



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

**Leigh Memorial  
Westmead  
Uniting Churches**

## **PENTECOST 7**



**24 July 2022**

**Leigh Memorial**

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

**Westmead Uniting**

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93615534553>

## WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather on this Seventh Sunday of Pentecost.

## THEME

The prayer that Jesus taught us says:

“God is an essential component of every occasion, working with all things to bring forth the best possibility, be it incremental or dramatic in nature.

As a component of all occasions of experience, God is responsive to whatever is happening in the world. Thus a human prayer, as an occasion of experience in which God is present, changes God’s experience and therefore affects how God is able to affect the world.”

*Bruce Epperly.Process&Faith.org*

## LIGHTING OF THE PENTECOST CANDLE

We light this candle proclaiming the transforming power of the love of God. God is at work in us, with us, and in the world for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant.

*The candle is lit*

## 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

The door is open,  
even before we knock.

***The ear of God listens  
to every murmur of pain or grief.***

When we seek, we will find,  
for God in Christ was born among us.

***The answering of love waits for us,  
even before we can find the words to ask.***

We are never left alone on life’s journey.  
God’s hand lies beside us in every step we take.

***We will have faith in this God,  
the one we meet in Jesus Christ.***  
*(Rev Dr Dorothy McRae McMahon)*

## HYMN

*Praise with joy the world's Creator (TiS 179)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2T4zptmvs4>

1. Praise with joy the world's creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of goodness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
Power to rescue and release.

2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

3. Praise the Spirit sent among us  
Liberating truth from pride,  
Forging bonds where race or gender,  
Age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
Foolishness none dare deride.

4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
One God in Community,  
Calling us to leave behind  
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe  
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

*(Tune: Praise my soul the king of heaven. J Goss c. 1986 Wild Goose  
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## A LITANY ON PRAYER

Come down, O Christ, and help me! reach thy hand,  
For I am drowning in a stormier sea  
Than Simon on thy Lake of Galilee:  
The wine of life is spilled upon the sand,  
My heart is as some famine-murdered land  
Whence all good things have perished utterly,  
And well I know my soul in Hell must lie  
If I this night before God's throne should stand.

*Oscar Wilde*

Eternal and most glorious God,  
suffer me not so to undervalue myself  
as to give away my soul, thy soul,  
thy dear and precious soul, for nothing;  
and all the world is nothing,  
if the soul must be given for it.  
Preserve therefore my soul, O Lord,  
because it belongs to thee,  
and preserve my body because it belongs to my soul.  
Thou alone dost steer my boat through all its voyage,  
but hast a more special care of it,  
when it comes to a narrow current,  
or to a dangerous fall of waters.  
Thou hast a care of the preservation of my body  
in all the ways of my life;  
but, in the straits of death, open thine eyes wider,  
and enlarge thy providence towards me so far  
that no illness or agony may shake and benumb the soul.  
Do thou so make my bed in all my sickness that,  
being used to thy hand,  
I may be content with any bed of thy making. **Amen.**

*John Donne (adapted)*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**      **Luke 11:1-13** (Inclusive Text)

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying,  
and when Jesus had finished, one of the disciples said,  
'Teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'  
Jesus said to them,  
'Say this when you pray:  
Father, may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive  
each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test.  
Jesus also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes in the middle of the  
night to say:  
My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine,  
a traveller, has just arrived at my house  
and I have nothing to offer.  
'And suppose the householder answers from inside the house:



Where there is hatred, let me bring love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

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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**OFFERING** As you have done with us, may we do for others, holding nothing back, but offering our treasures and lives that hope may be restored, that healing might touch the broken, that the suffering might be revived, and that all might know of your steadfast love in their lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*(Thom Shuman)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE**

*God is not reluctant (Ann Siddall)*

*(inspired by Romans 8:26-27, Luke 11:5-13, Luke 18:2-8)*

People of God, as we come to prayer  
let us remember that we do not  
have to twist the arm of a reluctant God

to seek good things for this world,  
nor find ways to persuade a distant God  
to come near and listen to us.

Let us remember that as we pray  
we kneel alongside Jesus Christ,  
in the presence of God,  
with the help of the Spirit.

So let us bring to mind now  
those people who are in need of our prayers:  
those who are ill, or anxious;  
those who are lonely or sad;  
those who are despairing or defeated;  
those who are hungry or homeless;  
those whose relationships are breaking apart;  
those who are bullied or abused;  
those who cannot find work;  
and those who are over-worked.

In silence now, let us make our own specific prayers  
for those on our hearts and minds today.

(silence)

In the presence of God,  
alongside Jesus Christ,  
with help from the Spirit  
may we go into this week  
to live out our prayers through our lives.

**Amen.**

*Ann Siddall, inspired by Romans 8:26-27, Luke 11:5-13, Luke 18:2-8*

**HYMN** *Come as you are (TiS 693)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8xXFkwWHWM>

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?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never end.  
Don't run away, shamed, and disheartened.  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise  
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Don't run away, shamed, or disheartened  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.  
Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.

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### **BLESSING**

And may each word of hope  
rise towards our loving Parent,  
each cry be heard in love by Jesus Christ  
and each wound be touched  
in healing by the Holy Spirit.

***Amen.***