



# Pentecost Week 12

Worship@Home August 23, 2020

## Welcome to Worship

How are you?  
What has happened in your week that has brought you delight? What are you missing in this strange time? Where do you glimpse the awesome blessing of the Spirit of God around you and within you? What are you struggling with?

*Make a note of these things and share them with us, (see Notices) and with someone close to you.*

Whatever you bring, you are welcome here. You are amongst a great crowd of people who are one body in Christ.

## Light Your Candle

Christ be our light,  
shine in our hearts,  
shine through the darkness.



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we live.  
We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.  
We commit ourselves to reconciliation, walking together in truth and love.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander  
Christian Congress

## Call to Worship

Come, Spirit of life, be present in our worship time. Lift our eyes to see God's glory, warm our hearts with life and peace and open our hands to give and receive love everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn: O God of every nation

TiS 621

O God of every nation  
of every race and land  
redeem your whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled  
in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way  
deliver every nation  
eternal God  
we pray.

Lord, strengthen all who labour  
that all may find release  
from fear of rattling sabre  
from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter Lord  
let your voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter  
your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war shall cease  
when hatred and division  
give way to love and peace  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when truth and justice reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious  
o'er all the world's domain.

<sup>1</sup>William Watkins Reid Jr

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## Opening prayer

God of creation,  
your awesome creativity stretches out  
far beyond our imagination  
and leaves us speechless with awe.  
In the silence we bring before you  
things that rise in profound gratitude  
for the abundant environment around us.

*Keep silence and give thanks*

Jesus the Christ,  
you bring us into life and love  
with perplexing parables, healing hands  
and hard questions.  
You trust us to be your body, the church.  
In the silence we bring before you  
things that rise in profound gratitude  
for your living body, the church on earth.

*Keep silence and give thanks*

Holy Spirit,  
you weave your power of light and hope  
within us and between us.  
You surprise us with mysterious presence  
grounded in the here and now.  
In the silence we bring before you  
things that rise in profound gratitude  
for the gift of your companionship.

*Keep silence and give thanks*



## Prayer of confession

We confess to you,  
One in Three and Three in One,  
that as a church we have not always  
been the rock for others to stand strong,  
but sometimes  
have been the stumbling block,  
shaky ground, a source of pain.

Forgive us as we call for help:

*(response from Psalm 124:8)*

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

We confess to you,  
One in Three and Three in One,  
that as members of your body, the church,  
we have not always allowed our lives  
to shine with light  
so that others might see the way  
nor faithfully spoken  
your welcoming words  
to the wanderers and the little ones  
in our midst.

Forgive us as we call for help:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

We confess to you,  
One in Three and Three in One,  
that we have let ourselves be distracted  
by greed, ambition and hopelessness  
and have not always reached out  
in compassion, to others on the way,

Forgive us as we call for help:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**





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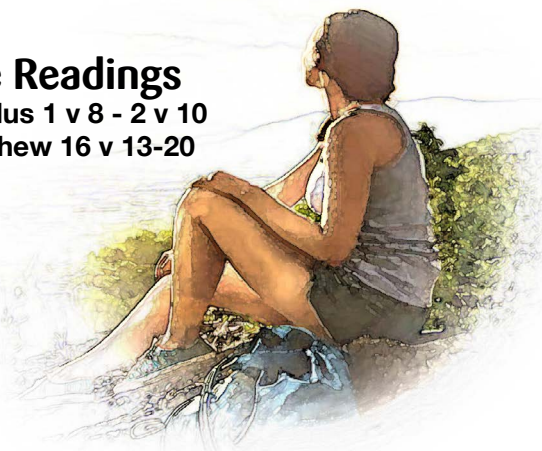
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### Words of affirmation

Forgiving God, you hear our call and you answer us. Sisters and brothers, members of the body of Christ, know this: we are healed, forgiven and set free to live in the way of love. May it be so. Thanks be to God, Amen

### The Readings

**Exodus 1 v 8 - 2 v 10**  
**Matthew 16 v 13-20**



### Reflection

**Rev Deacon Wendy Elson**

I reckon that there was a period of time a few years back where my real name didn't get used much. I was known as someone's mum, someone's wife. Even my car was called ..... 's mum's car'.

Eventually I came back to my own name (mostly) as it was just a phase in our family. But reflecting on this, I find Peter's divinely inspired response to Jesus to be very interesting. Peter's answer, affirmed by Jesus, is given in terms of both role and relationship. 'Messiah' refers to Jesus' role here. 'Son of God' defines Jesus in reference to God. Of course, we are all children of God, the body of Christ (and members of it). But this response from Peter almost leaves Jesus selfhood out of it and defines him by reference to his role in pointing the way to God. Jesus came to point the way. He kind of says "It's not about me, look further to where I am leading".

Who do people say Jesus is? Let's come back to that.

There is currently a lot in the lectionary passages about naming. Places were named in the Old Testament in a way that held their meaning. Names held identity. This is of course, quite topical when we think of the names we call locations around us. The changing of 'Ayers Rock' back to 'Uluru' for example has been an important recognition that the identity of the area is tied up in its deep indigenous heritage. Many of our place names simply reflect whichever white explorer noticed them, rather than their more significant and descriptive indigenous names. I wonder what some of these Old Testament locality names were, before the significant events that caused our Biblical characters to name them after their own significant experiences.

Moses was named after being "drawn out" of the water.

Naming something is more important than our culture acknowledges. Years ago I read an excellent series of fantasy books, the Earthsea series, by Ursula Le Guin. The main character, Ged, was known as Duny as a child until he was given his true name. Ged inadvertently freed a shadow spirit who was an evil power, who then hunted Ged. Ged tried and tried to overcome the shadow spirit by seeking to learn its name, all the while puzzling about how it knew HIS name. He came to understand that it was actually a part of himself. When he was able to successfully name the shadow and accept his full identity, he came to have power over this spirit and integrate this aspect into himself. This was his full entrance into manhood. At birth each one was given a child-name, but as they grew their true name was revealed to them. If they gave away their true name to someone else, that person had power over them forever.

*Reflection continues P4*





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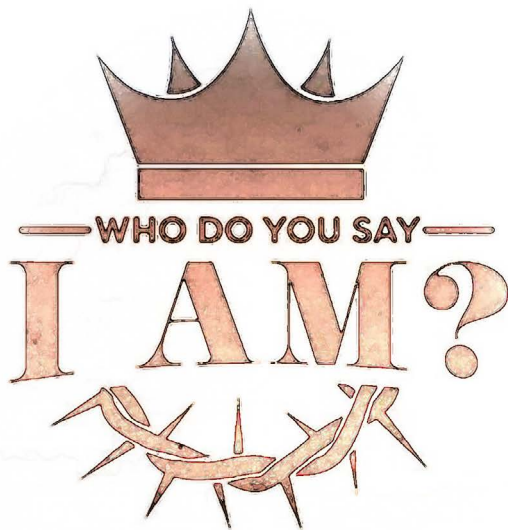
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*Reflection continues*

As I explored this notion through these books, I realised the truths held here.

Our name and our identity are so closely linked. When God refers to God's self as "I AM", this is a very profound statement. 'I am who you need me to be'. The people named God after familiar things at different times. It is an interesting study to go through Scriptures and note the beautiful terms for God. The Ancient of Days, God as Rock and Refuge and Strength, and so many more. God was named for the role and identity being sought at the time.

So then, who we name God as, or Jesus as, is vitally important and indicates how we will be and live in the world. "Who do you say that I am?"



A trite answer would be so easy here. The answer is central to how we represent Christ to others. Is Jesus someone to be worshipped? Idolised? Followed? Spend some time thinking about this...it matters. Is God vindictive and quick to send retribution on us? Or full of grace and mercy. God as Grace is not so much a gift to be received as it is a clarion call to discipleship. God of Abundance will mean we don't hold others back in order to gain for ourselves. Sometimes it is almost like we have to judge others as unworthy in case the plate is empty when we get there. No, when we include the voiceless we know there is even more there for us. And so we can share the grace and love of God abundantly. We can say yes to all and just allow the grace of God!

So then, who we say Jesus is must lead us into ever deeper love and compassion as we follow Jesus more nearly. On these truths is the Church of Jesus built.

## Prayers of the people

We come to the spiritual discipline of prayer. Paul reminds us that we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices: Which is our spiritual worship.

*Place your hands on your heart*

We pray for the heart of our community  
For those who are broken hearted,  
And those for whom the heart feels empty  
May they who seek the love we know in Christ,  
find Jesus.

*Place your hands on your temples*

We pray for the matters we don't understand.  
For those who search for cures to disease,  
And for those who are providing health care.  
May those who seek knowledge find solutions  
that help all peoples and communities.

*Prayer continues P5*

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*Prayer continues*

*Place your hands on your stomach*

We feel for those who are hungry,  
those who have no work or face unemployment.  
For parents who struggle to provide  
for their families.  
May we see those in our community who  
struggle, and may we be brave to practically  
help.

*Place your hands on your legs.*

We pray for those who are running hard to keep  
our nation safe.  
We hold teachers and farmers, food processors  
and energy workers in prayer.  
We ask that each one may know your sustaining  
love and power.

***We open a space in prayer to say to God  
the prayers only we know:***

We who are many, are one body in Christ.  
May the gifts we share: practically bring hope in  
our community and beyond.

We bring all prayer, together 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.**

## **Passing the peace**

*My peace I give to you,  
my peace I leave with you*

Who will you text right now to share the peace  
as you worship?

Who will you call this week to offer peace into  
their day?

Make sure you do!

## **Offering**

*Romans 12: 4-8: For as in one body we have  
many members, and not all the members  
have the same function, so we, who are many,  
are one body in Christ, and individually we  
are members one of another. We have gifts  
that differ according to the grace given to  
us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry,  
in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the  
exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity;  
the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in  
cheerfulness.*

Whatever is your gift,  
give it freely, for the good of all.

## **Notices**

We would be grateful for contact with you. Tell  
us who and how you are, and say hello. Maybe  
answer some of the questions in the welcome  
at the top of page 1. We'd love to know how  
you are using these weekly resources and what  
you enjoy, what you find difficult, whatever!

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## Hymn: God of Grace God of Glory TIS 611

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your Church's story,  
bring the bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

See the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail his ways.  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore.

<sup>2</sup>Harry Emerson Fosdick

## Blessing

A blessing from Aunty Betty Pike:

May you always stand as tall as a tree  
Be as strong as the rock Uluru  
As gentle and still as the morning mist  
Hold the warmth of the campfire  
in your heart  
And may the Creator Spirit  
always walk with you.

*Today's service has been prepared by  
Rev. Jennie Gordon, Rev. Ian Turnnidge,  
Rev. Dcn. Wendy Elson (Reflection).*

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



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<sup>2</sup>Harry Emerson Fosdick 1878-1969 alt. TIS 611 Used with Permission CCLI 241 739 May be sung to REGENT SQUARE 142

