



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 31st May 2020

Pentecost
COCU39A

#churchwhereweare

Day of Pentecost



WELCOME and GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 104:24-34, 35b)*

With joy we gather, O God, to sing your praises!

May the creative glory of God last forever!

We will rejoice in God as long as we live!

We gather to honour the Wisdom of our God!

May the creative glory of God last forever!

We will celebrate God as long as we live!

We gather to worship and praise God's holy name!

May the creative glory of God last forever!

We will worship God as long as we live! Amen. *(Joan Stott, The Timeless Psalms)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains.

We acknowledge the wisdom of their Elders both past and present
and pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across Australia.

We pray that in the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit

we might work together for reconciliation and justice in this land.

A CONTEMPORARY READING:

Wind, wind,

you come from nothingness and go to nothingness,

and when you are still,

there is nothing we see, nothing we hear,

and still you surround us in our not seeing and not knowing.

Wild, wild wind,

you whip the seas, whirling great water spouts and fountains,

crashing on the foamed edges of the shore.

A terrifying force, uncontrollable, beyond our power.

Wind, wind, wondrous wind,

hovering at the birth of creation,
whisking secretly among the wonders of new life,
bearing the seed, lifting high the heads of mighty trees,
swirling among the grasses, celebrating life.
Wind, wind, gentle wind,
wind of our breathing, our life, our hope,
renewing, refreshing, sighing in our stress,
moaning in our pain, still in our dying.
O wind, wind, you breathed upon the clay and there was life,
you danced down to the forehead of a Galilean
and there was hope.
You shook the foundations of community
and there was Pentecost! *(extracts from 'Wind, wind - a reflection on the Spirit', by William Loader)*

HYMN Creation Sings *(tune: Londonderry Air)*

1.
Creation sings! and we are in the music,
the movement of God's energy and art,
a liturgy that links our life to angels,
a litany that rises from the heart.

2.
The Spirit sings! Through love and lamentation,
from Pentecost to joy of Easter day
the universe is resonant with music,
the smallest creature dances to her play.

3.
Creation groans at our discordant clashing:
the Spirit comes with music as our friend
to bring the harmony of peace and beauty,
to teach the textures of the way to blend.

4.
O God you draw the melody from silence,
you make of us the instruments of song!
We offer thanks in worship and in wonder
that such a gift to human souls belong.

(words: Shirley Erena Murray)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Wondrous and Creating God, your works are never complete;
you bring forth new life, new possibilities, new energies and new delights,
here for all who have eyes to see, ears to hear,
and a soul to appreciate beauty and grandeur.
For invisible presence revealed in the unexpected moment;
for your silent power surprising in its irresistible challenge;
for your unlikely people carriers of the wonder-filled message of Jesus;
we give you thanks and praise, O God. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Not to have our worst confirmed,
but to have our best liberated,
we pray for grace and pardon.

**Forgive in us what has gone wrong,
repair in us what has been damaged,
reveal in us what is good.**

A silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We affirm together:

We believe that God forgives and sets us free. Thanks be to God!

BIBLE READINGS:

Acts 2: 1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 20: 19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'
²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'
²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION

HYMN TiS 418 She sits like a bird

1
She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,
hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

2
She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,
lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;
she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.

3
She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.

4
For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;
she is the key opening the scriptures,
enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude and hope.
In dedicating them, we dedicate ourselves again to be your people in the world,
in the strength and enabling power of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS ... and OURSELVES

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your love.

Open our eyes to see the presence of God all around us, in the stillness of this sacred space,
in the busyness and noise of our city streets, in the joys and celebrations of our lives,
in the tragedies and struggles that break our hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, and comfort those who grieve.

Grant them the peace that only you can bring.
Stir within us a trust in life beyond death, as we ponder the mysteries of Christ's resurrection
and the hope we have in new and everlasting life.

Come, Holy Spirit, and bring wholeness to the sick.

Strengthen those who are weak; heal the wounded and broken; give rest to the weary.

Come, Holy Spirit, and inspire our warring world to seek peace,
to love our enemies, to put away our weapons,
to remember the price paid for our freedom, to care for those who have served.

Come, Holy Spirit, and ignite a fire in our bones, a passion for justice that cannot be quenched
until all of your children are loved, until no one is marginalized or oppressed,
until everyone has the opportunity to thrive, until the world is transformed and renewed.

Come, Holy Spirit, and revive your church.

Liberate us from complacency and apathy; inspire us with Christ's vision for a world reborn;
help us to recognize our gifts for ministry and to use them in service of others;
transform our hearts and our minds; fill us with love that overflows;
remind us that there is no greater calling than to love you with all that we are
and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

**Gracious God, give us a glimpse of your kingdom emerging around us
and drawing us into the new things you are doing in the world.**

It is for your kingdom that we now pray,
filled with your Spirit,
using the words 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 it is 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.**

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

This is the table, not of the church but of Christ.
It is made ready for those who love, and want to love more.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LAST SUPPER

We remember the way that Jesus showed us his love:
On the evening before he died he shared a meal with his friends.
During the meal, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks for it,
broke it and then passed it around with these words:
This is my body broken for you. Eat this and remember Me.
And, after the meal he took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it,
and then passed it around with these words:
This is my life-blood poured for you. Drink this and remember me.
And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus – his faithfulness, his compassion,
his indiscriminate love, his costly grace,
and his courageous commitment to the righteousness of God.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Open your hearts. **We open our hearts to God.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God.
The earth is filled with your wonders.
You breathed into us and we rose from the dust;
the face of the earth came alive.
From the cloud you spoke to Moses and through your prophets
you promised to pour out your Spirit on all flesh.
You revealed yourself in the life of Jesus the Christ,
who spoke words of mercy and peace.
Though he was killed, he was raised to new life,
and comes now to all those who are thirsty,
pouring out the new wine of the Spirit,
awakening within us visions and dreams,
and gifts of wisdom, faith, healing, prophesy and discernment,
and firing our tongues with everlasting songs of joy:
**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Spirit on us, and weave through this bread and wine.
May they be for us the life of Christ. **Amen.**

The bread of life, the life of Christ.
The cup of compassion, love poured out.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Fed and renewed by the life of Christ in us,
we go now to share that life with others.
Empowered by God's Spirit,
we go now to spread the message of God's
love and compassion with all whom we meet. **Amen.**

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

The candles are extinguished

God's Spirit calls us into the future,
God's Spirit calls us to new vision,
God's Spirit calls us in compassionate love.
Go out into the world, sent as Christ Jesus was sent,
gifted and empowered for the common good.
Dream dreams, pursue visions and speak of God's goodness
in the words of those who would hear.
And may God give hope to your dreaming;
May Christ Jesus set rivers of life flowing within you,
and may the Holy Spirit set you ablaze with joy.

God's peace be with you.

And also with you.

The sign of the peace is exchanged.



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