



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

Leigh Memorial  
Uniting Church

## PENTECOST 2



TOUCHING THE HEM  
UNRAVELLING THREADS  
OF COMPASSION  
IN TIGHTLY WOVEN SOCIETIES

## WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Today we light this candle  
proclaiming the transforming power of God.  
Today we celebrate the richness and diversity of life.  
Christ is alive and living among us!

*The candle is lit*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and 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.

## OPENING MEDITATION

Touch of unexpected hope  
meeting us in our difficult places,  
touch of kindness  
walking towards us even as we enter  
the spaces of aloneness,  
touch of healing  
reaching down into the depths of all of life:

***We come to meet you, O God,  
in the presence of the Christ.  
We come in faith  
thankful to be surprised by grace  
when cultural divisions  
deny us grace and community.  
Amen!***

*Adapted: Dorothy McRae McMahan*

HYMN *Abide with me ...* Audrey Assad

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3\\_2Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3_2Q)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens; God with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me  
Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee  
In life, in death, O God, abide with me

### PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

Christ Jesus, friend and healer,  
as we look around us,  
there are sometimes people  
who we can't imagine  
would receive your healing –  
people who hover on the edges of society,  
seemingly without hope of well-being,  
or solutions to long-term challenges.

***Forgive us  
if we create cultures and spaces  
that keep others at a distance,  
being well beyond the realms  
of your love and ours.***

*Silent reflection*

Sometimes we place ourselves

on the outskirts  
of your attention and care,  
... or try to put aside our own needs  
for rest, consideration and special love.  
We feel as though we should be last,  
rather than expecting your cherishing.

*Silent reflection*

Hear us, O Christ.

***Forgive us***

***if we keep ourselves at a distance,  
being well beyond the realms of your love and ours.***

***Help us to trust the grace  
which waits for us in you.***

***Amen.***

*Dorothy McRae McMahon*

## **WORDS OF GRACE & CHANGE**

The compassionate love  
of Jesus Christ never ends,  
love that knows no bounds,  
and dismantles the obstacles cutting off this love!  
It belongs to us all in equal measure  
and is given to us without cost or hesitation.  
The price of mercy has already been paid for us  
by a brave and gracious Christ.  
We are forgiven!

***Thanks be to God.***

***Amen!***

*Adapted: Dorothy McRae McMahon*

**HYMN** *Jesus Christ is waiting (TIS 665)*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc_o)

1 Jesus Christ is waiting,  
Waiting in the streets;  
No one is his neighbour,  
All alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger,  
Fit to wait on you

2 Jesus Christ is raging,  
Raging in the streets,  
Where injustice spirals  
And real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes  
Let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing,  
Healing in the streets;  
Curing those who suffer,  
Touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I have pity too.  
Let my care be active,  
Healing just like you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing,  
Dancing in the streets,  
Where each sign of hatred  
He, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I should triumph too.  
On suspicion's graveyard  
Let me dance with you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling,  
Calling in the streets,  
"Who will join my journey?  
I will guide their feet."  
Listen, Lord Jesus,

Let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.

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### SCRIPTURE READING

### Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners, *those considered not good* by society, came and were sitting with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners, *those considered not good*?" 12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners, *those considered not good*."

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

### RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,*

*may your word live in us.  
And colour our living. Amen!*

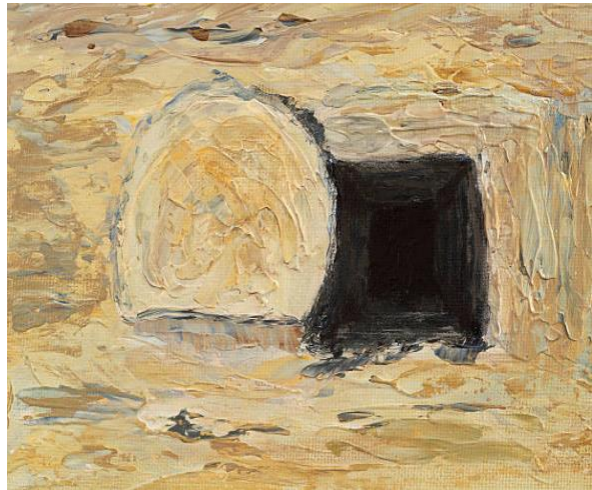
**SONG**

*Walls and Doors, Jackson Browne*

**VLADIMIR**

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

Ever since the world's existed  
There's one thing that is certain  
There are those who build walls  
And those who open doors  
Ah but this my love  
I'm thinking you already knew



For some it's always winter  
While others have the spring  
Some people find good fortune  
While others never find a thing  
Ah but this my love is something you already knew

That's how it's always been  
And I know you know it  
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it  
I'm going to say that again  
Because I know you know it  
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it

Of what use is the moon if you don't have the night?  
Of what use is a windmill with no Quixote left who'll fight?  
Ah but this my love is something you already knew  
At some point on the horizon  
Sky can be confused with earth  
Some people dream of God  
While others dream of wealth  
But of course my love this is what you see out on the street  
It's how it's always been  
And I know you know it

There can be freedom only when nobody owns it  
Let me say that again

Because I know that we both know it  
There can be freedom only when nobody owns it  
When nobody owns it  
When nobody owns it

Ever since the world's existed  
There's one thing that is certain  
Some people build walls  
Others open doors

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## REFLECTION

## SHARING AND COFFEE & TEA

**HYMN**     *Make me a channel of your peace* (TiS, 607)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
It is in giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek*



*So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
Or to be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

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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 ALL PLACES & PEOPLE**

O God, in Christ Jesus,  
we know there must be people  
around us who are like the woman who longed for well-being.

***Help us to sense when people reach out in trembling  
hope***

***and touch the edges of our life as the church, we pray.***

Give to us the depth of faith  
enabling us to believe  
that we have the power  
to engage in working together with others to create well-being,  
and that our prayers might release and bring hope.

***May we never limit our expectations***

*of what might be possible in miracles of faith.*

Empower us also to believe that we too  
are just as loved by you,  
and that you always offer us  
care beyond the commonplace.

*Come to each of us now, we pray, and restore our  
lives  
so that we may rise up and live to the full.*

Walk with us on the streets of today and help us to live  
with your sensitive heart, which feels the longings  
of those around us, O Christ.

*Amen.*

*Dorothy McRae McMahan*

**HYMN**     *Come as you are (TiS 693)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8xXFkwWHWM>

Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never end.  
Don't run away, shamed, and disheartened.  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise  
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Don't run away, shamed, or disheartened  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.

Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.

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## **BLESSING**

Walk well your journey in peace and in justice.  
May you be wrapped in the shawl of God's loving.  
May you be cherished.  
May you be blessed.

***Amen.***