



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Parramatta City
Uniting Church

PENTECOST 18



A SAMARITAN LEPER
CAST OUT BY JEWISH OUTCASTS

9 October 2022

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Today we light this candle on this Sunday in celebration of the dignity of all people, without limits.

The candle is lit

THEME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the living Burramattagal people today.

Ours is the age of the refugee, the displaced person and mass immigration. For decades, Australia has been a place of refuge and welcome for many people who have fled from the unbearable realities of wars and deprivations around the world. They have had to leave a familiar world behind and move to a new world populated with languages, traditions, skills and new ways of living that are foreign to their own.

GATHERING PRAYER

O Christ of the poor and the yearning
Kindle in our communal heart
A flame of love for our neighbour,
For those society casts out to the margins,
For our foe, for our friend,
For our kindred all.
From the humblest thing that lives
To the Name that is highest of all
Kindle within our communal heart
A flame of love.
Amen!

Adapted: J Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers from Iona

HYMN *For the beauty of the earth*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06lp4p2>

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled,
God of all, to you we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
God of all, to you we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

For thy Church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
God of all, to you we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

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PRAYER FOR NEW RELATIONSHIPS

God, you call us to be in relationship,

building community with one another,
working with one another,
supporting and healing one another,
but often we have turned our back on our neighbour
when they have been in need.

Loving God
Inspire our love of others!

God, you call us into a community
working for the common good of all people,
making choices that bring hope, justice, truth and freedom
to our world,
yet sometimes we have failed
to speak out against injustice and lift up the
oppressed

Loving God
Inspire our love of others!

God who loves all equally,
you call us into community with the whole of creation,
always cherishing, nurturing and renewing the earth.
But we have taken what you have given
and not fully shared it with those around us.

Loving God
Inspire our love of others!

ASSURANCE ***Come home to ourselves***

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released.

May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquilities.

May all that is unlived in you,
Blossom into a future,
Graced with love.

(Source: John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space between us)

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Luke 17:11-19**

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region
between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten lepers

approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living. Amen!*

REFLECTION

SONG ***"Community of Christ" (TIS 473)***

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.

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.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Receive and bless these gifts and our lives, O God,
which we offer in response to your love
revealed so clearly in Jesus.

As he planted the seeds of love and life in our lives,
strengthen us to nourish others with the fruits
of our faith made visible through these gifts,
our love and our witness.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Healing Spirit,
Fill our hearts with love for those
who are unloved, forgotten, disposed, alone.

Let your flame of fiery presence melt the hearts
chilled with fear and distrust.
Sprout new seeds of hope in the desert places of dusty souls.
Cool the fierce hate that scars thoughts of the powerful.
Fill empty vessels of self-worth
with purpose to serve victims and vulnerable.
Voice the silent cries of those who are spent,
and can no longer manage alone.

*Silent prayer for new arrivals and refugees in the community,
their needs and support*

Healing Spirit, hear our prayers.
We pray for the state-wide communities of new arrivals and refugees,
to be alert and responsive to the critical care and need, for the
emotional, mental, spiritual and physical well-being of those who
come with such practical need and who are often emotionally spent.

Healing Spirit, hear our prayers.

We pray for the national bodies assisting new arrivals and refugees,
Government programs and decisions that are life changing for people
who have already suffered much

Healing Spirit, hear our prayers.

We pray for our country's public voice and action for refugees across
the world.

Healing Spirit, hear our prayers.

Inflame our hearts with your unconditional love:
That our active presence makes a difference in changing values,
approach, decisions - and the living reality for these, our sisters and
brothers.

Amen!

(Source: Anne Hewitt, South Australian Council of Churches 2020)

HYMN *Beauty for brokenness*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reMiYuk0dsQ>

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

Chorus

*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

Chorus

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

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

Chorus

Graham Kendrick

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BLESSING

They left their nets and followed Jesus.
They left their boats and went with him.
Today God call us into new life, into a new world.
We are called by God.

Go now to hear and experience that call,
moment by moment,
thought by thought.
And we will know ourselves transformed.
(Source: Rev Paul Turley)