



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia
Synod of NSW & ACT

Welcome to Worship
Sunday March 7 2021

*L*ENT 3

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



The foolishness of the cross

Call to worship:

To the church of Parramatta,
On-line and on-site,
Grace and peace to you
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

AND ALSO TO YOU

Opening sentences:

(from Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament^l proclaims the work of God's hands.

The decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;

Acknowledgement of Country

Lighting the Christ candle.

Christ Jesus is the Light of the world.



Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfu1dqKCGd8>

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but naught changeth Thee.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee!

Prayer of approach:

An Act of Confession:

The apostle Paul wrote:

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

Jesus said: Take up your cross
 And follow me.

Jesus said: Forgive one another.

Jesus said: Those who hear my words and do
 Them is like the wise person who
 builds their house on rock.

Silence

What does the Lord require of you,
But to act justly, love mercy
And walk humbly with God.

**Have mercy upon us, Christ Jesus
Forgive us our lack of hope,
Our lack of love, our lack of joy,
Our lack of peace.**

Silence

Words of Assurance:

Through the waters of baptism
You are raised to new life:
You become a new creation.
Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

Song: 'Behold, behold, I make all things new'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeaMqIFSEZ8>

Sharing the Peace:

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

Service of Baptism

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Baptismal hymn: A little girl we bring today

(Tune: Repton, TiS 598 Lyrics: John Townsend)

A little girl we bring today,
An act of faith to show,
Through bringing us, as best we know,
This child in Christ-like ways to show
The wonder that is God,
The wonder that is God.

The world that she will come to know,
Life's journeys she will take
We cannot know, how she will grow:
Yet trust in Christ-like lives to show,
The mercy that is God,

The mercy that is God.
In times of change when she will need
To find new paradigms,
Remembering of Jesus still,
With courage seek to have the will
For justice to stand true,
For people to include,

A little girl we bring today,
A home of faith to grow;
By bringing up as best we know
This child in loving ways to show,
The wonder that is God,
The wonder that is God.

Presentation

Samantha

Ashley and Philip have come today to present
their daughter, Macie Louise
for baptism.

We welcome them,
along with their families and friends
who worship with us today.

Scripture

Clive

Hear the words of Jesus Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth
Has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
Baptising them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe
all that I have commanded you;
I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
(*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Samantha

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
(*Matthew 19:14*)

The meaning of Baptism

Clive

Baptism, in our tradition,
is a celebration of the grace of God
which is offered to us from the moment we are born.
It is not earned or requested by us.
It is there before we even know it.

Baptism is the church's way
of celebrating and naming the grace of God
Which draws near to Macie
and every one of God's children.

It is an affirmation of the truth
that God delights in this child,
and in all that this child will become.

Baptism is Christ's gift.

It is the sign by which
the Spirit of God
joins people to Jesus Christ
and gathers them
into Christ's body, the church.

In his own baptism
in the river Jordan by John,
Jesus identified himself
with humanity in all its brokenness;
that baptism was completed
in Christ's death and resurrection.

By God's grace, baptism immerses us
in the love of Jesus Christ,
So that whatever belongs to Christ
may be ours.

By water and the Spirit,
we are claimed as God's own
and set free to live with a new hope.

Ashley and Martin
what do you ask of God's church for your child:

We ask that they be baptised Ashley and Martin
into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

In the light of your request, I ask you now:

Do you believe that the gospel
enables us to walk in the light of Christ?

We do. Ashley and Martin

May Jesus Christ open the ears of your daughter,
Macie, so that she may
receive his word,
and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

The Confession of Faith

The Uniting Church, in baptising children,
takes responsibility for their instruction
and nourishment in the faith.

Ashely and Martin
you have brought your child
here to be baptised

Do you receive the teaching of the Christian faith
and claim your membership in Christ's Church?

I do Ashley and Martin

In unity with the whole Church,
let us stand and affirm the faith
into which we were baptised.

The people stand.

We believe in God, the creator
Of this world – land, sea and air,
And all its creatures:

We believe that
All things were made
In, through and for Christ.

Congregation

We trust in God's
love and wisdom:

With God's help, we will.

Ashley and Martin

Will you, by word and example,
teach them the way of Christ
until the Spirit draws them
to make their own response
in faith and love?

With God's help we will.

Ashley and Martin

Kate, Joel, and Chantel.
you have been asked to be godparents:

Will you commit yourselves
to support Ashley and Martin
in their love and care of Macie?

Will you stand by them
In good times and other times?
Will you be a sign of God's grace
And love to them
And to Macie?

With God's help I will.

Godparents

Friends in Christ,
will you promise to maintain
a life of worship and teaching,
prayer, witness and service
so that these children and young folk,
and all those children and young folk
among you, may grow to maturity in Christ?

**With God's help,
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
and encouraging one another in service.**

Congregation

Baptismal prayer

Let us pray:

Macie as you grow, we hope that you feel love and happiness each and every day.

We hope to give you every opportunity where you can develop the skills and confidence to explore and venture out into the world to play and learn.

We hope you feel supported and encouraged to pursue your talents and dreams

and when times get tough you can have the strength to see the sunshine at the end of the tunnel.

But most of all we hope you live a happy and healthy life surrounded by the love from your family and friends.

We pray for Ashley and Martin
may their home be one of love,
nurture, laughter and welcome.

May they guide this young life
Entrusted into their care
In ways which are a source
Of love, joy and hope.

Amen.

Bless this faithful people.
May they continue
to live out lives
which bear the marks
of Christ's call
to forgiveness,
mercy and compassion,
Amen.

This is a day of great celebration.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Congregation

One of the parents presents Macie to the congregation while we sing

The Aaronic Blessing

TiS 776

The family make their way back to the seats.

**fully revealed in
the humanity of Jesus Christ,
now present to us
through the Spirit's working
in the Church and the world at large.**

Congregation

We believe that God
is calling the whole creation
into a future of justice and peace.

**We share in Christ's risen life;
We commit ourselves today
to receive the coming reign of God.**

Congregation

To the only God, Three yet One,
**be all honour and glory
and praise now and for ever. Amen.**

The people sit

Blessing of the Water

God of life,
through the breaking of waters
and the coming of the Spirit,
you bring us new birth;
you give the living water,
which becomes in us
an eternal spring
quenching our thirst,
flowing through us
and refreshing us for eternal life,
and the service of the Christ.

Samantha pours the water into the font

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
bless this water,
and those who will be baptised in it,
that they may be born anew,
live in your light all their days,
and come to share your likeness;

In the name of God the creator,
Christ the Human One
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen

The congregation stands

The Baptism

Macie will be held by one of her parents.

Macie,

for you Christ has come into the world:
for you he lived and showed God's love;
for you he chose to die
rather than give up love.

For you, Christ triumphed over death,
and rose in newness of life;
for you he prays at God's right hand;

Macie

I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Macie ,

from this day on
the sign of the cross is upon you.
May you always know who you are
and to whom you belong.

You are now a member of Christ's community.

The Responses

Ashley and Martin,
I ask you now
to respond to God's graciousness
to your child
by making these promises:

Will you encourage the growth
Of your child, Macie,
within the Christian community,
guiding them through participation in the worship,
nurture and fellowship of the Church
to a mature Christian faith?

Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2:13-21

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon:

The Offering and Prayer:

The Prayer for Others

The Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: **One body, one bread**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYIJC26-Ch0>

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew
Servant or free
Woman or man
No more

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Many the gifts,
many the works
One in the Lord
Of all

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord
We are one body in this one Lord

COMMUNION

Invitation:

Come now to this table
where the living Christ
offers us bread broken for our journey
and wine poured out
for our life in this world.

Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Good and gracious God,
You are the one in whom
we live and move and have our being:
we are restless until we find our life in you.

We thank you, God,
that from the beginning
You made the world, the seas,
Islands and continents,
and all their creatures.

You made people,
male and female,
in your image,
to live for you and each other.

We praise you, God our creator,

We thank you, God,
For your coming to us in
Christ Jesus,
your beloved Son:

We thank You for his teaching,
his ministry of healing,
the way in which he drew alongside
all sorts of people and
for the way in which he embodied
your will for us.

We are filled with sorrow
that he should have been
despised, rejected, betrayed,
handed over, crucified:

We are filled with hope
because you raised him from the dead;
that he is now ascended,
once more with you in your presence;

and that you now come to us
in and through the Spirit,
who enables us to confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord

We are yours: we belong to Christ.

And so, now, with all those
who have gone before us
and with those who will come after us
with the whole creation
we sing your praises:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of Consecration:

Now we gather around your table,
for you are a God of hospitality;
your will is to feed us and nourish us
and keep us company.

**We remember the meals Jesus
shared with others**

We remember especially
the last supper he shared with his disciples

We remember that
On the night he was betrayed
he took the bread, blessed it
broke it and gave thanks and said
Do this in remembrance of me;

and, then, in the same way, after supper,
took the cup, blessed and poured it out
for our sake.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the body and blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the body of Christ
given for the world you have made.

Amen.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of
Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
For we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Bread and wine: the gifts of God
For the people of God.**

Lamb of God:

Jesus, lamb of God.
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins.
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world.
Grant us your peace.

Distribution:

We will take the bread together

“The Body of Christ, broken for you”.

We will take the juice together

“The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed for you”.

Post-Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
You put your life in our hands,
Now we put our lives in yours.

**Take us, mould us, remake us
For we have broken bread together:
We have drunk the cup of wine.**

We have shared in the mystery
Of your death and rising to life again.

**Our hope is in you,
To the close of the age, Amen.**

Dismissal

Hymn: Lift high the cross

(Tune: Crucifer, TiS 351; Lyrics: Shirley Murray)

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world
adore his glorious name!*

Come, Christian people,
sing your praises, shout!
if we are silent,
even stones cry out.

Refrain

Jesus, you wept to see
our human strife,
teach us compassion
for each human life.

Refrain

Peace was your plea,
and peace your loving theme,
let peace be our passport,
peace a living dream.

Refrain

Great is the cost
of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer
with the Son of God.

Refrain

Worlds to be born
and children yet to be
come, take up this song
into eternity.

Refrain

Blessing:

At the end of service: (following last hymn: minister invites family to come forward again). Samantha presents a candle.

Macie,
you belong to Christ, the light of the world.

May the light of Christ shine within you;
may the Spirit of God shine through you,
May you always see the light of Christ
on the path ahead of you.
Let your light shine so that all those who see your light may give
glory to God

The family return to their seats.

May the love of God
The creator in whose image
We are made:

Watch over all your days

May the peace of Christ
The beloved Son:
Embrace you.

May the Spirit of God,
The life giver,
Raise you to new hope:
Now and always,

Amen.

