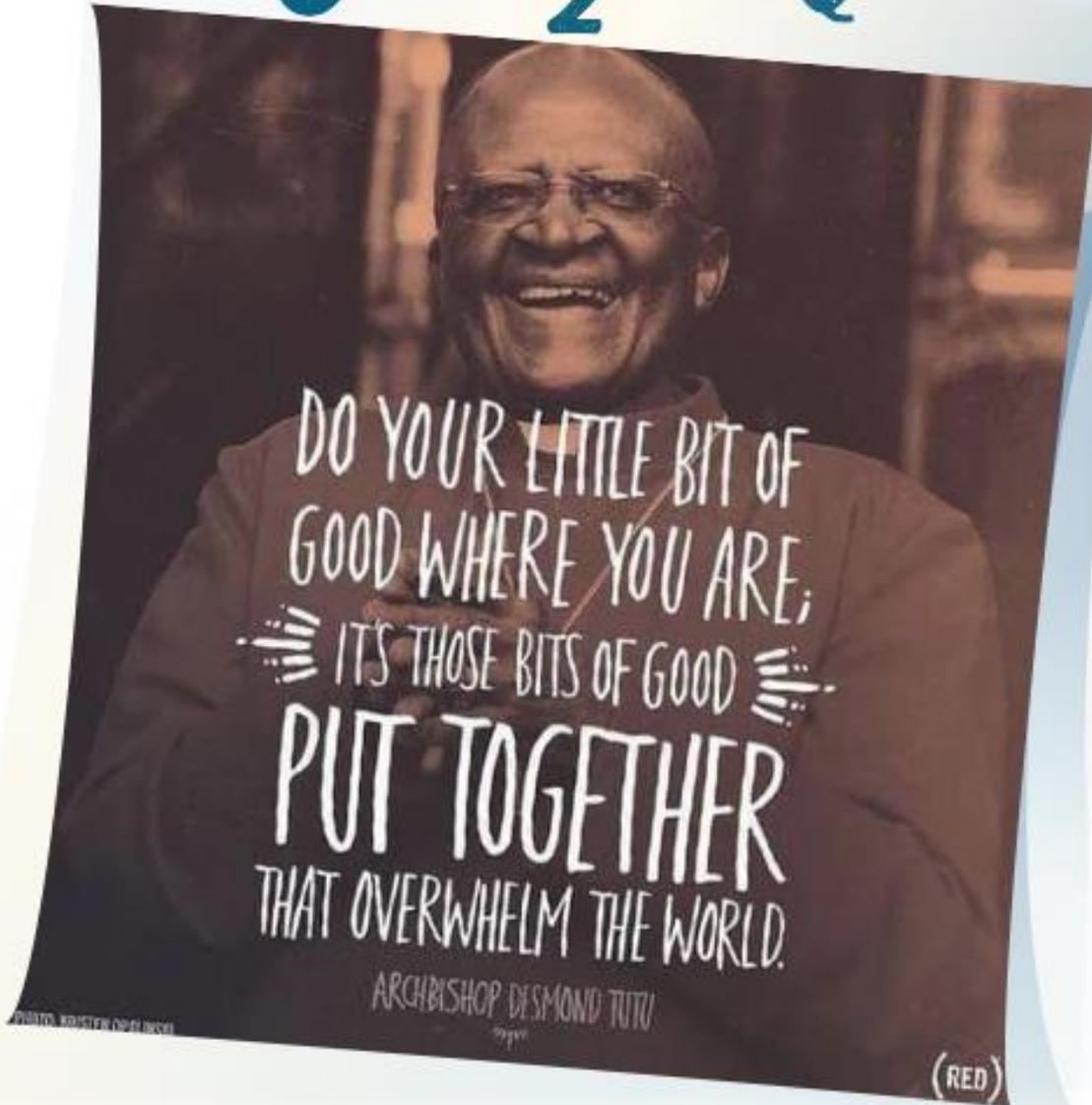




Parramatta City
Uniting Churches

christmas 2



Archbishop Desmond Tutu
1931-2021

January 2, 2022

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the first online service for the Parramatta City Uniting Churches in 2022.

WELCOME TO NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

In this service today we will honour the life of the South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu who died last Sunday. His passing presents us with a real sense of loss, and gratitude. He fought for racial justice and rights, for equality and justice for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality or ability, a peacemaker. He always led with hope, truth and courage. His great wisdom and moral compass was matched only by his love and devotion to helping others. One of my greatest inspirations and examples. *May he rest in peace.*

May this service encourage us to commit ourselves to a life of peace, love and justice in 2022, and inspire our New Year's Resolutions.

(Adapted from: Rev Sandy Boyce, Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we pause to acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation of the Parramatta City Region, and the First Peoples where we live, 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.

“When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said “Let us pray.” We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.”
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Now we come to light our Christ candle.
It is a friendly candle. It brings light and love
as we celebrate in the warmth of summer.

It is a candle of understanding which drives away fear.
It is a candle of truth.

It will lead one in unknown paths
to learn more about the mysteries of life and God.

The Christ candle is lit

OPENING SENTENCES

The Child of God is earthed in human life,
making real within the world the heartbeat of God,
with its endless gifts of grace.
Jesus Christ, God with us all.
The Word is found among us,
brave truth in liberating kindness
deeper and wider, yet nearer than we have ever known.
Jesus Christ, God with us all.

*We give thanks to you this day,
And the movement your life among us!*

SONG

Morning has broken (156 TiS)

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the One Light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Eleanor Farjeon

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SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5, 10-11, 14

Before the beginning of time and space was the Word, and the Word was turned toward God, and what God was the Word was also. 2. And the Word was with God. 3. All things were made through the Word, and without the Word nothing was made. What took place In the Word was life, and the life was the light of humankind. 5. And the light shines in the darkness, and darkness has not overcome it.

10. The Word was in the world ... yet was not known in the world. 11 (The Word made flesh) came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the fullness of a gift that is truth ...

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

ALL AGE STORY

REFLECTION *The iniquity of racism is that it leads people who feel superior to others to treat them as less than human.*

Desmond Tutu, 1990, The UNESCO Courier

The oppression of the majority of people in South Africa has been on the basis of race. The iniquity of racism is that it leads people who feel superior to others to treat them as less than human. So racists facing mass protests are, for example, less hesitant in ordering police or troops to kill demonstrators than rulers who feel they would be killing their compatriots. In South Africa our people have suffered racial oppression for three hundred years. They have constantly struggled to be able to participate in a democratic system but they have never achieved it. Economically, for the whole of the industrialised era our people have been denied opportunities for learning and for jobs because of the colour of our skins. As a result, we begin to see a democracy emerge in South Africa, we are going to need massive international assistance to give the opportunities ...

(Jim Wallis, Sojourners): “during the deepest, darkest days of apartheid when the government tried to shut down opposition by canceling a political rally, archbishop Desmond Tutu declared that he

would hold a church service instead. St. George's cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa was filled with worshippers. Outside the cathedral hundreds of police gathered, a show of force intended to intimidate. As Tutu was preaching they entered the cathedral, armed, and lined the walls. They took out notebooks and recorded tutu's words. But Tutu would not be intimidated. He preached against the evils of apartheid, declaring it could not endure. At one extraordinary point he addressed the police directly.

'You are powerful. You are very powerful, but you are not gods and I serve a God who cannot be mocked. So, since you've already lost, since you've already lost, I invite you today to come and join the winning side!'

With that the congregation erupted in dance and song. The police didn't know what to do. Their attempts at intimidation had failed, overcome by the archbishop's confidence that God and goodness would triumph over evil. It was but a matter of time."

What faith and courage! To unflinchingly look the perpetrators of evil in the eye and have such confidence about the bigger picture is inspirational.

He was a prophet, a priest and a pastor all rolled into one. Rip. 'til we see him again.

(Sourced and adapted from Rev Sandy Boyce, Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide)

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

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
*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'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*

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PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OTHERS

Praying the Quotes from Desmond Tutu

O God let us remember:

“We are made for goodness.
We are made for love.
We are made for friendliness.
We are made for togetherness.
We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know.
We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders.
All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated,
not educated, ..., all, all, all.
We all belong to this family, this human family, God’s family”

O Christ let us remember:

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice,
you have chosen the side of the oppressor.
If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse,
and you say that you are neutral,
the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

O Spirit of Reconciliation let us remember:

“If you want peace, you don’t talk to your friends.
You talk to your enemies.”
“When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we
hate.

When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves.
All of our humanity is dependent
upon recognising the humanity in others”.

“Forgiving and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved
ones are not about pretending that things are other than they
are.

It is not about patting one another on the back
and turning a blind eye to the wrong.

True reconciliation exposes
the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth.”

“True reconciliation is never cheap,
for it is based on forgiveness which is costly.
Forgiveness in turn depends on repentance,
which has to be based on an acknowledgment
of what was done wrong,
and therefore on disclosure of the truth.
You cannot forgive what you do not know.”

“There comes a point where we need to stop
just pulling people out of the river.

We need to go upstream and find out why they’re falling in.”

“My humanity is bound up in yours
for we can only be human together.”

“Without forgiveness, there’s no future.”

Amen!

*(Source: Desmond Tutu, The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing
Ourselves and Our World)*

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All are welcome
to share in this table
of Holy Communion,
all who come in humble faith.

In eating and drinking
this life-giving sacrament
we are all fed by God’s love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you
And also with you.

God of grace and tenderness,
Jesus offers bread of life to all of us;
though we offer the cross to him,
he graces us with life;
though we would divide each other
by class, race, gender, or condition,
he calls us to oneness in you.

Holy God of wonder,
feed us with the bread of life,
so we might share food with those
who know true hunger;
as your justice shines
in the shadows of our hearts,
may we light the way
for the lost and despised;

as you reshape our brokenness
into wholeness,
may we bind up
the wounds of our world.

And so we give you thanks,
joining with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn :

***Holy, holy, holy,
compassionate God,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.***

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/POURING OF WINE

Long ago,
Jesus came
in the humble birth of a child,
a child of amazing and divine love,
a child of our humanity.

Long ago,
Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:
 'This bread is broken,
 as my body will be'.

And he handed it to his friends,
 'Remember all
 that I have been to you'.

Long ago,
Jesus poured a cup of wine,
offered thanks for it,
gave it to his friends and said,
 'This wine is poured out
 as my life will be poured out.
 As you drink give thanks
 for all I have given'.

Loving God,
it is through your unceasing love
we have this bread and wine to offer.

May this gathering
of your community of faith, O God,
be fed, comforted and empowered.
May we as your people express
the courage and the generosity
that characterised Jesus' life.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take
is a sharing in the life blood of Christ.
The gifts of God
for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The body of Christ given for us.
The life of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

God of mercy and amazing grace,
in the warmth of Summer
we are grateful
for your presence, enlivening us.
We pray your presence
will feed and sustain us
to follow in the way of Jesus, **Amen.**

SONG *Brother sister let me serve you (TiS 650)*

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,

till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard 1953- With permission CCLI 70307

BLESSING

May the God of creation
warm your heart
like the campfires of old.
Bring wisdom and peace
as shown to the first peoples of this land.
Shake off the dust from the desert plains
by the refreshing rains
followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.
Let the light of God
show us the right path
and stand tall like the big river gums
drawing life from the ever flowing waters.

*(Source: Uncle Vince Ross,
Victorian Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress)*