

# Morialta UC Worship July 19 2020

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## Gathering and call to worship

We worship the God who inhabits our world through nature and who also indwells our lives.

To find God, we can look around at the wonders of creation: but we can also look within ourselves, and into the eyes of others.

To find God, we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

Let us pray:

As we gather here today, may the Holy Spirit surprise us with grace.

May we experience the presence of the risen Christ among us as we sing, listen and pray.

Let our ears be open to here the message of God's love and our eyes be open to the new insights.

We give thanks for stories of grace that carry us into new depths of love.

We give thanks O God of Love

that those who followed Jesus and looked into his face could see your love personified in him.

It is an endless gift of grace to us. Amen.

## Acknowledgement of Land

We acknowledge that we worship on land that was home to generations of the Kurna people, the traditional owners this area. We honour them, and the traditional owners of all places where this service goes, for their custodianship of the land, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge and give thanks for all those who have gone before us in our places of worship.

## **Song: TiS 188 Where wide skies roll down**

**Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,  
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,  
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell  
their joy in the One who made everything well.**

**Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,  
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,  
let every sea-creature and tropical bird  
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.**

**Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,  
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,  
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days  
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.**

**Now, people of faith, come gather around  
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!  
Australians, whatever your culture or race,  
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.**

## **Prayers of thanks and confession**

Creator, God and giver of life,

You who spoke and all things came to life,

Word that became flesh in Jesus, We praise and worship You in all things.

Enable Your Word to take life among us this day.

Give us voice that we might honour You,  
and witness to the transforming life of Jesus, living Word.

Forgive us for cheap and careless words, or deliberately harmful words,  
for words of conflict rather than peace, for words of exclusion and words  
that make enemies, rather than words that build neighbourhoods and  
welcome.

Forgive us when our words make others silent, or when we refuse to listen  
to other words.

Forgive us that we belong to a community which has in so many ways  
robbed people of their languages, culture and identity. May we work hard  
to find ways of peace, justice and hope for all in need.

Hear these, our words to You we pray. Amen

**Scripture readings** Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.

<sup>24</sup>See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup> But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will

it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears<sup>Ⓜ</sup> listen!

**Song: TiS 693 Come as you are**

**'Come as you are:  
that's how I want you.**

**Come as you are;  
feel quite at home,  
close to my heart,  
loved and forgiven.**

**Come as you are:  
why stand alone?**

**'No need to fear,  
love sets no limits;  
no need to fear,  
love never ends;  
don't run away  
shamed and disheartened,  
rest in my love,  
trust me again.**

**'I came to call sinners,  
not just the righteous;  
I came to bring peace,  
not to condemn.  
Each time you fail  
to live by my promise,  
why do you think  
I'd love you the less?**

**'Come as you are:  
that's how I love you;  
come as you are,  
trust me again.  
Nothing can change  
the love that I bear you;  
all will be well,  
just come as you are.'**

**Sermon**

**Song: TiS 668 touch the earth**

**Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.  
God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,**

**teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

#### **Prayers for others**

What a mixed bunch we are, Jesus,  
and what a tortoise-shell world we live in;  
Light and shadow, grace and judgement, goodness and sin  
side by side in each of us;  
But our deep longing is that the life-giving, nourishing fruit we bear  
may overwhelm whatever weeds may have crept in.

May our capacity for love and friendship  
be stronger than our tendency to hatred and divisiveness;

May our search for truth and wisdom  
be satisfied more than our quest for denial and self-justification;

May our desire for joy and goodness  
be larger than our lust for wealth and power;

May our journey to peace and wholeness  
lead us away from the path of war, violence and self-destruction.

Make us those who live Your values and purpose  
in a world that too easily chooses cursing over blessing,  
wounding over healing,  
and destruction over creativity;  
so that all creation may finally find its place  
in Your harvest of life and love. Amen

**Song: Deep in the human heart Hope is our song# 19**

**Deep in the human heart  
The fires of justice burn;**

**With visions of a world renewed  
Through radical concern.  
As Christians we are called  
To set the captives free,  
To overthrow the evil powers  
And end hypocrisy.**

**This is our task today,  
To build a world of peace;  
A world of justice, freedom, truth,  
Where kindness will increase;  
A world from hunger freed,  
A world where people share,  
Where every person is of worth  
And no-one lives in fear.**

**Taking the step of faith,  
We leave the past behind  
And move into the future's world  
With open heart and mind.  
By grace we work with Christ,  
As one community,  
To bring new hope and fuller life  
To all humanity.**

#### **Benediction and blessing**

The blessing and peace of God – Creator, Word, Spirit  
Christ's light and love lives in us and is now carried into the world by us  
*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path* – the Bible is not  
for display but read and engaged with. We are encouraged to open our  
Bible wherever we are and be nourished by the words and stories within.