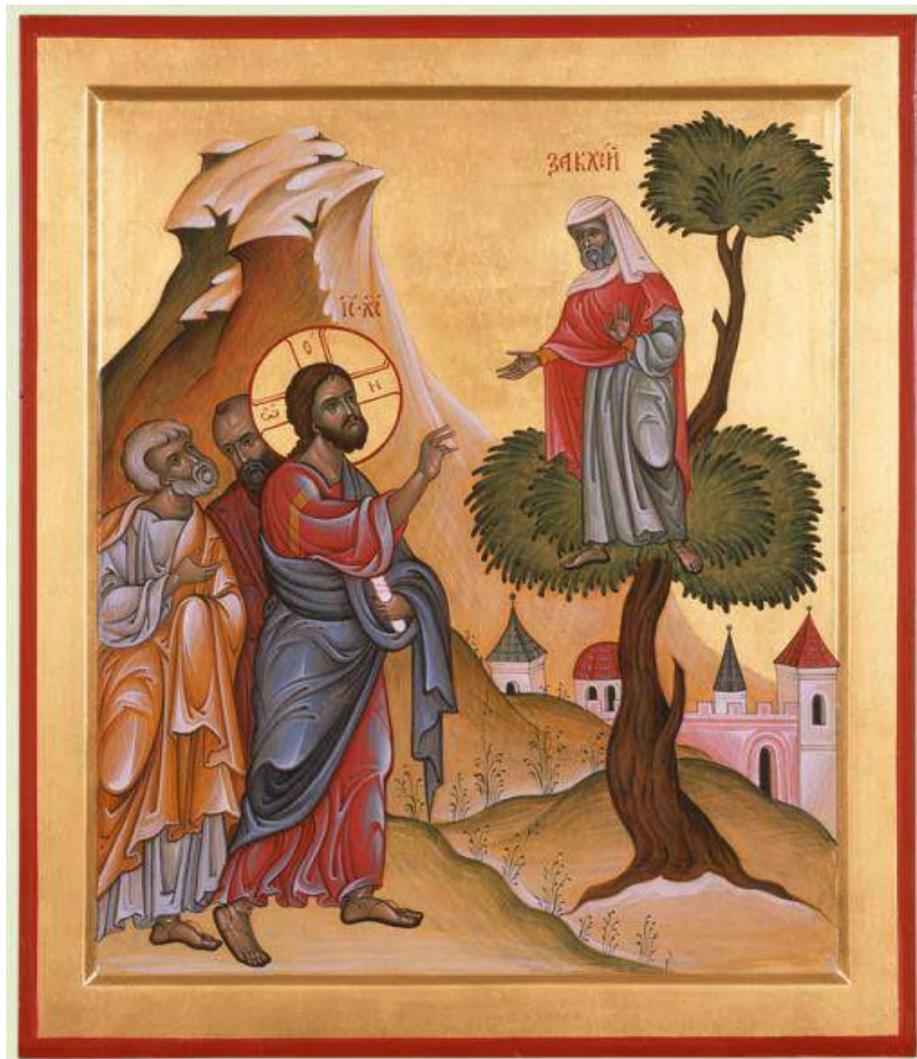




uniting  
church  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

# Parramatta City Uniting Church Combined Service

PENTECOST 21



ZACHEUS AND JESUS

30 October 2022

Leigh Memorial 10am

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

**PRE-SERVICE SINGING** LEIGH FIJIAN CHOIR (9:50AM)

**LALI**

**INTROIT** Leigh Fijian Choir

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THEME** Transformed into a community of belonging.

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF NEW COMMUNITY**

**Five-wick candle is lit by a member of each congregation**

**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.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

We come, God of the journey:  
a people from different places, different histories, different cultures.

***We come hoping to find companionship for the journey,  
solidarity for the struggle.***

We gather, God of Hospitality, around your 'welcome table',  
a table not yet round, but rounding.

***We gather seeking to become a 'round-table people,  
welcoming of all, with no preferred seating,  
no firsts and no lasts, and no corners for the 'least of these'.***

We yearn, God of our community of belonging,  
for a new way of living and relating  
as friends and neighbours not strangers,  
as brothers and sisters,  
not 'them-suburbs and us-locals'.

***We yearn to fully celebrate both the diversity of our human family,  
and the unity of our call to peace, love and justice.  
Amen.***

*St Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch*

**HYMN**

***Here in this place*** (*Gather us in*) (TiS 474)

1. 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.*

2. 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.*

3. 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.*

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
*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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## **PRAYER FOR EMPOWERMENT**

Empowering God,  
You empower us to be our community selves.  
You enable us to understand how much we are loved.  
You see in us our potential for good,  
You give us gifts and strengths,  
which we can develop and grow.

Enable us to see ourselves and each other in the way you do.  
Empower us to be confident in the gifts which you give us,  
Such as your grace, and the ability to share love.  
Empower us to learn about community,  
each other and the world.  
Empower us as Spirit to cope when we face struggles.  
Empower us to flourish, even in difficult and hard times  
Empower us to help and serve others.  
Empower us to work for good in all people and all the world.  
Empower us to have the grit and determination  
to strive always towards better things.  
Empower us to empower others,  
so that all might share in your love.

***This we are empowered to pray.***

***Amen.***

*(Adapted: Source: Jon Humphries, Prayers that Unite)*

**SHARING** **Interview with Paul Moussa, Meals Plus Coordinator**  
“Creating a community of belonging.”

**SINGING** *This little light of mine (Fil Kamotu and Leigh Fijian Youth)*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** **Luke 19:1-10** (*Inclusive Text*)

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a wealthy person whose name was Zacchaeus appeared.

Zacchaeus was one of the senior toll collectors. Zacchaeus was anxious to see what Jesus was like, but was too short and could not see Jesus for the crowd; so Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.'

And Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to Jesus, 'Look, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to Zacchaeus, 'Today, salvation has come to this house, because you too are a descendant of Abraham; for the Promised One has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

**Luke 19: 1-10 Fijian Version**

**RESPONSE**

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

**REFLECTION**

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

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

*(Shirley Erena Murray - Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company,  
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#### **OFFERING PRAYER AND ORGAN RECITAL**

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!*

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

**HYMN**     *God gives us a future*

1. God gives us a future, daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.

2. We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning is a better way.  
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.

3. Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.  
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life,  
and find our future there.

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## BLESSING

And may the Spirit of God  
rise in joy within our new gathered community,  
the Creator guide us into a new day with every awakening,  
and Christ Jesus lead us on

towards those who yearn for belonging!  
***Amen.***