



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

Parramatta City Uniting Church



Sunday 11th September 2022

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather to worship God as a community called to follow Jesus and to share his love for all people.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ Candle proclaiming Jesus is the Light of the World and that his risen, life-giving spirit is with us now. *The candle is lit.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place who have cared for this land through countless generations. We 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship:

Teach us your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth; give us undivided hearts to revere your name.

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, and we will glorify your name forever:

For your love is great towards us; you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let us worship, let us offer our praise, let us give thanks! *(Adapted from Psalm 86)*

SONG *(Together in Song No.100 -verses 1, 4 and 7)*

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia;
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfold rich blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,
let them his glory also show;
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Francis of Assisi 1182-1226; paraphraser William Henry Draper 1865-1933. Music and arrangement from the "English Hymnal" by permission of Oxford University Press) All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457

PRAYERS

We joyfully adore you, God of glory, Lord of love –
Holy and wonderful are You:
Your grace is without measure, and your purpose sure and true;
Your power is unequalled. You are sovereign and mysterious in all your ways.

We thank you for the gift of this day, a new day; a day when your mercies are fresh, untainted and new, and your faithfulness again clearly visible.

Yet, how often we spoil new days!

We repeat old patterns rather than live free.

We hold on to old hurts and we harbour resentments towards others.

We complain when we don't get our way; and ignore the needs of those around us, caught up in our own desires.

We believe lies told about others and even the ones we tell about ourselves.

We're complacent in the face of injustice and poverty.

And in all things, we're better at making excuses than at repenting and changing our ways.

Forgive us. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession and forgive us because of your great mercy and love.

(silent prayer)

Friends, God declares, that *"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me for I have redeemed you"* (Isaiah 44:22).

Be assured that you are forgiven. By the grace of God, you are accepted, restored and made whole.

Amen.

(adapted from Richard Herman Opening Prayers/Prayers of Adoration on Mercy – The Pastor's Workshop (thepastorsworkshop.com) All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457

SONG: *(Together in Song, No 647)*

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.*

Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living,
comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother:
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.*

Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.
Speak it tender to my people:
All your sins are taken away.*

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BIBLE READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(New Revised Standard Version)

The Word of Lord: **Thanks be to God**

REFLECTION: “Bigger than any of our mistakes”

SONG *(Together in Song No.670)*

Jesus put this song into our hearts
Jesus put this song into our hearts
It's a song of joy no one can take away
Jesus put this song into our hearts

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony
Different faces, different races, he made us one
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony

Jesus taught us how to be a family
Jesus taught us how to be a family
Loving one another with the love that he gives
Jesus taught us how to be a family

Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing
Changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance

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OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, as we offer you our gifts together with our very lives,
may we not grow weary of doing what is right,
but commit to bearing witness to all those mercies
which you so graciously gift us every day.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Let us pray to God, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For those around the world who are hit hard by natural disasters or are suffering the impact of violence and war. May their needs be met and may they be safe and secure.

(silence)

For the health and well-being of our nation and all those who are fearful and anxious. May they be at peace and free from worry.

(silence)

For the isolated and housebound. May we be alert to their needs and care for them.

(silence)

For our homes and families, our young people and our seniors, and for all people in any kind of need or distress. May they be comforted and strengthened.

(silence)

For our local community and our neighbourhoods. May they be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for.

(silence)

For those who have special needs to today, the sick and the grieving, the sad and the broken hearted, the lonely and the lost. May they know your love and experience your compassion in all the challenges they face.

(silence)

For the Parramatta City Churches and all who gather for worship today. May we be faithful to your calling and willing to travel forward together as your people in this place.

(silence)

God of mercy and grace, accept these, our prayers, in name of Jesus our Saviour as we pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

SONG (The Summons)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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BLESSING (John)

May the strength of God pilot us;
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the hand of God protect us,
May the word of God direct us.
This day and for evermore.

(St. Patrick)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.

(2 Corinthians 13:14 – New Revised Standard Version)