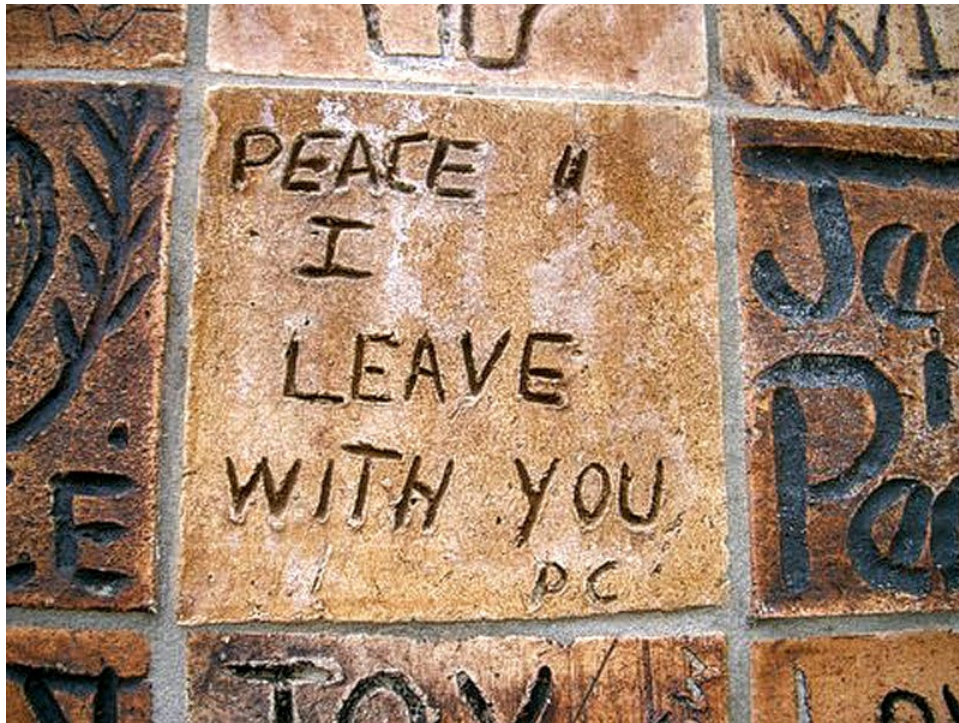


Leigh Memorial Uniting Church
Parramatta Mission



Service of the Lord – Easter 6

22nd May 2022, 9:30am

As you prepare for worship, you would also like to set a table at home; with a candle ready to light, if you are joining us on Zoom.

- *Congregation responses are in Bold.*
- Zoom Address : <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>
- Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

A. Gathering of God's People

1. Introit and Welcome

Be still and know that I am God (x3)

I am the Lord, that health thee (x3)

In you oh lord, I put we put our trust. (x3)

The peace of the risen lord be with you.

And also with you.

2. Call to Worship

O God, you summon the day to dawn; You teach the morning to waken the earth.

Great is your name; great is your love.

For you the valleys shall sing for joy; the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.

Great is your name; great is your love.

For you the monarchs of earth shall bow; the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

Great is your name; great is your love.

Your love and mercy shall last forever; fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is your name, great is your love.

3. Acknowledgement of Country

In this space and on this land

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal People of the Darug Tribe,

The first custodians of this land on which we live and worship.

We acknowledge their leader's past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the creator God who continues to call a people into this place.

This is God's Great South Land and God's Spirit dwells here.

4. Christ Candle

(If you have a candle at home you might want to join us in lighting it.)

The light of God, in Jesus Christ is like no other.

In its clarity shines the warmth of grace.

In its brightness lies the promise of another day.

In the sharp encounter with its truth is found the healing love of the Holy Spirit.

Come, enter into the light of Christ today.

Come and receive the love of God.

Gracious God,

We feel the light of your being in this place.

Speak to our hearts, that we may receive from you,

Light and life that Christ offers.

Amen

5. Psalm Reading:

- Psalm 67:

The Nations Called to Praise God

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

2 that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

7 May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

6. Hymn/Song TiS #474 – Gather Us In
Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

7. Prayers:

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Before you, Jesus Christ, we admit how and where we have underestimated our influence, letting our words or silence hurt, abusing trust, betraying confidences.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

We admit how and where we have made a show of our religion, attracted more attention to us, and less to you.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We admit where in our lives a vague interest has become a dangerous passion, and we are not sure what to do or whether we are still in control.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, if we have looked, or longed for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a less demanding saviour;

Please turn our eyes and avert our longing from what we wish to choose to the one who has chosen us.

Forgive our unfaithfulness, and, so that we might be better disciples, give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow, but the grace you offer today.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If anyone is in Christ, behold they are a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.

Friends... let us open our hearts to the renewing work of God in our lives today. Let us open our lives to God's ever reaching love.

Hear Christ's words to us, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

8. Sharing

In the spirit of thanksgiving...

What are you thankful for today?

9. Prayer of thanksgiving

10. Hymn/Song

B. Service of the Word

11. Bible Reading

Acts 16:9-15

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

13 On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.

15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

John 14:23-29

23 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

12. Sermon

13. Reflective Song: **Make Your Home In Me.**

Verse 1:

I have sung my songs of praise, thanksgiving on my lips,
Bowed low and worshiped You.
But now I'm coming close, closer than before,
For the veil is torn in two.

Chorus:

Now that I am here with You,
There's no place I'd rather be.
Now that I have felt Your touch,
Make Your home in me.

Verse 2:

I feel so safe with You, acceptance in Your voice.
You whisper tenderly,
You are my beloved, chosen one, my friend;
You're so precious to me.

Written by: Michael & Helen Frye

CCLI#2650405 ©1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire).

Added: 1999-09-12

14. Prayers of the People

Ever living and ever-loving God,
We give thanks for your loving presence with us.

We pray for transformation in our world —
that broken people find healing;
that lonely people find love;
that bitter people find peace;
that fearful people find hope.

God, in your loving kindness, hear our prayer

We pray for renewal for our world,
and wisdom for our world's leaders and governments -
that communication can be open;
that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate;
that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger
for food felt by so many.

We especially pray for Ukraine during this invasion and destruction of their live..
We pray for this government and the care and governance of the Australian people and this country.

God, in your loving kindness, hear our prayer

We pray for our church -
that prayers will change our minds
instead of trying to get you to change yours;
that our lives will make a real difference
to real people in the real world,
and particularly for the mission and ministry
of this church in our contexts.

God, in your loving kindness, hear our prayer

Loving God, fill our lives with your presence—
so that more and more every day,
all that we do and say and hope
an expression of love to others,
in Jesus' name.

Amen.

15. Notices/ Announcements

16. Offering and Prayers

Abundant God, Father, Son and Spirit,
In you we learn to give that which is most precious to us. To give our lives in service as
sacrifice that is holy and pleasing in your sight. Bless us in your abundance O God and grant
us the peace that comes with living fully in you. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

17. Final Hymn/Song TiS #690 Beauty for Brokenness

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

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

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

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*

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*

C. Sending forth of the People of God

For all that God can do within us,
For all that God can do without us,
Thanks be to God.

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
For all in whom Christ lives beside us,
Thanks be to God.

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
For where the Spirit wants to send us,
Thanks be to God.

Listen up-
Christ has promised to be with us in the world,
Just as Christ has been with us in worship.

And as you go from here to meet him,
May the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.