

LEIGH MEMORIAL UNITING CHURCH

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2021

LENT 1B

LEIGH MEMORIAL ON SITE WORSHIP - 9.30 AM

ON LINE WORSHIP FROM LEIGH MEMORIAL, 9.30AM

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

Or Dial in by phone +61 2 8015 6011 Australia



Ed Knippers (USA artist), Christ in the Wilderness

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25).

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

GREETINGS:

To the church gathered
in Parramatta, on site and on zoom:

Grace and peace to you
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

LENTEN MEDITATION: (from Psalm 25).

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

HYMN: 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with Holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
shining all around.

Is

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister his grace.
No work too hard for him
In faith receive from him.
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

Christ Jesus is the Light of the world.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

In this Lenten season of the year
We make our way to this place
To worship you, loving God,
Knowing full well that
Our ways are not your ways
And that we all fall short
Of the glory of God.

We bring with us the ever present
Busyness and distractions of the day,
The uncertainties of the times
In which we find ourselves
In order to find our purpose in you:

For you are the one in whom
We live and move and have our being.
You come to us in Christ Jesus,
Whose journey along the way
Took him to a cross
Made by human hands.,

We come to worship you,
Mindful of your steadfast love.
We come to worship you,
Creator God, for you seek
The well-being of this world.

Amen.

Act of Confession and Trust in God.

The apostle Paul wrote:

Only let your manner of life
Be worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, and with all your mind.

Jesus said:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Forgive us, God of mercy,
God of compassion,
When we forget to love;
When we put others to shame;
When we look away from those in need.

Forgive us, God of mercy,
God of compassion,

When we forget you,
When we forget the way of Jesus,
When we hurt others
And hurt ourselves.

Silence

SONG: 'The power of your love'.

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

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You
Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love

*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
By the power of Your love

*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 (2x)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news.

“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.” (1 Peter 3:18)

And so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

LEARNING TOGETHER:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cam5_bvAaEM

READINGS:

The Hebrew Bible:

Genesis 9: 8- 17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Gospel:

Mark 1: 9- 15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

This is God’s word,

Let us give thanks to God

SERMON

Pastor Sarah Bishop

HYMN:**Dear Father, Lord of humankind**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAxIN0egN-I>

- 1 Dear Father, Lord of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways:
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord
let us, like them, without word:
'Rise up and follow me,
rise up and follow me!'
- 3 O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
when Jesus shared on bended knee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love,
interpreted by love!
- 4 Drop your still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of your peace,
the beauty of your peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
your coolness and your balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

OFFERING:**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

THE SENDING OUT (MISSION)

DISMISSAL: based on inSpiring the Common Good / Parramatta

HYMN **Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.**

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

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

BENEDICTION