



**uniting  
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in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

# Parramatta City Uniting Church



**Epiphany 7.      Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

## **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.



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### **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.

**May God's light burn bright in this place and in us**

*[The candle is lit.]*

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal 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**

#### **Psalm 99**

The Lord reigns,

let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim,

let the earth shake.

2 Great is the Lord in Zion;

he is exalted over all the nations.

3 Let them praise your great and awesome name—

he is holy.



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4 The King is mighty, he loves justice—

you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done

what is just and right.

5 Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his footstool;

he is holy.

6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the Lord

and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

8 Lord our God,

you answered them;

you were to Israel a forgiving God,

though you punished their misdeeds.[a]

9 Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his holy mountain,

for the Lord our God is holy.

**SONG: To God Be The Glory**

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,**

**who yielded his life an atonement for sin,**

**and opened the lifegate that all may go in.**



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**Refrain:**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**(Refrain)**

**Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

**(Refrain)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

God of all creation,

We come to you now to be filled with a newness of your creation.  
Rebuild in us a heart that longs for your empowering presence, and  
longs for the new and the wonders we can only receive from you this  
day.



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As we gather now for worship we pray the strength of your Son Jesus the Christ be poured out into us now as we receive new blessings from all that you would offer us this day.

Renew us now in your Holy Spirit that our eyes and mind are open to see this your world and creation as our fields for toiling and our places for speaking your truth.

As we gather now in this time and space we prayer come to us Triune God, Father, Son and Spirit. Teach us to be a community of faith, hope and love. Teach us to be a reconciling people for the sake of the community we are called to serve. Teach us again to be your body in mission in this place, Amen.

### **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**



God is slow to anger and full of compassion.

He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in the Son as Saviour and Lord.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*[Cf. Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 8:1]*

## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **2 Peter 1: 16 - 2**

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”[a] 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 17: 1 – 9**



## **New International Version**

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

## **REFLECTION:**

**SONG:     You Shine by Brian Doerksen**



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**Why should I fear man,  
When you made the heavens?  
Why should I be afraid,  
When you put the stars in place?  
Why should I lose heart,  
When I know how great you are?  
Why should I give up,  
When your plans are full of love?**

**In this world we will have trouble,  
But you have overcome the world!  
You shine,  
Brighter than the brightest star!  
Your love,  
Purer than the purest heart!  
You shine,  
Filling us with courage and strength  
To follow you!**

**Why should I fear man,  
When you made the heavens?  
Why should I be afraid,  
When you put the stars in place?  
Why should I lose heart,  
When I know how great you are?  
Why should I give up,  
When your plans are full of love?**

**In this world we will have trouble,**





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**But you have overcome the world!  
You have overcome the world...!**

**You shine,  
Brighter than the brightest star!  
Your love,  
Purer than the purest heart!  
You shine,  
Filling us with courage and strength  
To follow you!  
You shine,**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZPoCRI0uHM>

### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

We pray for all who are hungry, who do not have enough to live with dignity. May they find generosity and inclusion in their local Christian communities.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who live in loneliness or isolation. May they know friendship and community.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**



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We pray for all who are abused in any way, whose homes or neighbourhoods or places of work or study are places of fear, not of safety. May they be strengthened and freed from abusers and fear. May they find your good plans for them and hope in you.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those with disabilities and those who feel alone. We pray too for all who are shunned, from whom people turn away. Please help them to be included and to know that they are loved by you and that you have good plans for hope for them.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We also pray for all who have been displaced, who live in exile and in fear of losing everything they have ever known. May they know your peace and strength in their lives.

God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

**Amen.**

God's promise of freedom, forgiveness, inclusion, justice and peace are fulfilled in Jesus. He is the life-giving light which even the deepest darkness cannot extinguish. It is through Jesus that we are able to come close to God and discern God's plans of hope for us.



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We pray the prayer Jesus taught us (LORD'S PRAYER)  
(Source: World Day of Prayer 2022)

**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**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, in the offering of our gifts,  
as well as the living of our days,  
may we not grow weary of doing what is right,  
but commit to speaking up for the voiceless,



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healing the broken, feeding the hungry,  
and bearing witness to all those mercies  
which are such a part of your heart  
and hopes for all your people.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*(Inspired by Galatians 6:9 and written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>)*

### **SONG:     God Gives us a Future**

**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.**

**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.**

**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,**



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till we choose God's life,  
and find our future there. © E J Smith (TIS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64lXkcwZ06M>

### **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: “For you deep stillness of the silent inland”***

***For You Deep Stillness on Vimeo***

<https://vimeo.com/432061818>



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For you, deep stillness of the silent inland; for you, deep blue of the desert skies; for you, flame red of the rocks and stones; for you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands, and when you're burnt by the journey may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ. In the name of Christ.

*[Words and music by Julie Perrin and Robin Mann, performed by Sharon and Robin Mann. Photography by Jill Robertson and Duncan Macleod (1st & last images). - All rights reserved. With permission One License A-604457]*