



Weekly Worship



5th Sunday in Pentecost
Sunday July 13, 2025

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

You are our hope,
God of Jesus Christ.
You are our life
in him and through him.

May this time of gathering
strengthen us and give us endurance.
May it shake us from assumptions
and set us anew on your path.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the (please name the people on whose land you gather) People, the Traditional Custodians, have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and life. We pay respects to their Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.



Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress

Singing: Here in this place TiS 474

OR: *For the fruits of all creation* TiS 168

OR: *Great is your faithfulness* TiS 154



Prayer

God of our ancestors,
God of the early church,
God of Jesus Christ,
we come in awe at your care
for all of creation,
for communities of faith,
for people in all places.

For the blessing of being able to gather in your name,
we offer our thanks.

For the life of Jesus to nourish
and challenge us, we offer our thanks.

For those who encourage, pray, teach, nurture and
guide us in your ways, we offer our thanks.

But as we ponder the parables of Jesus,
we realise that we are set in our ways
and stuck in comforts that diminish others.

Where we hold prejudice close,
open us to see anew.

Where we favour those like us and treat others with
dissain, challenge us.

Where we have habits that we
like to think are gospel

but they are less than good news for others, refresh
us through Jesus the Christ.

Until we see as you would have us see,
and have courage to be people of your justice,
and set ourselves aside so that your will be done.

Siblings in Christ, the apostle Paul speaks of the
Colossian church as a place of hope and encourages
them to bear fruit in Christ's name.

Be encouraged and bear fruit like them.

In the name of Christ, may it be so. Amen.

Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.





Listening

Read: Colossians 1:1-14 & Luke 10:25-37

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting

Rev. Heather den Houting

Living with hope

Over the past few years, I have been deliberately and intentionally trying to shed my lifetime's worth of accumulated stuff. Perhaps you have heard about Marie Kondo and various other self-help resources which encourage you to pick up and examine your physical belongings and wonder whether they are still needed. Moving houses has been a great help as I have left a lot of stuff behind that was no longer needed. But as I have settled into my new place, I find myself in the practice of picking up and keeping a whole new set of things. There is a constant compulsion to accumulate "just in case".

As I reflect on this tension of holding on and letting go – I have wondered about the way communities choose to hold onto some things, and I have few starting thoughts.

Firstly, we are incredibly fortunate that we actually have enough resources in our communities that we are even able to contemplate leaving things. There are many communities who do need to hold on to all they have as they may need to reuse or recycle things to adapt to any new circumstance.

Secondly, holding on tightly to things in their unchanged form may mean we miss out on the potential of new experiences or new ways of seeing the world.

Thirdly, the act of examination and letting go could be characterised as acts of hope. Perhaps driven by the understanding that in Christ, the best is yet to come. Finally, living with hope does not mean discarding

everything, but it can mean examining everything. When Paul wrote to the Colossians, he was encouraging them into this practice of examining everything in order to let go of some things. As a newly forming community, he encouraged them to hold onto hope, and he gave them the framework to be a community grounded in that hope. In summary he encouraged them to:

- Ground themselves in the knowledge of who they are: followers of Jesus Christ
- Restore themselves by their connectedness to the gospel through prayer and teaching
- Bear fruit in their witness to the world through good work, patience and joy.

He did this so that each practice of the community could be measured against these criteria. Old habits could be let go, old practices could be discarded, and old ways of thinking could be challenged.

This approach is so important to the story of the good Samaritan that we read in Luke. The parable is absolutely designed to challenge our thinking about what we hold onto and what we can let go. Thoughts, assumptions, prejudices, practices and profound self-preoccupation are exploded in this story. Instead, we can use the framework of hope to reimagine ourselves in this and in all scenarios in our community.

Singing: God of freedom

God of justice TiS 657

OR: Brother, sister, let me serve you TiS 650

OR: Lord hear my praying, listen to me TiS 689





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Offering

As we offer these things in the name of Christ, may our lives be lived in such a way that we are courageous in the way of Jesus, bearers of life and hope in his name. Amen.

Notices

Today is the final day of **NAIDOC Week**, a week of celebration of First Nations people.

Prayers for World & Community

As we continue to reflect on the words of Jesus, we realise the world has long and deep prejudices and hatred towards people who are different. In this world of wars and conflict, counterattacks and publicly expressed hatred of the other, we pray for people to find courage to love their enemies.

In this country where First Nations people are often mistrusted, vilified or made invisible - because their presence represents an uncomfortable historical truth - we pray for courage to face truth, to walk a reconciling path, and encourage voices of those who are unheard. As we end another NAIDOC week, may we truly celebrate our First Nations people.

In our church communities, where encouragement is needed, help us be people of deep prayer, celebrating those who journey with us in faith, even if they are different and frustrate us on this shared path.

We offer prayers that are in our hearts ...

We pray together then as Jesus taught us:

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 forever. Amen**

Singing: When I needed a neighbour TIS 629

OR: Christ be my leader by night as by day TIS 624

OR: Rejoice in God's saints TIS 470



Blessing

Go to bear fruit in the name of Jesus Christ.
Be hope and light and love and action.
Be courageous and open
to the challenges of our days.
May light be your living
and your living be blessing
in the name of God:
Creator
Redeemer
Sustainer. Amen.

Sending out song: We are marching TIS 666

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