



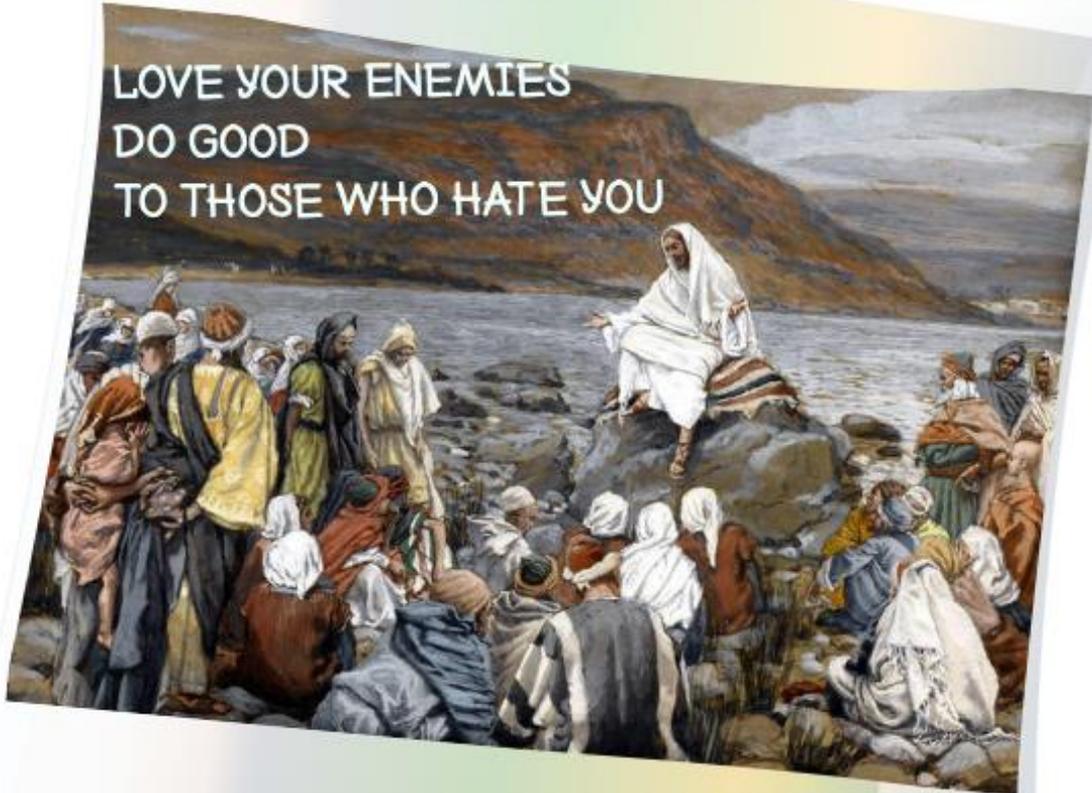
**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial
Westmead
Uniting Church



EPIPHANY 7

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
DO GOOD
TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU



**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR CROOKED NEIGHBOUR
WITH YOUR CROOKED HEART**

20 February 2022

Leigh Memorial 9.30am

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Uniting

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday,
in this place
and to those of you at home on zoom!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle as a symbol of the healing love
and the call to freedom
to learn to create a loving relationship with the enemy and hate,
and birth justice within expectant life.

The candle is lit

THEME

You shall love your crooked neighbour with your crooked self.
W H Auden

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 SENTENCES

In the beginning O God,
You shaped our soul and sets its weave
You formed our body
and gave it breath.

Renew us this day
in the image of your love.

O Great God, grant us your light
O Great God, grant us your grace
O Great God, grant us
your joy this day
And let us be made pure
in the well of your health.

Amen! *Adapted: J Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers, Iona*

SONG

Oh The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

(feat. Fernando Ortega) - Audrey Assad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vUhwvidk8A&list=PL7_V7nXKouS3NCvSbolamb_a8Stzq_2Iq8&index=11

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me

Underneath me, all around me
Is the current of your love
Leading onward, leading homeward
To your glorious rest above

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus
'Tis heaven of heavens to me
And it lifts me up to glory
For it lifts me up to thee

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus
Spread his praise from shore to shore
How he loves us, ever loves us,
Changes never, nevermore



PRAYER

God help us to find our confession;
The truth within us
which is hidden from our mind;
The beauty or the ugliness
we see elsewhere
But never in ourselves;
The stowaway which is smuggled
Into the dark side of the heart,
Which puts the heart off balance
and causes it pain,
Which wearies and confuses us,
Which tips us in false directions and inclines us to
destruction,
The load which is not carried squarely

Because it is carried in ignorance.

God help us to find our confession.
Help us across
the boundary of our understanding.
Lead us into the darkness
that we may find what lies concealed;
That we may confess it
towards the light;

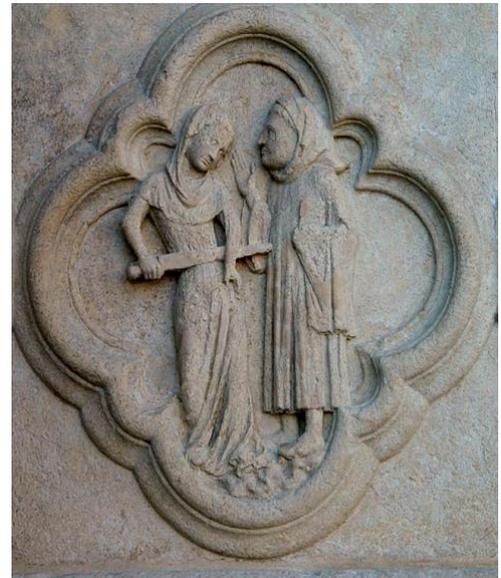
***That we may carry our truth
in the centre of our heart;
That we may carry our cross wisely
And bring harmony into our world.
Amen.***

The Prayer Tree by Michael Leunig

All AGE REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Luke 6: 27-37** (Inclusive Text)

Jesus said to the disciples:
'I say this to you who are listening:
Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who treat you badly.
'To the one who slaps you on the cheek,
present the other cheek too;
to the one who takes your cloak from you
do not refuse your tunic.
'Give to everyone who asks you,
and do not ask for your property back
from the one who robs you.
'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.
If you love those who love you,
what thanks can you expect?
Even sinners love those who love them.
'And if you do good to those who do good to you,



what thanks can you expect?
Even sinners do that much.
'And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what thanks can you expect?
For even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same
amount.
'Instead, love your enemies and do good,
and lend without any hope of return.
You will have a great reward,
and you will be children of the Most High
who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'
Be merciful, just as your Parent God is merciful.
Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn,
and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be
forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION

HYMN *"For you deep stillness"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpPLReD-Zuw>

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ

© 1997 Robin Mann. Words: Julie Perrin

OFFERING PRAYER

God of compassion and relationship, ,
you work with us to bring forth life in the midst of death,
healing in the midst hate and anger,
and hope in the darkest places of poverty and despair.
You desire our wholeness, and invite our company
to bring healing and life with others.
May the gifts we offer to you this morning
bring life and healing to us all.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Jesus Christ, lover of all,
open our lives to see others
as you see them, we pray.

***Show us beauty
which has been clouded
by assumptions and worth
which is covered over
by old and misguided teachings.***

Give us humility
so that we own our real failings
and have an openness
to learn and receive from strangers.

***As we bring before you now
our prayers for love and peace,
may we be open to those
from whom we have been alienated!***

Bring us together, Jesus Christ.
May we be honest and humble
as we try to add love to the world.

*Prayers are offered
for the world and the church*

Grant that your church
may be an example
to the community
in its preparedness
to meet others who differ
and its creative engagements
with those who are in conflict.

***Bring us together as your people,
both across the churches
and within our own life.***

Make us a sign of your peace,
O Christ, grateful for all
that we are given by you ...

***and hopeful for a world
which has a new future.
Go with us now, we pray.
Amen.***

SONG

Be thou my vision (TiS 547)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7lF16s&list=PL7_V7nXKouS3NCvSbolqmba8Stzq_2Jq8&index=3

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father and I thy true Son
thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of Heaven my treasure thou art.

4. High King of heaven my victory won
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BLESSING

We leave,
our hearts filled with God's love.
We will go
to offer the wonders of laughter
and hope to everyone we will meet.
We leave,
following Jesus into the world.
We will serve alongside him
in the brokenness of our neighbours
and our communities.
We leave,
having heard the whispers of the Spirit.
We will speak justice to those
who would hoard it only for themselves.