



**uniting  
church**

in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

Leigh Memorial  
Uniting Church

# PENTECOST 3



**JESUS HAD COMPASSION FOR  
HARASSED & HELPLESS  
CROWDS**

**18 June 2023**

## 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 SENTENCES

The kindness of God  
is beyond measure.

***It embraces all creation  
with understanding and love.***

It challenges our lack of mercy  
and moments of self-righteousness.

***It stands beside our expectations  
and invites a grander dream.***

The vision of God for the world  
inspires us to look at history with open eyes

***and to commit ourselves  
to bring newness into all of life.***

**HYMN**     *Let all creation dance ... (TiS 187)*

1. Let all creation dance  
in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance,  
unfolding space and time,  
for nature's art  
in glory grows,  
and newly shows  
God's mind and heart.

2. God's breath each force unfurls,  
igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls,  
with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun  
seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings:  
'Your will be done.'

3. Our own amazing earth,  
with sunlight, cloud and storms,  
and life's abundant growth  
in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise,  
a fragile whole,  
and from its soul  
heaven's music plays.

4. Lift heart and soul and voice:  
in Christ all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice  
as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong,  
all life befriend  
and kindly tend  
creation's song.

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**PRAYER TO BE A BLESSING**

We long to know your presence  
and your blessing God;  
to know that we have found a place  
in your realm;

And so we commit to being those  
who acknowledge our poverty of spirit,  
and who grieve rightly our brokenness and losses;  
***For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.***

We dedicate ourselves to humility,  
and to a constant, never-ceasing hunger  
and thirst for justice;  
***For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.***

We seek to always act with compassion and mercy,  
and to keep our hearts pure –  
free from destructiveness,  
and bound by integrity;  
For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.

We devote ourselves  
to working for peace,  
and to constant celebration and rejoicing,  
even in the face of hardship,  
persecution,  
and struggle;  
***For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.  
Gracious and Compassionate God,  
We offer ourselves to you again,  
in thanks and obedience,  
in lives committed to the purposes and practices  
of your reign;  
For in this way, we know, we are blessed,  
and we are a blessing.***  
*Sacradise.com*

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the realm of God, and curing every disease and every sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

## RESPONSE

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

## SONG

*Steve Bell, About love*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flOTkYJuk38>

## REFLECTION

## HYMN

*"God gives us a future" (TiS, 687)*

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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### **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

**HYMN**                    *I the Lord and Sea and Sky (TiS 658)*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have born my peoples pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them,  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart*

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### **PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE**

O God, your wounded world cries out  
in grief and sorrow, pain and fear  
and suffering causes some to doubt  
that you are here beside us.  
Restore our hope,  
enrich our faith,  
give us the courage to believe  
that in the darkest of our days  
you'll come and walk beside us.  
When those in power abuse their trust  
and crush the ones whom they oppose  
the weak are trampled in the dust  
yet you are here beside them.  
Let mercy reign,  
let justice flow,  
tear down the walls of hate and fear  
till in their place forgiveness grows  
because you walk beside us.

When some are victims of deceit  
and truth is twisted out of shape,  
when lies define the battle-lines  
come near and walk beside us



until we learn the ways of peace  
and all can share the feast of life.  
Then all the world shall come to see  
You always walk beside us.  
(Source: Iain D. Cunningham 2014)

**HYMN**      *May the feet of God walk with you (TiS, 779)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rw1sjc3IVrw>

May the feet of God  
walk with you,  
and God's hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,  
and God's ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,  
and God's breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,  
and God's love bring you home.

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**BLESSING**

Go forth into this day as the children of God.  
Carry with you all that Christ brings,  
all that Christ promises for the world.  
And may Christ's life be held within our own,  
God's creativity enlarge all that we are  
and the Spirit lift our hearts in joy.

***Amen.***