



Leigh Memorial Uniting Church



The Good Samaritan

Sunday 10th July 2022

WELCOME (Worship Leader)

A warm welcome as we gather to worship God as a community called into being by Christ and empowered for service by the Spirit.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (Worship Leader)

We light the Christ Candle proclaiming Jesus is the Light of the World and that his risen, life-giving spirit is with us now.

The candle is lit by a member of the congregation

(2)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT (Worship Leader)

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Rev John Barr)

As rays of sunlight herald the early dawn
As crisp winter air greets us in the morning
As the gift of a new day unfolds before us
So, God comes to us,
God reaches out us
and God is present with us – right now
Let us worship God!

SONGS: (Alan & Stuart)

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING (Rev John Barr)

Let us give thanks to God
for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of the creation,
in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of women and men,
revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink,
our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

(3)

For minds to think, and hearts to love,
and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work,
and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous,
who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints,
in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks
for the great mercies and promises
given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, gracious and loving God
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

(written by Greg Goebel and posted at AnglicanPastor.com. <http://anglicanpastor.com/thanksgiving-day-prayers/>)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Rev John Barr)

Let us confess together:

**We confess that in our lives we often hide behind
our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion.
We let ourselves get so busy
that we forget the cause of the poor and the suffering.
We confess we allow the powers of this world
to seduce us into selfishness
and silence our witness.**

(4)

**Teach us to work for justice for all,
strengthen us to love our neighbour
and speak truth no matter the cost.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (Rev John Barr)

The Word of God assures us
that we are able to love through the Spirit of Christ.
Be assured that God's Word gives us strength
to love our neighbours near and far.

That Christ dwelling within us gives us power
to speak up for those who are broken and lost
Amen.

(adapted from Empowered to Love and Speak Truth, written by LT Leticia Rouser, Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>)

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 10:25-37 (Mario)

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.'

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend."

(5)

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

(New Revised Standard Version)

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION: "Neighbourly Love" (Rev John Barr)

SONG: "Brother, sister, let me serve you"

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you:
pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

(6)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

(Richard Gillard - words and music Integrity Music Aust, TIS 650)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Worship Leader)

OFFERING PRAYER AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (Rev John Barr)

We thank you God,
for coming to us as a neighbour, a stranger, an immigrant,
binding our wounds and carrying us to safety,
so that we might love you with all our heart, soul and mind,
and welcome the stranger,
loving our neighbour as ourselves.

It is in spirit that we bring our offerings and
the commitment of our lives to you.
Amen.

(adapted from Nathan Nettleton "Short Preface")

PRAYER FOR OTHERS (Liz)

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 truly 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.

(7)

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. Minister by your Spirit and by us, to all those for whom we have prayed, and help us walk faithfully in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Life in Liturgy (wordpress.com))

SONG: "I, the Lord of sea and sky"

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.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's 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?

(8)

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.

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.

(Daniel L. Schutte – words and music Oregon Catholic Press – TIS 658)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION (Rev John Barr)

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whose Spirit blows through the valleys and the hills;
whom death could not contain and
who lives to disturb and bring us life;
bless us with the power to endure,
to hope and to love.

(Elizabeth Raine)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen.