



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

Westmead
Uniting
Church



PENTECOST 5



Jesus turned round in the crowd
and said, 'Who touched my clothes?'

**SHE STEALS
HER TOTAL WELL-BEING**

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

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.

OPENING MEDITATION

Touch of unexpected hope
meeting us in our difficult places,
touch of kindness
walking towards us even as we enter
the spaces of aloneness,
touch of healing
reaching down into the depths of all of life:

***We come to meet you, O God,
in the presence of the Christ.
We come in faith
thankful to be surprised by grace
when cultural divisions
deny us grace and community.
Amen!***

Adapted: Dorothy McRae McMahon

PRAYER

In the darkness of pain
the eyes of my heart
are awake to you.
In the quiet of the night
I long to hear again
intimations of your love.
In the sufferings of the world
and the struggles of my life
I seek your graces of healing.
At the heart of the brokenness
around me and in the hidden depth of my own soul
I seek the touch of your healing,
O God,
for there you reside.
In the hidden depths of life, O God,
there you reside.

J Philip Newel

HYMN *God is love (TiS 153)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-tZq0zR8IE>

1 God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.

2 God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is love, and, though with blindness

sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

Christ Jesus, friend and healer,
as we look around us,
there are sometimes people
who we can't imagine
would receive your healing –
people who hover on the edges of society,
seemingly without hope of well-being,
or solutions to long-term challenges.

***Forgive us
if we create cultures and spaces
that keep others at a distance,
being well beyond the realms
of your love and ours.***

Silent reflection

Sometimes we place ourselves
on the outskirts
of your attention and care,
... or try to put aside our own needs
for rest, consideration and special love.
We feel as though we should be last,
rather than expecting your cherishing.

Silent reflection

Hear us, O Christ.

***Forgive us
if we keep ourselves at a distance,
being well beyond the realms of your love and ours.
Help us to trust the grace
which waits for us in you.***

Amen.

Dorothy McRae McMahon

WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE

The compassionate love
of Jesus Christ never ends,
love that knows no bounds,
and dismantles the obstacles cutting off this love!
It belongs to us all in equal measure
and is given to us without cost or hesitation.
The price of mercy has already been paid for us
by a brave and gracious Christ.
We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Amen!

Adapted: Dorothy McRae McMahon

HYMN *Beauty for brokenness (TiS 690)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaMPE53uP38>

1 Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord in the 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*

3 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

*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*

4 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*

5 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*

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Mark 5:21, 25-34** (Inclusive Text)

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side,
a large crowd gathered around and he stayed by the lakeside...
Now there was a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for 12
years. After long and painful treatment under various doctors,
she had spent all she had without being any the better for it.
In fact she was getting worse.
She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him
through the crowd and touched his cloak.
'If I touch even his clothes', she had told herself, 'I shall be well again.'
And the source of the bleeding dried up instantly,
and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint.
Immediately aware that power had gone out from him
Jesus turned round in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?'
The disciples said, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you and
yet you say, 'Who touched my clothes?''
But Jesus continued to look all around to see who had done it.
Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling
because she knew what had happened to her,
and she fell at his feet and told Jesus the whole story.
'My daughter', Jesus said, 'your faith has restored you to health;
go in peace and be free of your complaint.'

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION *She steals her total well-being*

HYMN *Make me a channel of your peace* (TiS, 607)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in You

OFFERING PRAYER

Receive and bless these gifts and our lives, O God,
which we offer in response to your love
revealed so clearly in Jesus.

As he planted the seeds of love and life in our lives,
strengthen us to nourish others with the fruits
of our faith made visible through these gifts,
our love and our witness.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE

O God, in Christ Jesus,
we know there must be people
around us who are like the woman who longed for well-being.

*Help us to sense when people reach out in trembling
hope*

and touch the edges of our life as the church, we pray.

Give to us the depth of faith
enabling us to believe
that we have the power
to engage in working together with others to create well-being,
and that our prayers might release and bring hope.

*May we never limit our expectations
of what might be possible in miracles of faith.*

Empower us also to believe that we too
are just as loved by you,
and that you always offer us
care beyond the commonplace.

*Come to each of us now, we pray, and restore our
lives
so that we may rise up and live to the full.*

Walk with us on the streets of today and help us to live
with your sensitive heart, which feels the longings
of those around us, O Christ.

Amen.

Dorothy McRae McMahon

HYMN *Jesus Christ is waiting (TIS 665)*

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

1 Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour,
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you

2 Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets,
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

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BLESSING

Walk well your journey in peace and in justice.
May you be wrapped in the shawl of God's loving.
May you be cherished.
May you be blessed.

Amen.