



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

Parramatta Mission Congregations



THE REALM OF CHRIST

... fathomless
otherness

... intimate
faithful
nearness



Jesus before
Pilate ... Russian Icon

Combined Worship
Parramatta City Uniting Church
Sunday 21 November 2021
9:30 am

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95778738282>

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this last Sunday of the liturgical year, when we celebrate the new realm of Christ, the source of life, and prepare for the Advent season of incarnation, hope and grace.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

This is the place
and this is the time;
here and now God waits
to break into our experience:
To change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways!
To free us see the world and the whole of life in a new light!
To fill us with hope, joy, and certainty for the future.

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we pause to acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation of the Parramatta City Region 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.

HYMN *Longing for light (Christ be our light)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt30c04ulOM>

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

By Bernadette Farrell • Used with permission OneLicense#A727308

GATHERING

The royal life of Christ
is not lived out in grand palaces
nor walked in luxury among bowing servants.
***This is the God who brings in the realm of truth.
It is placed on the ground within humanness
and leaves its costly footmarks among us.***

Christ Jesus is the one who enacts love
in ways which challenge false prophets
and lifts the heart of the world in hope.
***The realm of God has come into the world.
The abundance of its life fills all Creation.***

Adapted: Dorothy McRae-McMahon

ALL AGE MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING John 18:33-38 (Inclusive Text)

'Are you the King of the Jews' Pilate asked.

Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?'

Pilate replied, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?'

Jesus replied, 'My realm is not from this world; if my realm were of this world, my companions would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the people. 'But my realm is not of this kind.'

'So you are a king then?' said Pilate.

'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

Pilate said, 'What is truth?'

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION

HYMN *The Servant King*

https://www.smule.com/recording/arrangement-by-alan-oreilly-the-servant-king/2431482977_3813532354

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world,
your glory veiled,
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear.
His heart with sorrow was torn;
"Yet not my will, but yours", he said.
*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.
*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
or it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King,
of worship to the Servant King.*

Graham Kendrick 1950-

Used with permission OneLicense#A727308

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, we know that, if love is to reign in all the earth,
we must share what we have with others.

We pray that you will enable us to see where love is most needed,
as we bring to you what we have offered today.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Christ, infinite holy mystery who
draws near
in diverse forms of self-giving
through incarnation and grace

O Christ of the road of
the wounded

O Christ of the tears of
the broken

O Christ of the burdens of
those who suffer loss

Grant us our prayers of
loving and hoping

Grant us our prayers of
yearning and healing

Grant us the awakening of
the freedom within us to
creatively realise the possibilities
that sleep
in the clay of our hearts and communities!

Amen!

Adapted: J Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers from Iona

HYMN *Come as you are (TiS 693)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mkPL9LO6w>

Come as you are: that's how I want you.

Come as you are: feel quite at home.

Close to my heart, loved and forgiven,

Come as you are, why stand alone?

(Repeat)

Deirdre Browne 1956- Used with permission OneLicense#A727308

BLESSING

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,
bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see. (Source: Jan L Richardson, *The Painted Prayerbook*)