



Easter 5

Worship@Home May 10, 2020

Preparation:

We invite you to gather some stones together for your worship space and place them around your candle, or in the middle of your worship cloth.

Call to worship

As living stones, we gather,
each in our own place, remembering
that we are all part of your house of love.

God who is our rock
be present with us in this time of worship.
Incline your ear to our prayer,
open our minds to your word,
build us up with strength and courage
as we wait,
as we give thanks,
as we love others,
as you love us.

May it be so. Amen.

Acknowledgment to Country

We find our shelter on the lands and by the waters of the First Peoples of this land, and we acknowledge their custodianship and pay respects to their elders; past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves anew to working for reconciliation and justice in this land.

Welcome to all who are using this resource for worship at home. May you be blessed by worshipping alongside our congregations in the Shearwater Team in Gippsland.

All are welcome – we sang this song last week also. It's a song that fits with our theme of building a house with Jesus as the Cornerstone, and all people welcomed as living stones – *"where all are named, loved and treasured, taught and claimed"*... If you don't know the tune you might like to read it aloud or make up your own tune!

All Are Welcome TIS 821

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Song continued P2





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Song continued

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

1Marty Haugen

Prayer:

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 24

There are spaces in the prayer for you to reflect and to give thanks. You may want to pick up a stone in the pauses, hold it gently in your hand, and put it down when you move to the next sentence.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

I come to you, God, to find a safe and secure space. Don't let me down, keep on reaching towards me with open arms and hold me close, where you can hear my voice.

In the quiet I give thanks that I know the sure comfort of your embrace...(pause)



Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

There's strength in your shelter, rock of ages, before me and beside me.

In the quiet I give thanks that I sense your wisdom when I need guidance...(pause)

Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Release me, O God, from everything that tangles me up, even when I'm unaware. Let me turn only to you for courage and kindness.

In the quiet I give thanks that when I get caught up in wrong things or destructive thinking, you turn my head and heart towards home, towards your open arms...(pause)

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

In gratitude for your abundant and forgiving grace, and with the confidence that you are waiting for me, I bring myself back to you, again, ...(pause)

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Bathe me in your brilliance, Spirit of light and love because you hold my life within yours. May my life shine with that same radiance so that it might bless the lives of those around me. May it be so, Amen.

Read 1 Peter 2:2-10

Worship for You @ Home: Easter 5. Uniting Church in Australia, VicTas, Presbytery of Gippsland



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



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Reflection: God's House Rules

So let's renovate...no wait, the time for that is over...let's build a new spiritual house. What is our foundation? The stone that was rejected is now the feature stone. We will build around it. You take the seating areas and I will take the living areas. Look around, what do we need? There is space for all...but who does that include? This building comes at a cost and there is no security in it. There is risk of pain and suffering. Will we continue?

I am your neighbour. I had a job but have lost it now because the café closed down. I am sad because I had an income...but I also loved to meet the people. Some I served just once but others were regulars and I really care about them, you know. I am lonely...can I come in?

I am emotionally unstable. Am I welcome?

I am a single mum and mostly I cope OK. My children are noisy and sometimes hard work. One of them has a social disability and people frown at me. My little one needs extra care but I can't really provide that. I am so tired and stressed because I don't have much support. I am feeling the pressure and couldn't pay my rent this week. Can I come in?

I am really just a browser. I am in my teens and, while I am interested in your faith, I wonder how you can profess to follow Jesus and yet you spend your money on maintaining your organisations, not feeding the poor. I wonder what your faith has to say about all the things that happen in the world. Do you have the courage to suffer for your faith? If I want to see this 'Father', can I see God through you? Will you reveal the nature of God to me?

I am lonely and scared. I have lots of problems with my mental health. I can't tell you my name because I am afraid. If I reach out to your house of faith will you let me in? I don't think like you. I don't behave like you, or understand your rules. I am one of the rejected ones...will you build your house with me as a focus? I wonder if you will think I must have done something wrong to be in this position.

I am an addict. I don't want to tell you my story because I don't know who to trust. I have made some choices that you may see as bad. Will you be a safe space and shelter me in this spiritual home?

Is there room for me if I don't know Jesus or accept him as the Way or the Door into your spiritual house? There are many rooms...are you building a room for me?

These are our living stones. They are our holy priesthood. Once we were not a people. BUT now we are God's people. It is these rejected ones who will be our cornerstones, pivotal in our building. Perhaps THEY will welcome US in.

Jesus, we long to follow you. Into Your Hands we commit our spirits. Give us courage and strength. Make us brave and loving.

*I am the way,
the truth, the life*
John 14:6





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Read John 14:1-14

Hear these words of faith that move us into prayer for others...

Prayers of the People

1 Peter 2:2-10

“...Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, **and like living stones**, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...”

Take a stone in your hand, and hold it as we pray:

We remain in our homes: but our hearts are troubled:

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me

For those who have lost their employment
For those who have bills piling,
and no way to pay
For those whose retirement savings have vanished

For your name’s sake, lead us and guide us...for you are our refuge

We remain in our homes: but our hearts are troubled:

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me

For those who feel trapped at home
For those who are in family tension,
danger and threat
For those who provide support to families in distress

For your name’s sake, lead us and guide us...for you are our refuge

We remain in our homes: but our hearts are troubled:

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me

For doctors, nurses, pharmacists,
cleaners and carers
For teachers and educators,
parents teaching at home, children learning
For business owners who are losing their work,
their teams, their livelihoods.

For your name’s sake, lead us and guide us...for you are our refuge

We remain in our homes: but our hearts are troubled:

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me

For those who are dying; those grieving
For those who are sick, managing chronic conditions, in pain
For those who support the grief stricken
For your name’s sake, lead us and guide us...for you are our refuge

Place the stone back on your prayer table:
as we continue in prayer, keep the stone in your sight:

Be a rock of refuge for us,
a strong fortress to save us.
You are indeed are our rock and fortress.
Into your hands we commit our spirits:
you have redeemed us.





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*Hear these prayers of our hearts as we share in
The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering



We are your people TIS 468

We are your people;
Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us
to all our neighbours
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community,
treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led

Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbours,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition,
help us to see
in all life's changing,
where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture
justice and care
(peaceful, resisting,
waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.

Christ as we serve you
in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.

²Brian Wren





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Blessing

In the gospel of John, Jesus says,
“Do not let your hearts be troubled,
believe in God, believe also in me.”

At the end of Psalm 31 it says,
“Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord.”

Go into this day knowing
that you are a living stone,
built into God’s house of love
with Jesus as the cornerstone.

In this sure knowledge,
be strong and take courage,
let your hearts be filled with love
and let the light of life
shine brightly in all you do,
to light the way for others
until we are all one;

one house of love,
one house,
one love.
one.
May it be so, Amen.

*Today’s service has been prepared by
Rev. Jennie Gordon, Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson,
(Reflection) Rev. Ian Turnidge.*

*Shearwater Congregations: Toora: Fish Creek:
Foster: Tarwin Lower: Inverloch: Wonthaggi:
Phillip Island: Uniting Church in Australia.*



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²We are your people; TIS 468 Used with Permission CCLI 241 739 Brian Wren ©1975 Together in Song.

