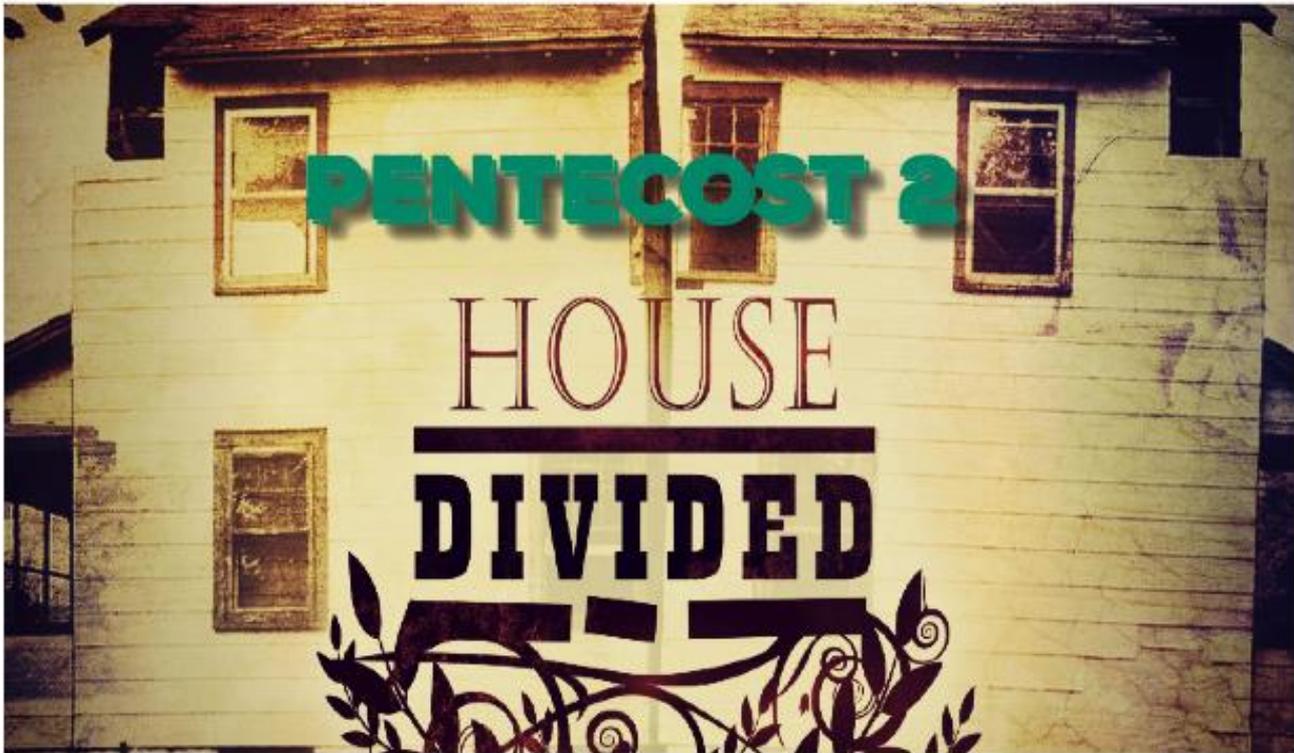




**uniting  
church**  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial  
Uniting Church



WHO ARE MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS?"...  
"HERE ARE MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS!  
WHOEVER DOES THE WILL OF GOD IS MY  
BROTHER AND SISTER AND MOTHER."

6 June, 2021

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

Or Dial in by phone +61 2 8015 6011 Australia  
Meeting ID: 395 833 6709

## WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday.

## LIGHTING OF THE PENTECOST CANDLE

Today we light this candle  
proclaiming the transforming power of God.  
Today we celebrate the richness and diversity of life.  
Christ is alive and living among us!

*The candle is lit*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal 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

As we gather this morning  
we celebrate the goodness of grace  
that liberates us from oppression  
when dark forces work to bind us.

***We celebrate the goodness of grace  
that provides for us a refuge  
when destructive powers buffet our lives.***

We celebrate the goodness of grace  
that proclaims our belonging as one and equal in God's family  
when inequality surfaces in race, social status or gender.

***We celebrate the goodness of grace  
which accompanies us in times of temptation,  
and leads us into God's vibrant, abundant life.  
Amen.***

## HYMN

*Praise with joy the world's Creator (TiS 179)*

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

*(Tune: Praise my soul the king of heaven. J Goss c. 1986 Wild  
Goose Publications)*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION *(inspired by Mark 3:20-35)*

O God, good parent you seek to guide and accompany us  
to nourish and lead us.

Brother Jesus, like a caring older brother,

you call us into family  
to empower and guide us,  
to cheer us and invite us.

Healing Spirit, you call us and move us ever closer  
into companionship with you and each other.

***Yet like unruly children we strain at your guidance,  
we try to break away and do it ourselves.***

We feel our strength and imagine us to be all powerful.  
We rejoice in our life and imagine ourselves to be immortal.  
We know our talents and want to be independent  
rather than live interdependently together.

We easily allow ourselves to be in the grip of other powers,  
leading us away from your loving ways  
into the slavery of self maintenance, materialism and power.

***Jesus Christ, forgive us and free us.  
Open our eyes to shared life and leadership.***

Open our hearts that we may learn  
that neither race or tribe, culture or religion  
are barriers to separate us  
but that we are all one family in your love.

***So open our hearts and minds  
to learn again to live your love  
as we celebrate and give you thanks here together.***

*(Adapted: Source: Rev. Andrea Price, Church of Scotland's Starters  
for Sunday)*

## **WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE**

BE ASSURED brothers and sisters in Christ,  
God sent the Son into the world, not to judge but to save,  
and the Spirit is promised as our comforter and guide;  
be assured that there is nothing that can come between us

and the forgiving, healing and renewing power  
of the love of God, three in one,  
Source, Son & Spirit.

Know and live as children who are free!

We are forgiven –

***thanks be to God, Amen!***

*(Rev. Jennie Gordon, UCA minister)*

**HYMN**     *Brother sister let me serve you (TiS 650)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs>

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Mark 3:20-35 (NRSV)

20 and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” 23 And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27 But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. 28 “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — 30 for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” 31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” 33 And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

**RESPONSE**

*O God our nurturer,  
may your word live in us.  
**And colour our living. Amen!***

**SONG** tell heaven, Rossanne Cash

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKzC0\\_gJFnY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKzC0_gJFnY)

**REFLECTION**

**OFFERING** Receive these our gifts, O God. We place them in your hands and ask you guidance, as we use them to bring compassion into the world.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rot5M9Kirhc&t=196s>

We pray for the lonely ones  
knowing that some of us are lonely  
and we pray for the heartbroken ones  
knowing that some of us are heartbroken  
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention  
joining in your way of love in the world  
We pray for the wounded  
knowing that some of us are wounded  
and we pray for the regretful ones  
knowing that some of us are regretful  
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention  
joining in your way of love in the healing  
We pray for the starving ones  
knowing that some of us are starving  
and we pray for the imprisoned ones  
knowing that some of us are imprisoned  
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention  
joining in your way of justice in the world  
We pray for the dying ones  
knowing that some of us are dying  
and we pray for the newly born ones  
knowing that some of us are arriving  
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention  
joining in your way of love in the world.

***Amen.***

*Christopher Grundy (c) 2013 Hand and Soil Music*

## 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!***

We give you thanks, O God, for Jesus Christ!  
At Easter we are close to the agony of Good Friday.  
To the terrible humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus.  
Mocked and driven out,  
as your children throughout the world are still hurt  
today.

Yet that same agony flowered in joy.  
The flower grew in the dark of the tomb  
and burst open the rock.

In taking bread and wine,  
touching, breaking, pouring, drinking,  
we know that we enter the holiest mystery  
and that by doing so  
our hearts will continue to be changed.

We give you thanks for our life together,  
the Body of Christ in this place  
which claims in faith, against many a doubt,  
that risen life lies in our midst  
and will stay with us forever.

And so we praise you  
with the faithful of every time and place,  
joining with the whole creation  
in the eternal hymn :  
Holy, holy, holy,  
God of power and vulnerability,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Come and deliver us,  
God the giver of life.  
Blessed is the One  
who comes in the name of our God.  
Come and deliver us,  
God the giver of life.

### 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 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**(TiS531)*

<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.*