**We offer you our thanks and praise.**

Now we come together in this particular time in our shared  
journey  
with one another and with you.  
We come, trusting in your deep knowledge of us,  
of Parramatta Mission and the congregations and Western  
Sydney University  
and of your people alongside whom you placed us.  
We come believing in your ongoing word of life  
And holding to the faith that you lead us in your everlasting way.

Forgive us we pray, for the times when we have failed to trust you;  
The times when we have tried to shape things in our own ways  
And the times when we have forgotten your promises to us,  
made known to us in Jesus.

*Silence*

Lord have mercy  
**Christ have mercy**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness** Clive

The God who has sought us and found us,  
The God who has called us and guided us,  
The God who has sent us Jesus to show us the way, speaks to us  
in him.  
Hear again the words that Jesus spoke to those who turned to him:  
"Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace."  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## The Youth

### Readings:

Let us listen for the word of God in the Hebrew Scriptures:

Jonah 3. *Tumeli Donu In Fijian*

**3** Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:<sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.<sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”<sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup> When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.<sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.<sup>8</sup> But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.<sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Let us listen for the word of God in the Gospel:

Mark 8: 22-36 *Alysa Biju*

In these readings is the word of God.

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *Rev. Bec Lindsay*

**Hymn**      **The Summons**

Will you come and follow me,  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

# CLOSURE OF MINISTRY

## The Letting Go of the Pastoral Relationship

The presbytery chairperson Rev Geoff Stevenson, says:

Since the Church lives by the power of the Word,  
it is assured that God has never failed  
to provide a witness to that Word.

On 4 February 2008, the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean inducted Rev Keith Hamilton as minister of the word as Senior Minister at Parramatta Mission and the congregations of Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and Westmead;

and on 2 March 2018 the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean inducted Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler as chaplain at Western Sydney University and as minister of the Word within the Parramatta Mission congregations.

We witnessed your promises to take part  
in the public worship of God,  
to contribute to the work of God,  
and to make a Christian witness in the community  
by word and action.

The placements of Keith and Amelia have now concluded.

A call to Amelia has been received

to the Eastwood congregation within Sydney Central Coast Presbytery.

The time has come to mark the end  
of her particular responsibilities  
in the University of Sydney and congregations of Parramatta Mission,  
and to send her with God's blessing  
to this new ministry.

While it is not yet clear  
where Keith's future ministry is to be exercised,  
the time has come to mark the end  
of his particular responsibilities with Parramatta Mission  
and in the congregations of Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and  
Westmead,  
and to assure him of God's blessing  
and the continuing care of this Presbytery

**Prayer of Confession:**

Each minister says:

This service will bring to a conclusion my ministry with you.

Ian Gray addresses Keith

When you were inducted  
we promised to take part with you  
in the work of God by word and action,  
and you made solemn vows before God  
to serve faithfully among us.

In penitence and faith,  
let us confess our sins to almighty God.

Keith offers this confession:

I confess to you,  
Holy God, giver of light and grace,  
and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned  
through ignorance, through weakness  
and through my own fault.  
I pray for God's mercy and forgiveness.

The people respond:

**May the merciful God forgive you,  
and grant you joy and peace,  
in God's pardoning grace. Amen.**

## Ian Gray addresses Amelia

When you were inducted  
we promised to take part with you  
in the work of God by word and action,  
and you made solemn vows before God  
to serve faithfully among us.

In penitence and faith,  
let us confess our sins to almighty God.

## Amelia offers this response

I confess to you,  
Holy God, giver of light and grace,  
and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned  
through ignorance, through weakness  
and through my own fault.  
I pray for God's mercy and forgiveness.

## The people respond:

**May the merciful God forgive you,  
and grant you joy and peace,  
in God's pardoning grace. Amen.**

## *Silence*

## Clive calls the congregation to pray:

Let us confess our sins.

**We confess to you,  
Holy God, giver of light and grace,  
and to you our brothers and sisters,  
that we have sinned  
through ignorance, through weakness  
and through our own fault.  
We pray for God's mercy and forgiveness.**

Presbytery chair says:

May the merciful God forgive you,  
and grant you joy and peace,  
in God's pardoning grace. Amen.

## The Peace

God calls us to peace.  
**In God's justice is our peace.**

Christ calls us to be God's people:  
**in Christ is our peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Keith says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
you called me to lead you and minister with you;  
to provide collaborative leadership across Parramatta Mission,  
its boards and its councils.  
and within the congregations of Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and  
Westmead.

You charged me to preach the Word,  
preside at the sacraments  
and to oversee the pastoral life of the congregations  
and, as Senior Minister,  
to provide leadership within the community.  
Now I must lay down the tasks you committed to me.

I therefore hand to you this file to you  
with the groups for whom I have cared,  
and ask you to continue to minister to these people.

Robert Key, Mission Secretary of the church council receives the  
file.

Amelia says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
you called me to offer chaplaincy  
within Western Sydney University  
along with ministering among you.

I have preached the Word,  
presided at the sacraments  
and been part of the pastoral life of the congregation.  
Now I must lay down the tasks you committed to me.

I therefore hand this symbol to you,  
and ask you to continue to care for these people.

Robert Key, Mission Secretary of the church council  
receives the symbol.

Rev Geoff Stevenson says:

And now, on behalf of the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean  
we thank you for your ministry of God's grace  
in this congregation.

Keith: we release you from this ministry,  
and commend you to the pastoral care  
of the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean

Amelia: we release you from this ministry,  
into the pastoral care  
of Sydney Central Coast Presbytery.  
As you take up a new placement at Eastwood  
we will pray for God's blessing  
on your continuing ministry.

Keith, as you await a new placement  
we will pray for God's blessing  
on your future ministry.

**All: Be strong and of good courage,  
do not be afraid:  
for it is the Lord who goes with you.  
Your God will not fail you or forsake you.  
(Deut. 31:6).**

## **Thanksgiving**

**Keith and Amelia call the congregation to prayer, saying:**

Let us pray:

**Keith:**

O God, you bound us together for a time  
as minister and people  
to work for the advancement  
of your kingdom in this place:  
we give you humble and hearty thanks  
for the ministry which we have shared.

**Amelia:**

We thank you  
for your never-failing presence with us  
through these years  
and for the deeper knowledge of you  
and of each other which we have received.

*Silence*

**Congregations:**

**We thank you for opening our hearts and minds  
again and again to your Word,  
and for feeding us abundantly with the sacrament  
of the body and blood of your Son.**

## **The Prayers of the People continue.**

Lyall Weaver, Mario de Reland, Sosi Toa, David Thomas

### **The Lord's Prayer**      Clive

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Final Prayer**

Rev Geoff Stevenson, the Chairperson of Presbytery, says:

Let us pray.

O God,  
be with those who leave,  
and with those who stay;  
and grant that all of us,  
by drawing nearer to you,  
may always be close to each other  
in the communion of saints;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Hymn: Praise with joy the world's creator**

Praise with joy the world's creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of goodness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us  
Liberating truth from pride,  
Forging bonds where race or gender,  
Age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
One God in Community,  
Calling us to leave behind  
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe  
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

*Lyrics John Bell and Graham Maule c. 1986 Wild Goose Publications*

**Sending out**                      Clive

**Blessing**                              Fijian choir

Candles are gifted to Keith and Amelia Johana

**Please remain seated at the end of the service for  
the presentation of gifts to Keith and Amelia:**

Representatives of the three congregations and the city briefly  
farewell the ministers.

Keith and Amelia each make a response

Morning tea will be served in the hall, coffee lounge, courtyard.

