

ORDER OF SERVICE

3 March 2024 9:30am

PCUC (Leigh Memorial)

WELCOME - *David*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - *David*

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal clan of the Dharug Nation and honour them for their custodianship of the land on which Parramatta Community Uniting church stands.

We give thanks for those who have gone before us, who have cared for this land

Loving God, we give thanks for the way you enrich our lives through sharing faith and culture with one another.

May we learn to love and honour one another as those made in your image.

We commit ourselves to the ongoing task of walking together as First and Second Peoples in this place. Amen.

LIGHTING THE LENT CANDLES - *David*

CALL TO WORSHIP *drawn from Psalm 19:1-14 - Helen*

HYMN *'Sing out Earth and Skies' by Marty Haugen*

1. Come, O God of all the earth;
come to us, O Righteous One.
Come and bring our love to birth;
in the glory of your Son.

CHORUS:

Sing out, earth and skies!
Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries,
Dance to the life around you.

2. Come, O God of wind and flame;
fill the earth with righteousness.
Teach us all to sing your name;
may our lives your love confess.

CHORUS:

3. Come, O God of flashing light;
twinkling star and burning sun.
God of day and God of night;
in your light we all are one.

CHORUS:

4. Come, O God of snow and rain;
shower down upon the earth.
Come, O God of joy and pain;
God of sorrow, God of mirth.

CHORUS:

5. Come, O Justice, come, O Peace;
come and shape our hearts anew.
Come and make oppression cease;
bring us all to life in you.

CHORUS.

Words and music: Marty Haugen Copyright © 1985 by GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS - *David*

OFFERING - *announced by David*

OFFERING SONG TiS 686 *'Because We Bear Your Name'* vs 1,2,6,7

1. Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you –
because we bear your name.
2. Help us receive each other, Lord,
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them –
because we bear your name.
6. Keep us from missing out on life;
give hands that help, and single sight,
and feet that walk your way –
because we bear your name.
7. You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out, and make us fit
for common life with you –
because we bear your name.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER - *David*

God of love - thank you for the gifts that you have given us.
Responding to your blessing on us, we offer these gifts
and those given electronically during the week, as a token of our love.
Keep shaping us as a gift-giving community.
Bring blessing through these to be used for your glory.
We would also offer to you ourselves and our best efforts. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS - *Margie*

Exodus 29: 1-17

¹“This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect. ²And from the finest wheat flour make round loaves without yeast, thick loaves without yeast and with olive oil mixed in, and thin loaves without yeast and brushed with olive oil. ³Put them in a basket and present them along with the bull and the two rams. ⁴Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water. ⁵Take the garments and dress Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod itself and the breastpiece. Fasten the

ephod on him by its skillfully woven waistband. ⁶Put the turban on his head and attach the sacred emblem to the turban. ⁷Take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head. ⁸Bring his sons and dress them in tunics ⁹and fasten caps on them. Then tie sashes on Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is theirs by a lasting ordinance. Then you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.

¹⁰“Bring the bull to the front of the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. ¹¹Slaughter it in the LORD’s presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ¹²Take some of the bull’s blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar. ¹³Then take all the fat on the internal organs, the long lobe of the liver, and both kidneys with the fat on them, and burn them on the altar. ¹⁴But burn the bull’s flesh and its hide and its intestines outside the camp. It is a sin offering. ¹⁵Take one of the rams, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. ¹⁶Slaughter it and take the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar. ¹⁷Cut the ram into pieces and wash the internal organs and the legs, putting them with the head and the other pieces.”

John 2: 13-22

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

In these words God speaks to us!

May they come alive in our living, Amen!

REFLECTION - Helen

HYMN TiS 665 ‘Jesus Christ is Waiting’ verses 2,3,4,5

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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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - *David*

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us –
for daily food, for health, for each breath we take, for freedom to choose,
and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love.
Our hearts are overwhelmed when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us.
May we be worthy of that trust –
may we be a people who are unafraid to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live.
Help us, O God, as followers of Jesus, to multiply all that you have given us,
to risk spreading your word even if it comes at a cost,
to love those whom others think worthy only of hate,
to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us.
Help us to trust in you and to increase your glory and your goodness in this world.
Make us people who share in both word and deed that which you have given to us.
We pray for the church gathered today, both here and around the world,
that it may encourage all of its members to discover, develop and use all their gifts.
We pray for those who are poor in body or in spirit,
for those oppressed and heavy laden, for those sick or in despair.
Help us walk faithfully in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG ‘*Companions on the Journey*’ *Carey Landry*

REFRAIN:

We are companions on the journey,
breaking bread and sharing life;
and in the love we bear is the hope we share
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

1. No longer strangers to each other,
no longer strangers in God’s house;
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care,
by the strength of those who care.

REFRAIN.

2. We have been gifted with each other,
and we are called by the Word of the Lord:
to act with justice, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with our God,
to walk humbly with our God.

REFRAIN.

3. We will seek and we shall find;
we will knock and the door shall be opened;
we will ask and it shall be given,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

REFRAIN. Words and music: Carey Landry © 1985 Carey Landry and North American Liturgy Resources.

HOLY COMMUNION *Communion stewards: Ian & Margie*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LORDS PRAYER (on screen)

Response during communion TiS 714 *'Eat This Bread'* (refrain)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING WORDS

BLESSING SONG TiS 781 *'Father Bless Us As We Go'*

Father, bless us as we go.
Jesus, walk beside us.
Holy Spirit, guide us.

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