



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

Parramatta City Uniting Church



PENTECOST 16C - Sunday 25th 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.

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.

(2)

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in worldly rulers,

For they are temporary, their plans will fall apart.

Happy are those whose help and hope is in God,

For God made heaven and earth, and all living things.

God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry,

God sets the prisoners free, and opens the eyes of all.

God watches over those on the margins, the strangers, the widows and orphans;

And God will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

(2022 Rev-o-lution Worship Resources – Rev Mindi Welton-Mitchel)

SONG: “Give thanks with a grateful heart”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=047xtruOZRO

(215) Give Thanks with a Grateful heart with Lyrics - YouTube

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”

Let the poor say, “I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us”

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”

Let the poor say, “I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us”

(3)

Give thanks with a grateful heart (with a grateful heart)
Give thanks to the Holy One (to the Holy One)
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart (with a grateful heart)
Give thanks to the Holy One (to the Holy One)
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich (I am rich)
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks

We give thanks to You

(Source: [LyricFind](#); Songwriters: Henry Smith -Give Thanks lyrics © O/B/O Apra Amcos - All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
We thank you for the gift of life, for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation: for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear, for the unknown that we cannot behold
filling the universe with wonder, for the expanse of space that draws us
beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities: for families who nurture our
becoming, for friends who love us by choice, for companions at work, who
share our burdens and daily tasks, for strangers who welcome us into their
midst, for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding, for
children who lighten our moments with delight, for the unborn, who offer us
hope for the future.

(4)

We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love, for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace, for neighbours and one more person to love and by whom be loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence, for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*~(adapted from "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson. Posted on **BeliefNet.co**<http://www.beliefnet.com/Prayers/Christian/Gratitude/Prayer-Of-Thanksgiving.aspx>)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wonderous God, we confess that we have sided with the rulers, with those in power, those who have wealth, those who have sway over the people.

We confess that our ways are not your ways. We followed false shepherds, leaders who promise the easy way, instead of seeking you.

Forgive us.

Call us into your ways of love, justice, and mercy, even when it is difficult.

Call us to bring in those from the margins.

Remind us that our own redemption is bound in the liberation of others.

It is in Christ' name that we pray, for Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Repent simply means to turn back. Since Christ has promised to be with us always, Christ is always there, ready to receive us.

Repent, and know Christ is with you. Know the forgiveness of Christ, the assurance of God's love, and follow the Spirit into the world for the work of God's love. Amen.

(2022 Rev-o-lution Worship Resources – Rev Mindi Welton-Mitchell)

BIBLE READINGS:**1 Timothy 6:6-19**

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. ¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. ¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

(New Revised Standard Version)

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’

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²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

(New Revised Standard Version)

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

REFLECTION

SONG: “Community of Christ”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=U14i3LOPBU

(217) NYCC Sings! Hymn: "Community of Christ" - YouTube

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

(7)

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

When menace melts away
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
forevermore.

*(Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl,
Carol Stream, IL 60188- All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457)*

OFFERING PRAYER

Receive these gifts, O God, which we bring to you today. May they be used for the purposes to which you have called them, and to which you call your whole church, in the works of love and healing and justice shown in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Life in Liturgy (wordpress.com))

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with hearts that need to be opened to your word and your love. There is so much around us that concerns us, that causes us to worry. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and of the hope that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ.

Guide us, we pray, as your church, to live out the Good News of Jesus in our community. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and to which you lead us forward.

(8)

We know, Lord, that there will often be bumps in the road. Save us from dwelling on these things and make us secure in the goals you have placed before us.

Hear our prayers for all who need your tender touch of healing in their lives—those we name before you each day, and those who are known only to you in the depths of our hearts. Be with those who mourn or are broken hearted. May they be strengthened and comforted by the presence of your loving spirit.

We pray for the creation as it groans under the weight of our exploitation and continues to experience extreme weather events, the loss of habitat and the extinction of species. Guide our leaders in this age where trust and confidence in democratic institutions seems to be fading that they will govern with integrity with a real commitment to a world of peace, hope and love.

These are our prayers which we offer to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who said “not my will, but thine be done.” Amen.

(based on a prayer from Life in Liturgy (wordpress.com))

Let us 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 “Here is this place new light is streaming”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCGqBPMrthO

(217) Here In This Place New Light is Streaming - YouTube

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 space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

(10)

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 bone.

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BLESSING

God has filled us with joy and wonder.

We will go to let it overflow in the lives of others.

Jesus has filled us with comfort and hope.

We will go to wipe away the tears of those around us.

The Spirit sends us forward in faith to share the truth of God's presence in our lives.

Alleluia! We will live everyday as God's own. Amen.

(c) Thom M. Shuman

“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)

SONG: “Shalom to you now”

www.youtube.co./watch?v=liHdk_HdKWs74

(217) Shalom To You Now [wfs] - YouTube

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

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