



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church

PENTECOST 24



Roman Rule through colonisation
God's realm of shared equal mutuality

The post-colonial life of Christ's realm

20 November, 2022

Leigh Memorial

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this last Sunday of the liturgical year, when we celebrate the new realm of Christ, the source of life, and prepare for the Advent season of incarnation, hope and grace.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

This is the place and this is the time;
here and now the realm of Christ waits to break into our
experience:
To change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways!
To free us see the world and the whole of life in a new light!
To fill us with hope, joy, and certainty for the future.

The candle is lit

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“JESU” Gurrumul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4LiIiSlf8>

GATHERING PRAYER

The royal life of Christ
a poor Jewish teacher
living on country colonised by the Roman Empire
is not lived out in grand palaces
nor walked in luxury among bowing servants.

***This is the One who brings in a different realm of truth.
It is placed on the ground within humanness
and leaves its costly footmarks among us.***

Christ Jesus is the one who enacts love
in ways which challenge false prophets
which names us friends not servants
and lifts the heart of the world in hope.

The realm of God has come into the world.

The abundance of its life fills all Creation.

Adapted: Dorothy McRae-McMahon

HYMN *Longing for light (Christ be our light)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eeBHrn2Dt0>

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

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PRAYER

O Christ, infinite holy mystery
whose realm draws near
in diverse forms of self-giving
through incarnation and grace

O Christ of the road of
the wounded

O Christ of the tears of
the broken

O Christ of the burdens of
those who suffer loss

Grant us our prayers of
loving and hoping

Grant us our prayers of
yearning and healing

Grant us the awakening of
the freedom within us to
creatively realise the possibilities
that sleep

in the clay of our hearts and communities! **Amen!**

Adapted: J Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers from Iona

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:33-43 (Inclusive Text)

33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "My God, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at Jesus. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked too, and when they approached to offer Jesus vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'

Above Jesus there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.'

But the other spoke up and rebuked that one. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'you got the same sentence, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. 'But this one has done nothing wrong.'

'Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' Jesus replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

RESPONSE *Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*
(TiS 730)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjLZKR3c98>

REFLECTION

HYMN *The Servant King* (TiS 256)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ_iSY08

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering*

of worship to the Servant King.

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear.
His heart with sorrow was torn;
"Yet not my will, but yours", he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

3. Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
or it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King,
of worship to the Servant King.*

Graham Kendrick

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OFFERING PRAYER

O God, we know that, if love is to reign in all the earth,
we must share what we have with others. We pray that you will
enable us to see where love is most needed, as we bring to you what
we have offered today. ***In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO INTRODUCING THE NEW PCUC MINISTER

SONG OF PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Cold play, *Everyday Life* (live in Jordan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qi33gLphV4>

Everyday life

What in the world are we going to do?
Look at what everybody's going through
What kind of world do you want it to be?
Am I the future or the history?
'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries
Everyone tells each other all kinds of lies
Everyone falls, everybody dreams and doubts
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
How in the world I am going to see?
You as my brother, not my enemy?



'Cause everyone hurts, everyone cries
Everyone sees the color in each other's eyes
Everyone loves,
everybody gets their hearts ripped out
Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
Gonna keep dancing when the lights go out
Hold tight for everyday life....
At first light, throw my arms out open wide
Hallelujah.....

PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

O God, we pray this day:
for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,

for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger
and for those who will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood,
and for those who misunderstand,
for those who are captives
and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love
are locked within their hearts
and for those who yearn to hear those words.
Have mercy upon these, O God.
Have mercy on us all.

(Source: Ann Weems from "Kneeling in Jerusalem," quoted in "Greeting the Day – Morning Prayers and Meditations from Around the World," edited by Brian Wright)

HYMN *Seek ye first the kingdom of God (Tis 745)*

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and God's righteousness
and all these things
shall be added unto you
allelu alleluia

Refrain

Alleluia alleluia alleluia allelu alleluia

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you
seek and you shall find
knock and it shall be opened unto you
allelu alleluia

Refrain

Alleluia alleluia alleluia allelu alleluia

3. You shall not live by bread alone
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God
allelu alleluia

Refrain

Alleluia alleluia alleluia allelu alleluia

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BLESSING

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,
bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see. (Source: Jan L Richardson, *The Painted
Prayerbook*)