

WESTMEAD UNITING CHURCH

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 6 June, 2021



“For all God’s People”

The Gathering of the People

Prelude:

Call to worship (from Psalm 138).

I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

Hymn **TiS 152: Joyful, joyful we adore you.**

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing and ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our brother,
All are yours, who live in love;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to your joy above.

Prayer of Approach:

Spirit of God, you blow like the wind,
You tug away at our lives,
Ruffle our habits and conventions.
You disturb us, you comfort us,
You lift us out of ourselves,
You whisper to us and we come:
For you are the giver
And renewer of life,
You brood over creation
And create within us the confession
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

You invite us to worship God
In grace and in truth. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession:

The apostle Paul wrote:

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

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times
We have turned a deaf ear
To the call of Christ
Upon our lives.

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times
We have closed our eyes
To our neighbour in need.

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times
We have hardened our hearts
And failed to love you
And the stranger who in our midst.

Forgive us, good and gracious God,
For those times
Our words have been spoken too soon
And we have not waited
Upon your word for us.

A time of silent confession

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Remain seated to sing

Song: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

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

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. Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

TiS 720: ‘Halle, Halle, hallelujah’. (2 times)

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Be with you all:

And also with you.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Be with you all:

And also with you.

Service of the Word

Learning Together: 'Israel wants a king'

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

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 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 8:1-20

8 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. **2** The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. **3** Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, **5** and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." **6** But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, **7** and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. **8** Just as they have done to me, ^[a] from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. **9** Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

10 So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. **11** He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; **12** and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his

ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle^[b] and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

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

Mark 3:20-35

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^[a] 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.”

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

Hymn **‘Who is my mother, who is my brother’.**
 (Shirley Murray)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aR5ului2YmY>

Sermon “Remember to read the fine print”.

Hymn **TiS 248: ‘When Christ was lifted from the earth’.**
 (Tune: Kilmarnock, TiS 247)

When Christ was lifted from the earth,
his arms stretched out above
through every culture, every birth,
to draw an answering love.

Still east and west his love extends,
and always, near or far,
he calls and claims us as his friends
and loves us as we are.

Where generation, class or race
divide us to our shame,
he sees not labels but a face,
a person and a name.

Thus freely loved, though fully known,
may I in Christ be free
to welcome and accept his own
as Christ accepted me.

The Offering and Prayer

Notices

The Prayer for Others and 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.

Communion

The 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.

The risen Christ invites you to this table.

Hymn **TiS 524** **Come, risen Lord, deign to be our guest**
(Tune: Sursum Corda, TiS 87)

1 Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
no, let us be your guests and with you dine;
at your own table now be manifest
in your own sacrament of bread and wine.

2 We meet as in the upper room they met;
now at the table, blessing, yet you stand:
'This is my body': this you give us yet;
faith still receives the cup as from your hand.

3 One body we, one body who partake,
one church united in communion blessed;
one name we bear, one bread of life we break,
with all your saints on earth and saints at rest.

4 One with each other, Lord, and one in you,
who are one Saviour and one living head;
open our eyes to see with vision true;
be known to us in breaking of the bread.

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!**

Come, let us now heed the words of Jesus
On the night of his betrayal and arrest:

Let us take bread and wine,
The ordinary things of this world,
The fruit of the land.

Let us remember the last meal
The cross-bound Jesus
Shared with disciples on his way
To the garden of Gethsemane,
And beyond to the place of Golgotha;

Let us take the bread and the wine
As the two who made their way home
On the road to Emmaus did so long ago
And came to recognize Jesus,
The risen Christ in their midst.

We now come to share bread and wine:
Christ Jesus, bound and risen.
Wounded and ascended,
You are our host:
And you are our guest.

**We are yours:
We belong to Christ**

We cannot share friendship of your table

**And forget those who are in lockdown,
Those most vulnerable to the virus,
Our neighbours in distant lands,
Those who mourn,
And those who cannot be with loved ones.**

We cannot take the bread

**And forget those who are hungry
Those whose income has been reduced,
And those who are homeless**

We cannot take the wine

**And forget those who thirst
For what is right and just;
Those whose cries have been ignored;
Those who have suffered
Betrayal and abuse.**

Prayer of Consecration:

God of compassion, wounded God,
God of the cross-bound Christ,
Send down your Spirit:

May this bread and wine
Become for us the body of Christ,
Healing, forgiving, making us whole
So that we become, for you,
Loving, caring, bearing witness in hope
To a world in need of recovery.

Among friends, gathered around a table,
Jesus took the bread and said:
'This is my body broken for you'.

And later he took the cup and said,
'This is my blood shed for you'.

'Do this in remembrance of me'.

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

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.**

The 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.

The Distribution:

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.
We are your people.

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

Hymn TiS 106: Now thank we all our God

1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all harm
in this world, and the next!

3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son,
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
who ever was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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.