

Parramatta City
Uniting Church

Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church

PENTECOST 11



Walking on the waters of life's storms

We walk on another sea,
for this world is a sea;
Trials its waves, temptations its storms ...
Walk out boldly

13 AUGUST 2023

WELCOME A warm welcome as we gather together on this Sunday.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

We light this flame as a symbol of the creativity of our faith:
the creativity to explore new avenues of spiritual insight;
the creativity to develop a caring community;
the creativity to envision a world of peace and freedom,
and creating justice for the worlds homeless.

Adapted Wm J. Gardiner

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal 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

Your feet carry love
across the waters of life in storm and calm,
as you move towards us, Jesus Christ.

*And we discover that even our own feet
can bring compassion as we walk in faith.*

For brave life is the wonder
which lies within your invitation to us, O Christ,
who calls us onward.

*Even within the strong winds of life,
your feet walk with us, Jesus Christ.*

Within the clouds and storms of fear,
you bring us your company

*and inspire us to the impossible possibilites of compassion,
respect of difference,
justice and change especially for the homeless of the world.*

HYMN **Great lover calling us to share** (*Tune: Dunedin, 387 TiS*)

1. Great Lover, calling us to share
your joy in all created things
from atom-dance to eagles' wings,
we come and go, to praise and care.

2. Though sure of resurrection-grace,
we ache for all earth's troubled lands
and hold the planet in our hands,
a fragile, unprotected place.

3. Your questing Spirit longs to gain
no simple fishing-ground for souls,
but as life's story onward rolls,
world more joyful and humane.

3. As midwives who assist at birth,
we give our uttermost, yet grieve
lest folly, greed or hate should leave
a spoiled, aborted, barren earth.

4. Self-giving Lover, since you dare
to join us in our history,
embracing all our destiny,
we'll come and go with praise and care.

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REFLECTIVE PRAYER

You, O Eternal Trinity,
are a deep sea into which,
the more we enter,
the more we find ...
 and the more we find,
 the more we seek.
O abyss,
O eternal Godhead,
O sea profound,

what more could you give us than yourself?
God's grace, unsought and unearned,
blows through our life,
and all we need to do
is raise our sails to catch the full wind.

Catherine of Siena 1347-1380

READINGS

Matthew 14:22-33 (Inclusive Text)

Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side while he sent the crowds away. After sending the crowds away, Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battered with a heavy sea, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning Jesus went toward them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear.

But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

It was Peter who answered, 'If it is really you, command me to come to you across the water.'

'Come' said Jesus.

Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as Peter noticed the strong wind, he took fright and began to sink.

'Jesus Christ, Save me!' he cried.

And immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said 'why do you doubt?'

When they got into the boat the wind ceased. Those in the boat bowed down before Jesus and said, 'Truly, you are the Begotten of God.'

Walking on the waters of life's storms

St Augustine of Hippo 354-430 (ACE), Sermon 141, Psalm 39

You are not walking on the lake like Peter
but on another sea, for this world is a sea;
Trials its waves, temptations its storms,
and people devouring each other as fishes do.
Don't be afraid, step out stoutly lest you sink.

When the gale blows and the waves rise,
and your weakness makes you fear you will be lost,
cry out, 'O God, I am sinking,'
and The One who bade you walk will not let you perish.

RESPONSE

In these sacred readings we hear God speak
Thank you O God for your words of life.

SONG *Phil Collins, Another Day in Paradise*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt2mbGP6vFI&list=RDOt2mbGP6vFI&start_radio=1&rv=Qt2mbGP6vFI&t=62

She calls out to the man on the street
"Sir, can you help me?
It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"

He walks on, doesn't look back
He pretends he can't hear her
Starts to whistle as he crosses the street
Seems embarrassed to be there

Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise
Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you, you and me in paradise

Think about it

She calls out to the man on the street
He can see she's been crying
She's got blisters on the soles of her feet
She can't walk but she's trying
Oh think twice
'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise
Oh think twice

It's just another day for you, you and me in paradise

Just think about it

Oh, Lord, is there nothing more anybody can do?

Oh, my Lord, there must be something you can say

You can tell from the lines on her face

You can see that she's been there

Probably been moved on from every place

'Cause she didn't fit in there

Oh think twice

'Cause it's another day for you and me in paradise

Oh think twice

It's just another day for you, you and me in paradise

Just think about it

Just think about it

It's just another day for you and me in paradise

It's just another day for you and me in paradise

It's just another day for you and me in paradise

Just think about it

REFLECTION

HYMN **Inspired by love and anger** (*TiS 457, tune*)

1. Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

2. From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

3. From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
The fear of lost advantage provoke the bitter cry:

"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

4. To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

5. God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

6. Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

John L Bell, Graham Maule

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OFFERING

As you have done with us, may we share our lives with others,
holding nothing back, but offering our treasures and lives:
that hope may be restored, that healing might touch the broken, that
we resource the hunger of body and soul, that the suffering might be
revived, and that all might know of your steadfast love in their lives.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

(Adaped: Thom Shuman)

PRAYER FOR THE HOMELESS

Our Sustainer God

You who so mysteriously call upon us
to share in the suffering of Christ and the world
fill our hearts with compassion for others.

We pray for all the women, children and men
who suffer because they have no shelter;
those who sleep in our streets and public spaces,
who have nowhere safe to lay their heads,
and who wander from place to place as a way of life,

for the millions of displaced in the world.

We pray for broken families who cannot pay the rent,
for those who are the lost and abandoned,
for those on the streets whose minds
have been touched by illness
or whose bodies are sorely affected by disabilities.

We ask that your merciful Grace be poured out
upon those with addictions,
those who have given up
in the face of enormous tribulations,
and those driven into a homeless life here and throughout the world
by crushing poverty, and domestic and family violence.

God of compassion,
your love for us is revealed in your beloved son Jesus
who was born into homelessness
lived with nowhere to lay his head
and died for us in agony on the cross.

Inspire us to act in justice
by all means at our disposal, to right the wrongs
of peoples who are suffering
the deprivations of homelessness,
and to see in them the dignity of a brother and sister
redeemed by Jesus Christ.

Let us have the commitment,
as people of the Gospel, to be ever mindful
of our obligations we have
to the poor and marginalised,
to work in your name O God
to turn sorrow into joy
and to bring all those who live in darkness

Amen.

(Source: Adapted: Australian Catholic Social Justice Council)

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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BLESSING

Let us lift up our hearts in faith
and follow the Christ into the world.
And may the water of life
lie under our feet,
the Christ be seen
across the shores of our journeying
and God be with us in Spirit and in Truth.
Amen.

BIDDING May the feet of God walk with you TiS 779

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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