

SENDING OUT AND BLESSING

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Please join us after the service for morning tea/coffee in the Hall
and for the **9.30am Community Meeting**.

This service was prepared by Greg Elsdon drawing on a variety of resources,
most especially 'Again & Again' – Lenten resources produced by *A Sanctified Art*.
Thanks those who read and led our prayers.

The music was led by Norm Inglis with Jenny Ward at the piano and
instrumentalists Genevieve Bassani (flute), Jeff Telfer (clarinet), Ruth Farrent
(djembe) and Graham Brice (percussion). Singing was led by Noel Holmes and
Don Bell with Bronwen Blight, Peter Muller and Michael Heathcote.

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the
areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.**

Thank you for your assistance.



12 Flinders Street
GPO Box 116, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 08 8212 3295
Fax: 08 8212 9637
E-mail: office@pilgrim.org.au

www.pilgrim.org.au | facebook.com/pilgrimunitingchurch



Pilgrim
Uniting Church

9.30am Community Worship

Sunday, 21st February 2021

Lent 1B
COCU19B

*This church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*



LIGHTING OUR COMMUNITY CANDLES

GATHERING

God meets us in the night—

**Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—

**Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,**

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**Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.**

God meets us at the threshold—

**At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—

Staying with us through the wilderness.

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of the here and now.

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

SONG: HaND 12 Give Thanks

Words: Helen Wiltshire; Tune: Kremser

1.
Give thanks for the blessings we
share in our living;
give thanks for the gift of this
welcoming day;
give thanks for the nurture we
knew from our birthing;
for life, we sing a joyful song, and
give our praise.

3.
Give thanks for the wisdom we find
in our searching;
give thanks for the friends who will
travel our way;
give thanks for the music we hear in
our dreaming;
for life, we sing a joyful song, and
give our praise.

2.
Give thanks for the heartaches
we hold in our being;
give thanks for the grief of our
sorrowful days;
give thanks for the insights we
gain in our growing;
for life, we sing a joyful song, and
give our praise.

4.
Give thanks for the wonder of life in
its flowering;
give thanks for the joys of an
indwelling grace;
give thanks for the beauty and love
we are sharing;
for life, we sing a joyful song, and
give our praise.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Again and again, God meets us where we are.

God's love knows no bounds,

which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget.

Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.

And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy
reminder.

Community of faith, let us pray:

Communion is shared

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the God we see in all the colours of creation
arouse in us a sense of awe and wonder.

May the God who is a sacred presence be real to us.

May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage
keep calling us forward.

For we have been met, fed, and renewed at this table.

Thanks be to God!

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

Holy One, speak through these gifts
and the offering of our energy and ideas

brought together here in community,
that the world might hear your voice

of encouragement and wisdom,

truth and love justice and equity in all we say and do. **Amen**

OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

SONG: HaND 33 The love we share

1
The love we share is born of grace;
its beauty shines on every face;
the love we feel and daily give,
melts hurt and offers hope to live.
The love we share is blessed with
peace
as hate and war their conflicts cease;
the love we show in all we do
stirs hope and springs with life anew.

3
The love we share will shed its light;
its brightness gilds the darkest
night;
the love we name and vow to hold
awakens faith and dreams untold.
The love we share will always sing;
its music soars with joyous ring;
the love we cast and scatter free,
endures for all eternity.

Words: Helen Wiltshire; Music: Norm Inglis

2
The love we share is touched with
pain
as grieving hearts weep once
again;
the love we risk and freely bear
heals wounds with oil of grace and
care.
The love we share will grow and
flower;
its seeds of joy will gently shower;
the love we trust and seek to show,
links peace and hope as blessings
flow.

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 out 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.

Let us open our hearts.

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for in tenderness and faithfulness
you love and guide us on the way.

**In the story of creation,
we hear of your love breathing life into all things.**

In the story of the ancient flood,
we hear of your covenant established with every living creature.

**In the story of Jesus coming forth from the waters of baptism,
we hear of your encouraging presence in every proving wilderness.**

In the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
we hear of your renewal and reconciliation,
and we know ourselves to be included in love, held in covenant,
encouraged in the way, renewed and forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Meet us at this table, loving God.

Make this meal both a sign and symbol of your constant presence,
your continuing covenant of love,
your desire to share renewal and
reconciliation with all creation through us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

God who meets us where we are—

There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

You were with Jesus at his baptism.

You were with him in the wilderness,

And even in between, you were there,

Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

We know that you are with us too—

In the good, the bad, and everything in between—

But so often we act like we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt,

We hold it in or cast it onto others.

Instead of coming to you with our joy,

We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you

While living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways.

Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.

**Before and behind, above and below, within and
around. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Community of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you.

God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,

And God calls you beloved.

We are washed by the water.

We are called beloved. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

SONG: HaND 68 Come to the Wilderness

1.

Come to the wilderness; come seek a clarity;
stand on a landscape that's shaped by the sea;
touch painted rocks that tell stories of long ago;
find space and stillness as desert sands blow.

2.

Come to the wilderness; come to a testing time;
feel arid silence as moon shadows climb;
hear inner voices that speak of an easy way;
ponder life's choices and take time to pray.

3.

Come to the wilderness; come to a sunlit day;
see white owls fly as the stars fade away;
drink deep from rare springs and breathe in earth's mystery;
welcome new wisdom to live and to be.

4.

Come to the wilderness; come to a sacred place;
meet dreamtime angels as new paths we trace;
rise with love's blessing and wholeness anew to share;
journey with courage to do and to dare.

[Words: Helen Wiltshire; Music: Johann Reinhardt, 1754]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,
If we are honest, faith often feels like water in our hands.
No matter how hard we try to hold onto it, some of it always slips
through—
Like droplets of truth running down our wrists, back toward our heart.
This human inability to hold onto you leaves us thirsty for more.
So as we prepare to read scripture,
We pray that once again, you would meet us here.
Meet us in our hope and our heartache.
Meet us in our fear and our joy,
Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists.
And even if the water keeps running,
And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity,
Or a tangible sense that you are near;
Even if we do not hear the words, "This is my beloved,"
Ringing in our ears,
We will trust that you are near,
Always and forever meeting us here,
Running toward our hearts.
Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

READINGS FROM OUR JUDAEAN-CHRISTIAN TRADITION:

Genesis 9: 8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Mark 1: 9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'
¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

WITNESS

SONG: SMS 60 Now to your table spread

1.
Now to your table spread;
we come, each one in faith
that you alone provide the words
of life or death:
in wine and bread, in promised
food
we find your loving heart, O God.

3.
Here is our common wealth
in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around
one table stood,
this bread to break, this wine to
taste:
one people in the name of Christ.

Words: Shirley E Murray
Tune: Love Unknown

2.
Hands of the world stretch out,
your mystery to touch;
in longing to believe a truth beyond
our reach,
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

At this table, all are welcome and all are fed.
At this table, all share in the cup that refreshes, no one is denied.
By the power of God's Holy Spirit,
these gifts shall be for us the body and life of Christ.