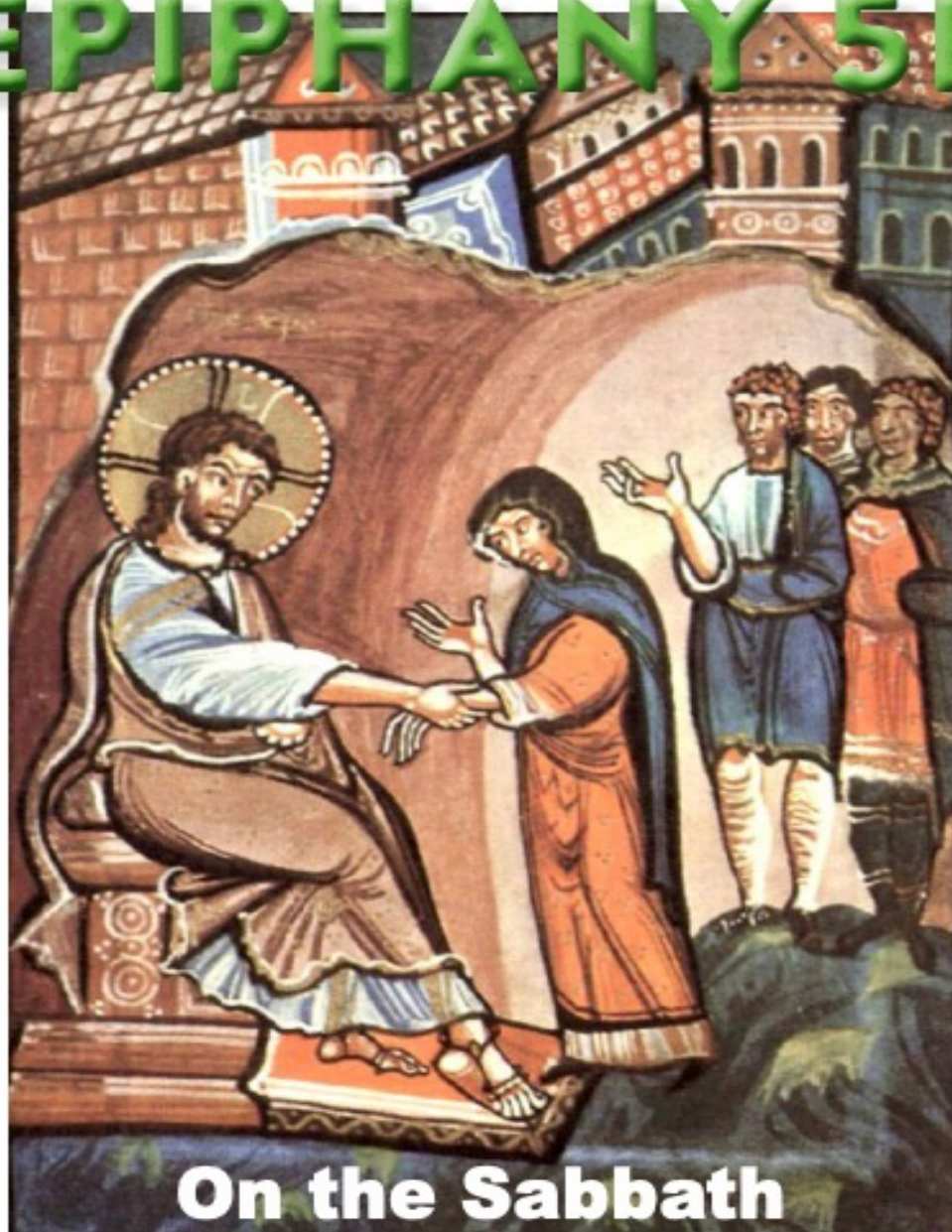


Parramatta Community
Uniting Church

Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church

EPIPHANY 5B



On the Sabbath
Jesus heals
Simon's mother-in-law

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

Amen.

The Christ candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the Burramattagal people and gave them particular insights into God's ways. Therefore, we honour the wisdom of the Burramattagal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

(Using words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of power,
God of people,
You are the life
of all that lives,
energy
that fills the earth,
vitality
that brings to birth,
the impetus
toward making whole
whatever is bruised or broken.
In You we grow
to know the truth
that sets all creation free.
You are the song

the whole earth sings,
the promise
liberation brings,
now and forever!
(*Miriam Therese Winter*)

HYMN **God present to all** (*Tune 567 TiS*)

1. Creation sings amazing songs;
This is a place where God belongs
In movement, colour to behold
In past and future yet untold.

2. Source of all life's vitality
Enlivens love consistently;
We see God's presence in each face,
In kindly deeds and acts of grace.

3. Deep in our soul with vision clear
We see God's presence re-appear
Each time a human babe is born,
Each time we rise to greet the dawn.

4. Wonderful visions constantly
Express great beauty as we see
God's presence in humanity,
So vivid once in Galilee.

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PRAYER OF INVITATION

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.

When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.

When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.

Arise into compassion and release hope into all of life!

(*Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies, adapted*)

HYMN

We cannot measure how you heal

1. We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2. The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3. So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Christ, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39 (Inclusive Text)

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew.

Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told Jesus about her straightaway.

Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and raised her up.

And the fever left and she began to minister to them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to Jesus all who were sick and those who were possessed with devils.

The whole town came crowding round the door, and Jesus cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.

Jesus also cast out many devils, but would not allow them to speak, because they knew who Jesus was.

In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went out to a lonely place and prayed there.

Simon and the others set out in search of Jesus, and when they found him, they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.'

Jesus answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.'

And Jesus went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

RESPONSE

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

REFLECTION

HYMN *Dreams and Visions*

<https://www.sixmaddens.org/dreams-and-visions-aov-261/>

1. As a dream receive your history
From the martyrs and the saints.
Let their story be your story,
Yours the laughter, yours the pain.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

2. Jesus, we stumble in the darkness,
We cry for visions in these days.
Pour on us your living spirit,
In all ways, always.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

3. Jesus, save your nomad people,
Bring us face to face with you.
Start in us a new creation,
Christ be with us as we go.

Chorus

We will rise, we will rise,
We will rise up on wings like eagles,
Run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
Warm our hearts with tongues of fire,
Tongues of fire.

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OFFERING Receive these our gifts, O God. We place them in your hands and ask you guidance, as we use them to bring compassion into the world.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

O Jesus Christ, call to us
in the streets around us and beyond.

*Enable us to see where you wait
on the margins of life,
with those who are pushed
to the edge of hope.*

Guide us towards
wise decisions and actions,
so that we truly share true life,
rather than charity and dependencies.

Let us pray for these issues, people and our church:

Prayer is offered

May we walk with them, Jesus Christ,
because we are faithful
to your dreams for them
and as the witnesses to your being.

*Create in this place, a community of prophetic life
which announces to this community
that your friends embrace
all who come in humility and love.*

Stand in our midst,
we pray Jesus Christ,
warming us with your encouragement
and inspiring us towards
living out your Gospel.

*Then make us brave enough to walk into the
unknown,
confident that you will never leave us alone.*

Build up this trust among us,
so that our life and prayers
come from the depths of our hearts
and give us strength in all we do.

This we pray in faith. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Holy Table of Jesus Christ
Welcomes each of us as honoured guests:
all of us, each of us
who come in humble faith.
In eating and drinking
this life-giving sacrament
we are fed by God's love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of generosity
Giver of the Bread of abundant life
and all things new be with you!

And also with you!

God of grace and tenderness,
even when we look for Jesus
for all the wrong reasons,
he offers the bread of life to us;
though we offer the cross to him,
he graces us with life;
though we would divide each other
by class, race, gender, or condition,
he calls us to oneness in you.

Holy God of wonder,
feed us with the bread of life,
so we might feed those
who know true hunger;
as your justice shines
in the shadows of our hearts,
may we light the way
for the lost and despised;
as you speak in truth
of your love for us,
may we be the voice
for the unloved and forgotten;
as you reshape our brokenness
into wholeness,
may we bind up
the wounds of our world.

And so we give you thanks
with the faithful
of every time and place,
joining with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn :

***Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and vulnerability,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One
who comes
in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver the Bread of Life.***

THE INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
“This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me”
In the same way, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and again giving thanks, said:
“This cup is the sign
of my new covenant with you.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.”

THE INVOCATION

Be present risen Jesus Christ,
by your Holy Spirit, as you were with your disciples
and make yourself known to us
in the breaking of the bread,
for you live and reign with the Creator
and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE JESUS PRAYER

*Indwelling God,
infused throughout all existence,
we honour you with many names.*

*Your realm is within all of life.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on earth as throughout all creation.*

*May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.*

*May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace,
with love in our hearts,
forever and ever. Amen.*

(Fred F. Keip)

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the life-blood of Christ.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE

The body of Christ given for us.
The life of Christ poured out for us.

FINAL PRAYER

God of amazing grace,
in the sunshine of Summer
we are grateful for your presence.
We pray your presence
will feed and strengthen us
to follow in the way of Jesus,
in our world. Amen.

HYMN **Sent forth by God's blessing**

1. Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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BLESSING

The love of the faithful Creator,
The peace of the wounded Healer,
The joy of the challenging Spirit,
The hope of the Three-in-One
surround and encourage us
today, tonight, and forever.
May the blessing of God – the Creator, the Healer,
and the Spirit, be with us and remain with us always.

Amen.

(Source: The pattern of our days – Iona)

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

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 strugglers, 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?

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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