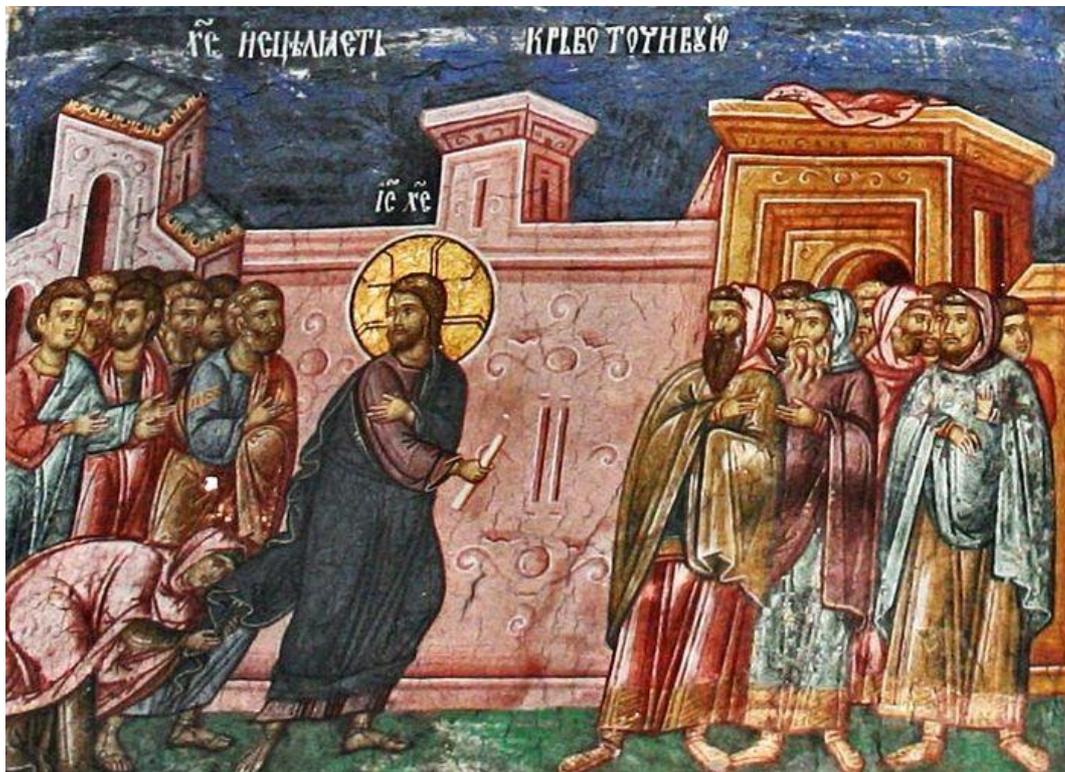


LEIGH MEMORIAL UNITING CHURCH

9.30am, Sunday 27 June, 2021

Pentecost 5

A Touching Place



Parramatta Mission acknowledges the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation, for many thousands of years the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather, and pays respect to elders past, present and emerging.

The Gathering of the People

Prelude:

Call to worship (*from Psalm 130*).

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

Acknowledgement of Country

Hymn: 'Let us build a house where love can dwell'

(Lyrics: Marty Haugen; Tune: Two Oaks).

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive;
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
*All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

3. Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space,
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger,
All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome,
All are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

A Prayer of Approach:

'You touch us in so many ways'

An Act of Trust and Confession in God

Out of the depths I cry to you Lord:

Hear my voice.

Jesus said: as you did to the least of these
as you did to me.

Forgive us, compassionate and healing God,
For those times:

**We have been too busy to notice those in need;
We have too quickly looked away;**

Have mercy upon us,
For those times:

**Our hearts have been hardened;
Our words have been harsh.**

Forgive us
For those times:

**We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
We have not loved you.
We have failed to take up our cross
And follow the way of Christ**
Whose touch healed and transformed lives.

*A time of silence.
Remain seated to sing.*

Hymn TiS 473: Community of Christ

(Lyrics: Shirley Murray; Tune: Leoni)

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Assurance of Pardon:

Just as Jesus came to his disciples after he had risen
and spoke to them of peace,
hear again his words as they come to us:

Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

TiS 720: 'Halle, Halle, hallelujah'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn9IKRm0IY>

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
Be with you all:
And also with you.

Service of the Word

Learning Together:

'The mission of God'.

Readings:

Your word O God is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Let us listen for the word of God in the book of Acts:

2 Samuel 1; 23-27

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan:

¹⁷ David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

²³ Saul and Jonathan—
in life they were loved and admired,
and in death they were not parted.
They were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ "Daughters of Israel,
weep for Saul,
who clothed you in scarlet and finery,
who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

²⁶ I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;
you were very dear to me.
Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.

²⁷ “How the mighty have fallen!
The weapons of war have perished!”

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

Mark 5:21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside,

and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit in our lives.

Hymn: 'We cannot measure how you heal'

(Lyrics: John Bell and Graham Maule; Tune: Sursum Corda, TiS 240)

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 that 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 that 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.

Sermon ‘A touching place’

Hymn TiS 690: “Beauty for brokenness”.

1. Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in your suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

2. Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields

Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

The Offering and Prayer

The Prayer for Others and The Lord's Prayer

'A touching place'. (TiS 677)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTlwZ3XNyEY>

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 Handing Over to Uniting

From Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

A little history	Elizabeth de Reland
Couples and Friends' Rugs	Robert Key
Letting go, farewells, handover	Ian Gray
Response	Uniting
Prayer	Mark Newton

Sending out

Hymn: "Who is this man?"

(Lyrics: Mary Pearson; Tune: Londonderry Air).

1. Who is this man,
Who gathered people to him,
And touched their lives along each dusty way;
Who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness
And valued all their ordinary days?
Who is this man,
Who, at the day's long ending,
Would draw apart to wait on God and pray,
And in that mystery that knows no ending,
Would find God's wisdom
and would know God's words to say.
2. Who is this man who gave to women dignity
in partnership of worth and equal grace?
Who listened to the stories that they told him,
and honoured each, whatever was their place:
who let them choose to come and join his company
and learned with them God's love of every race,
who showed to each the courage of their nature
to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face.
3. Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness
and showed them all the children at his side:
who taught of love and justice for all people,
and took a towel and washed away their pride?

In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy,
and how he trusted God to be his guide,
knew how he led them through misunderstanding,
and then forgave them when they ran away to hide.

4. Who is this man,
Who calls us now to follow,
A shadow presence asking is to be
Companions of the way through this life's journey,
To live in truth, to set our tired world free?
So, let us find each other now in partnership,
With ears to hear and eyes to see,
That we might grow in grace and understanding
And walk beside that man who comes from Galilee.

Benediction:

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:
Abide in you.

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

Amen.

*Congregation members and visitors are kindly invited to join us for morning tea
in 'The Gathering Place' next door following this morning's service.*