



**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.

© WGRG, Iona Community, 1988.

## 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.***