

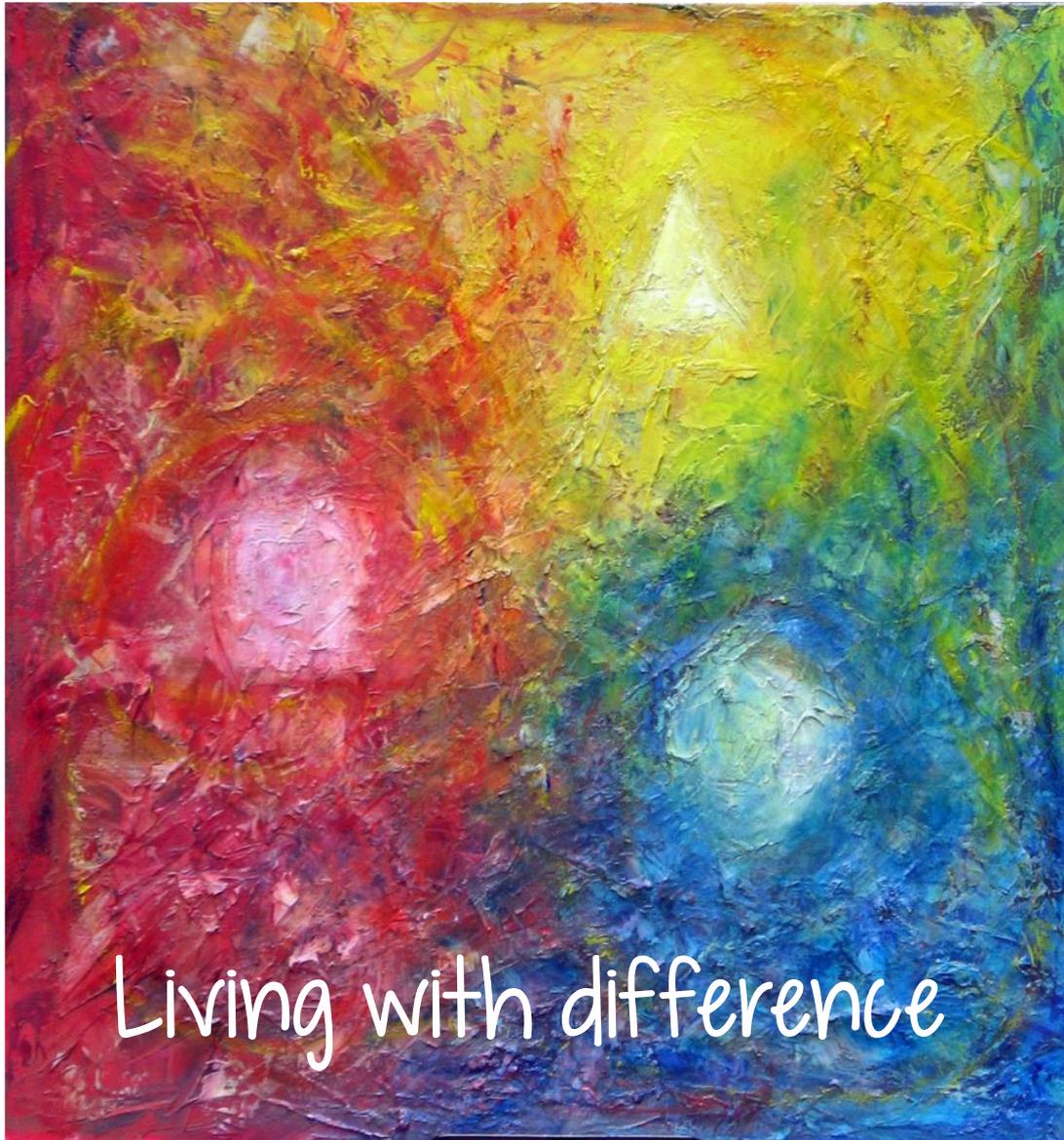


**uniting
church**

in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

**Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church**

PENTECOST 10



14 August 2022

Leigh Memorial

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

WE ...

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

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 Burramattagal 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

It would be much easier, Jesus,
to ignore the hard truths around us:
the widening gap
between rich and poor,
the consistency with which the powerful
get their way,
the bending of rules and the self-enrichment
of the connected and influential,
the lack of adequate care, protection and resources
for the most vulnerable among us;
we would rather not see these signs.

It would be much easier if we could just pretend
everything was alright,
if we could prophesy goodness and light,
and ignore the darkness and evil;
if we didn't have to offend the status quo,
or challenge the comfortable;
if we could convince ourselves that the cross,
was just a one time thing –

your calling, not ours.

But, we can't do this, Jesus, because we know too much;
your Gospel has captured us and opened our eyes,
and we have become slaves to love,
the love that must speak for the voiceless,
the love that must challenge injustice,
the love that draws lines of division
between truth and denial,
between compassion and expediency.

***Give us the courage to acknowledge what we see,
to name the signs of the times,
to disrupt the 'way things are'
in the name of what should be,
to divide in order to heal and restore,
and to be crucified for the sake of love.
Amen.***

Sacredise.com

HYMN *"Miracle of Life" (Tune: 'Ode to Joy', 87.87D)*

1. Miracle of life unfolding,
dazzling to our watching eyes,
far beyond full comprehension,
secrets of the earth and sky.
Each advance of understanding
each new piece of knowledge gained
leaves the soul amazed and humbled,
child-like wonder yet remains.

2. Nature teems with life abundant,
stunning in variety,
shape and size and colour differing,
wondrous in complexity.
From a high, majestic mountain
to the contours of a shell,
Life has much to teach of difference,
Rich we be to learn it well.

3. Filled with joy we stand in wonder

at the life in which we share,
Gratefully we find our spirits
sensing glory everywhere.
Sun and moon and tiny creature
in their beauty stir the heart,
leading us to sacred duty,
call us well to do our part.

© Scott Kearns 2008

All rights reserved. With permission OneLicense A-604457

PRAYER TO FOLLOW FAITHFULLY

O Jesus Christ, we hear your warning words
that the way will not always be easy.

***We confess that we find it hard to stay the course
if friends and family turn away from us
when we make our choices.***

In our hearts, we hope that things will be easy
and that decisions we make will be applauded
by those who matter to us.

Silent Reflection

Hold us in our grieving, we pray Jesus Christ.

***Remind us that you have faced what we face
and understand our fears when faced with change.***

We know that sometimes, even in your church,
when we disagree, we turn our backs on each other
rather than grappling for the truth together.

***We feel that your Word should be clear to us
and that we have the right interpretation,
unlike those around us.***

Silent Reflection

Hold us in our grieving, we pray Jesus Christ.

Remind us that you have faced what we face
and understand our fears when faced with change.

***This we pray in faith.
Amen.***

Dorothy McRae McMahon

WORDS OF GRACE

Part of the justice of God is the wonder of grace.
It flows towards us like a never-ending stream of love,
when we own who we are and who we long to be.

***We are forgiven this day!
Thanks be to God.***

Dorothy McRae McMahon

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 12: 49-56 (Inclusive Text)

Jesus grieves his coming suffering, recognising the conflict that will arise over his message, and challenging people to discern the true nature of the time they live in, in the same way that they interpret the weather.

Jesus said to the disciples:

'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that am here to bring peace on earth? No, tell you, but rather division.

'For from now on a household of five will be divided:

three against two and two against three;

the father divided against the son, son against father,

mother against daughter, daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.*

And colour our living. Amen!

SONG *its not too late, archie roach*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iuepsowqku>

I'm so sorry for the world today
With all the killing and all the hate
I get down on my knees and pray
That it's not too late
That it's not too late for peace
And it's not too late for love

For all the children everywhere
I ask the old ones up above:
"Won't you hear this prayer?"

It's not too late to turn it round
We gotta find some common ground
I know it's there
And it comes as no surprise
It's deep within our children's eyes
It's everywhere, oh yeah

So comfort those who wake in fright
And hold them in your arms
Tell them all it'll be alright
Keep them safe from harm
And we hope as we all wait
Wait to see the snow white dove

For all the children everywhere
I ask the old ones up above:
"Won't you hear this prayer?"

It's not too late to turn it round
We gotta find some common ground
I know it's there
And it comes as no surprise
It's deep within our children's eyes
It's everywhere

It's not too late for peace and love
I ask the old ones up above:

"Won't you hear this prayer?"

It's not too late

It's not too late

REFLECTION

HYMN *Beauty for brokenness (TiS 690)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaMPE53uP38>

1 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

2 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

3 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

4 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*

5 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*

*Graham Kendrick. All rights reserved.
With permission OneLicense A-604457*

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

Take our minds towards a new vision of justice and truth.

***Lift our hearts so that we believe
that we can do greater things
and be part of what you really hope
for all humanity.***

Give to us a stark and clear view of the world around us,
and then show us ways of interacting with that
so that things change and become a different day.

***Carry our lives into the heights of your love
so that we move across barriers
of fear or hopelessness
and see ourselves as standing with you.***

We pray now for these who come into our thoughts;

The people pray

May we touch the hem of your garment, Jesus Christ,
and be lifted from fear and confusion,
So that we may take the next step in your name.

**Do not leave us, nor forsake us, we pray,
This we pray in faith.
Amen.**

Dorothy McRae McMahon

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.

*Deirdre Brown,
With permission One License A6044575
All rights reserved*

BLESSING

Deepest mystery of grace,
beneath, above, around and within;
on the mountain you showed your glory.
As your Spirit invites us
into new, even daring ways of following Jesus,
may our lives be parables of your love, justice and freedom
in every gesture and deed!
May God as love dwell within us.
May God as light bring new insights and encouragement.
May God as grace take us on a journey of compassion.
May God as hope give us courage to let our light shine.
(Bill Loader)