

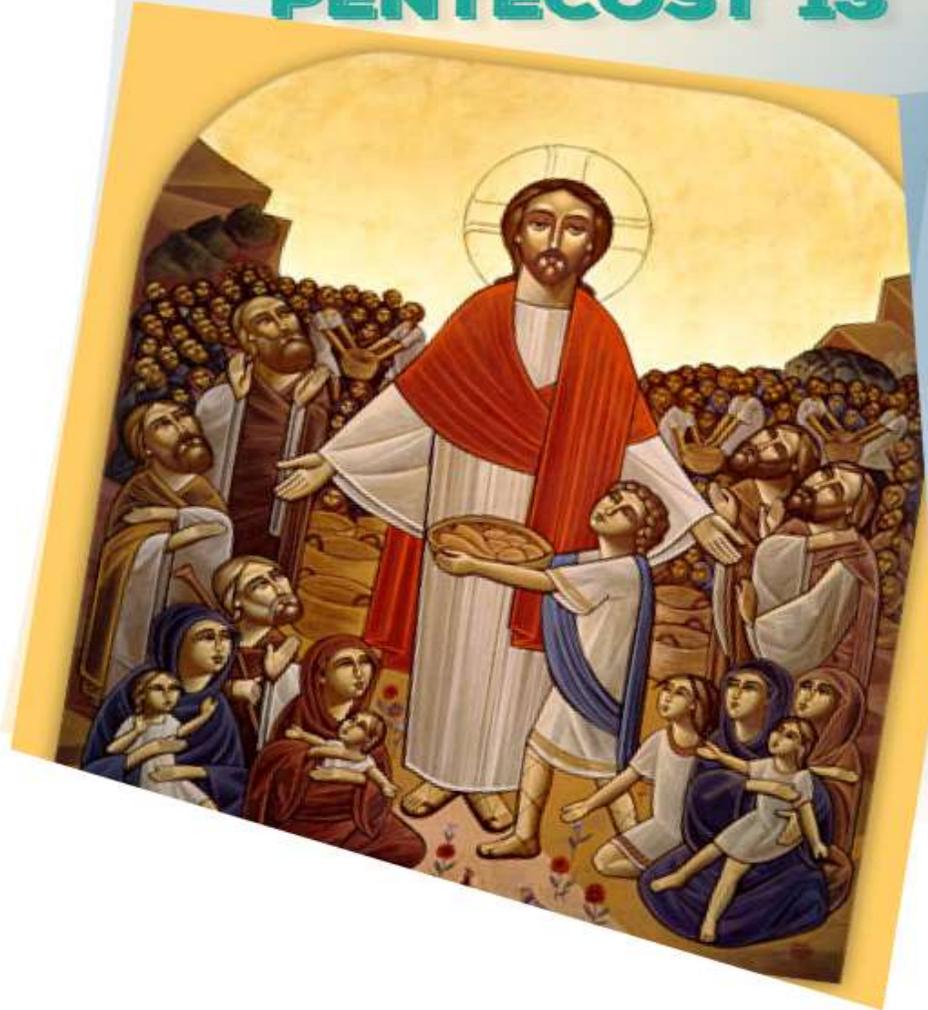


uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Parramatta
Mission
Uniting Church



PENTECOST 13



Leigh Memorial 9.30am

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead 9.45am

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

Meeting ID: 395 833 6709

Leigh Fijian 11.15am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/9134913679>

Meeting ID: 913 491 3679

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Today we light this candle which lights up the subject about personal empowerment in relation to Christ. Today we will consider: What is that power about? In Ephesians “it is about reconciliation and love, the overcoming of barriers, religious and cultural. It celebrates the overcoming of powers where barriers are dismantled and people come together in peace and hope. *(Adapted from Bill Loader)*

The candle is lit

THEME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal 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.

GATHERING PRAYER

We come, God of the Journey:
a people from different places, different histories, different cultures.

***We come hoping to find companionship for the journey,
solidarity for the struggle.***

We gather, God of Hospitality, around your ‘welcome table’,
a table not yet round, but rounding.

***We gather seeking to become a ‘round-table people,
welcoming of all, with no preferred seating,
no firsts and no lasts, and no corners for the ‘least of these’.***

We yearn, God of Diversity, for a new way of living and relating
as neighbours not strangers,
as brothers and sisters, not ‘them and us’.

We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to peace, love and justice. Amen.

Come, listen to stories of faith and trust from long ago.
We come, celebrating Christ with us in the here and now.
Come, dream exciting new possibilities for the future.
We come, conscious of the need to have the courage
of past generations.
Let us join generation upon generation giving thanks to God.
(St Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch)

PRAYER OF RESOLVE AND ASSURANCE

Lean on Me, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YapAxPfRyl>

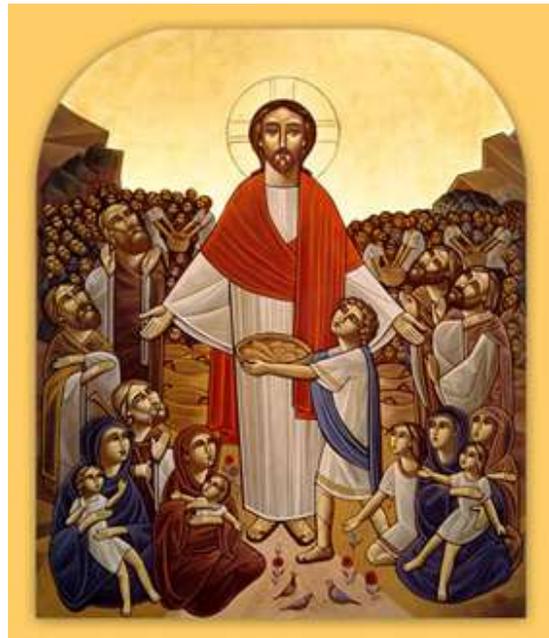
Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder, John Legend perform "Lean On Me" at the 2015 Induction Ceremony

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill
those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me brother,
when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on



Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load

If you just call me (call me)
If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh (call me) if you need a
friend (call me)
If you ever need a friend (call me)
Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend
(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(call me)

ASSURANCE **Come home to myself**

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released.

May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquilities.

May all that is unlived in you,
Blossom into a future,
Graced with love.

(Source: John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space between us)

HYMN

Jesus call us (TiS 589)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYIQw8w2TEw>

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2. As of old the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

CHILDREN'S STORY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in Christ and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in high places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put

on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

John 6:56-69

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Parent God sent me, and I live because of the Parent God so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Human One ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Parent God.” 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Teacher, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.*

And colour our living. Amen!

REFLECTION

SONG *Let your light shine, step out of the way*
Let Your Light Shine with Keb' Mo' | Virtual Choir | BCC Online

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

Step aside and...
Let your light shine
Let your love show
It's a short ride
Down the long road
When the rains come
And the winds blow
Let your light shine
Wherever you go

You say
You want to get over
What are you gonna do?
Watch the world go by
In a corner of the room?

I know
None of my business
But there's something I need to say
If you could see you
The way I see you
You'd start flying on your own

Step aside and...
Let your light shine
Let your love show
It's a short ride
Down the long road
When the rains come

And the winds blow
Let your light shine
Wherever you go

This world is ready and waiting
For you to break on through
It's time to recognize
To realize
You're the only one like you
Step on up
Step into your greatness
Don't be afraid
There's a place where you will rise up to
No one else could do what you do

Get out of the way
Get out of the way

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

SONG OF PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Cold play, *Everyday Life (live in Jordan)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qi33gLphV4>

A PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN

Everyday life

What in the world are we going to do?

Look at what everybody's going through
What kind of world do you want it to be?



Am I the future or the history?
'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries
Everyone tells each other all kinds of lies
Everyone falls, everybody dreams and doubts
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
How in the world I am going to see?
You as my brother, not my enemy?
'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries
Everyone sees the color in each other's eyes
Everyone loves,
everybody gets their hearts ripped out
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
Gonna keep dancing when the lights go out
Hold tight for everyday life....
At first light, throw my arms out open wide
Hallelujah.....

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O God, we pray this day:
for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,

for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger
and for those who will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood,
and for those who misunderstand,
for those who are captives
and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love
are locked within their hearts
and for those who yearn to hear those words.
Have mercy upon these, O God.
Have mercy on us all.

*(Source: Ann Weems from "Kneeling in Jerusalem," quoted in
"Greeting the Day – Morning Prayers and Meditations from
Around the World")*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

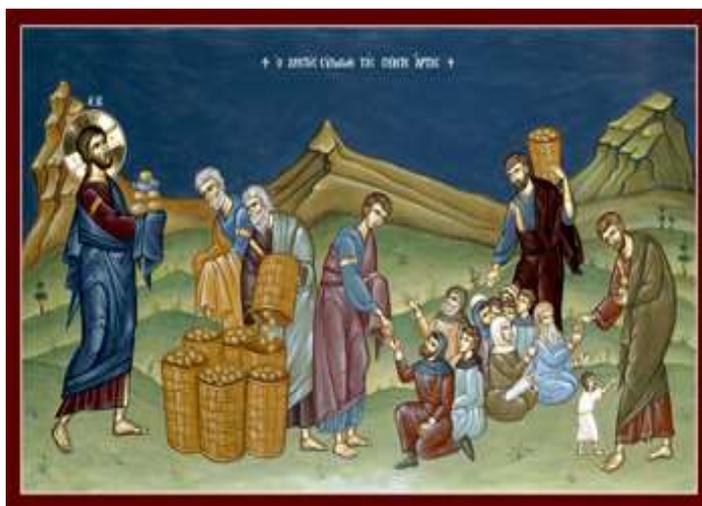
A modern version of the prayer of Jesus from the Anglican Church of New Zealand, which both honors and reflects indigenous Maori culture.

HYMN *Bread for the World*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVVr-i8svac&list=RDNVvr-i8svac&index=1>

Refrain

*Bread for the world:
a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples:
people who thirst.
May we who eat
be bread for others.
May we who drink
pour out our love.*



1. Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life,
broken to reach
and heal the wounds
of human pain.
Where we divide your people,
you are waiting there
on bended knee
to wash our feet with endless care.

Refrain

2. Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the wine of peace,
poured into hearts once broken
and where dryness sleeps.
Where we are tired and weary,
you are waiting there
to be the way which beckons us
beyond despair.

Refrain

3. Lord Jesus Christ,
you call us to your feast,
at which the rich and pow'rful
have become the least.
Where we survive on others
in our human greed,
you walk among us
begging for your ev'ry need.

Refrain

© Bernadette Farrell 1990.

BLESSING

On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.

And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets into you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays

In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life

*(Source: John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space
Between Us: A Book of Blessings)*