

Worship in Spring



Pentecost Week 22

Worship@Home November 1, 2020

Gathering & candle lighting

O taste and see.
Come in, come in.
Whoever you are,
wherever you are from,
we seek God together
in our gathering, from far and wide.
There are no borders here.

Call to worship

Come magnify our God with me.
Let praise continually arise from our lips. Let us
bless our God in every moment. Let the humble
hear and be glad.

Acknowledging

Look around at our environment, the beauty of
the mountains and the seas. We acknowledge
the Bunurong, Boon Wurrung people and give
thanks for their custodianship. We pay respects
to their elders in each generation.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Always Was, Always Will Be - the NAIDOC
theme for 2020 recognises that First Nations
people have occupied and cared for this
continent for over 65,000 years.

Looking and Breathing

The elders of our faith also stand with us
as we worship and we give thanks for their
custodianship also. Breathe gently and
appreciatively.

May we also offer our faith in courage and in
strength, in vulnerability and newness, and in
grace.

Read: 1 John 3:1-3

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we
should be called children of God; and that is
what we are.”*

Singing: For all the saints who’ve shown your love

tune: Old 100th - TIS 59

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

For all the saints
who’ve shown your love,
in how they live and where they move.
For mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints
who loved your name,
whose faith increased
the Saviour’s fame.
Who sang your songs
and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints
who named your will,
and showed the kingdom coming still.
Through selfless protest,
prayer and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed
by earthly powers,
your life through theirs
has hallowed ours.

Hubner, Julius



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Prayer

God of our past and our present, God of the already and the not-yet, you are our hope and our inspiration. Gathered here, as many before us have done, we know and appreciate your people and give thanks for the body of Christ, our church. We come together as your people to worship you.

We place our fears and anxieties before you for we know that you are faithful. Our souls cry to you in lament, for you hear us. You encamp around us and hold us in your embrace. Hear our sadness at the mistakes we make, the things we know we could have done and things we wish we hadn't. The gap which we create separates us from you and from each other. It separates us from our world and from wholeness. Remind us that in you we lack no good thing. That we are indeed at home in you. Help us to seek peace and connection and to pursue it.

For your grace and mercy-
we give thanks.

For your forgiveness and love-
we give thanks.

For the gift of each other-
we give thanks.

For those who have walked
the journey before us-
we give thanks.

Hear our prayer O God,
hear our prayer.

Listening

Read: Revelation 7:9-17

Read: Matthew 5:1-12

For these words of faith & Jesus the Word:
Thanks be to God.



Worship for You @ Home: Pentecost Week 22 Uniting Church in Australia, VicTas, Presbytery of Gippsland



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Reflecting

Rev. Ian Turnnidge

The beatitudes are as fresh and confronting as they were the last time I read them. They challenge me to think differently. They encourage me to live in the world with a different orientation. To the Christian Church, they are our “10 Commandments”. In Matthew’s Gospel, the writer is clearly pointing us to parallels in the Hebrew Scriptures to Moses.

Jesus Christ comes and turns us upside down (or right side up!). The poor in spirit; the mourners; those who hunger for and thirst for justice; those who live for mercy; those whose hearts are undivided towards God; those who proclaim and work for peace; those are the ones who are at the table of the Kingdom Jesus ushers into being.

A kingdom that was there all the time, now illuminated, embodied and alive in Jesus Christ.

All the Saints of all times have dwelt with these beatitudes - recognising their profound ability to refocus our energies on what is important. To refocus our eyes on those seen by God. to draw our focus as Church, into where our mission is to take place and with whom.

During this pandemic, we have seen active ‘solutions’ found for the health and safety of Melbourne’s street community. The ones for whom there is no home. In the first ‘lock down’, stories emerged of homeless people being housed - finally - in adequate, dignifying places. Those on the margins, previously ignored, now finding some comfort and security. Finally cared for in a meaningful way.

The call of the beatitudes calls us to the heart of things. The beatitudes call us to the heart of life: our shared relationships with one another, our shared need for justice, fairness, chance, equity,

and love. They call us to be a different way in the world. One modern translation suggests we might hear better the call of Jesus’ beatitudes if we said,

“You are in the right place when...”

You are in the right place when you are poor in spirit. You are in the right place when you mourn. You are in the right place when you thirst for righteousness: peace: mercy.

2020 has been a year where some of this upside down/right side up has been highlighted. We have all encountered our vulnerability, fears for family and our community. We have witnessed both moments of astounding humanity and deplorable behaviour. We have known the devastation of people out of work, under domestic pressure and at risk.

Yet, the promises of the beatitudes carry us into a future: a future present. Where the Kingdom of God is made manifest in moments of compassion, generosity, justice and peacemaking. Where human dignity has been achieved (even for a moment) for the homeless. Where the priority of community health has been central to the wellbeing of all: a template of the beatitudes themselves.

Blessed are they that have remained at home. Blessed are they that have grieved the hugs of grandchildren.

Blessed are they that have considered the public health of all above their personal needs. Blessed are they that have spoken facts and logic to frustration and fear.

Blessed are you who have brought peace to people’s fears.

Blessed are you who have remained true to these matters : you will see life re-emerge: Healthy and Vibrant once more.

Blessed be.

You are in the right place.



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Responding: Prayers for all the saints

We give you thanks, O God,
for all the saints
who ever worshiped you.

Whether in ferny forests,
or on scorching sands,
in weathered wooden churches
or soaring cathedrals,
or under the deep desert sky;
where your name
was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God,
for hands raised in praise:
manicured hands
and hands stained with grease
and soil.
Strong hands
and those gnarled with age,
chubby child's hands; holy hands
hands waving an offering of peace across the
land.

We thank you, God,
for hardworking saints;
whether steel-booted or bare-footed,
aproned, gowned, gardener-gloved,
blue-collared or three-piece-suited.
Who toiled to feed, build
and bless each other,
and led us into this moment,
for you, for us,
and for our children to come.

We also thank you, O God,
for those clumsy, wonky,
self-effacing saints,
who stumbled along,
taking wrong turns,
often unsure of your companionship.
In the courage of their persistence,
in spaces of struggle and strife
we sense your presence.
and it lifts us in hope.

We thank you, God,
for all the saints of our lives,
who enriched us with their living,
often unaware;
strong hearts, clear minds,
persistent strength
and faithful, abundant,
unconditional love.

Thank you, God,
for the tremendous gifts given to us
from those who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints.
May we learn how to walk wisely from
their examples
of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

As we pray together the prayer that Jesus
taught his disciples:



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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

We are reminded that "you are in the right place" when you seek peace in our world and in our relationships.
Is there a relationship you might be able to offer an olive branch to today?

Offering

We who love God have no want.
So let's share with all as others have shared with us. Generously.
Abundantly. Compassionately.

Notices

NAIDOC week starts next Sunday. Where can you be involved? Armistice day will be next week also. We give thanks again for those who have gone before.

Singing: Loving Spirit **Tis 417**

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder
you have set your sign on me.

²Shirley Erena Murray



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Re-Collection

Today we have considered the re-aligning of our world view in the light of the Beatitudes. We have held the Saints in our own lives who have gifted us with their life's wisdom. And we have given thanks for the power of the Spirit of God in our lives.

How might you live in the light of the beatitudes this week?

Blessing

See what God has given us? You are called children of God and given the hope. God promises you that every tear will be wiped away. Go out in joy, remembering with celebration and love, those who have loved you.

May the God of connection fill you with peace and joy this week. Go forward to love and to serve.

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



¹Hubner, Julius (1806-1882) - 1831 Ruth and Naomi (Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin) arr. John Bell

²Used with Permission CCLI 241 739 Shirley Erena Murray 1987 by The Hymn Society. FELICITY

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