

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



28TH FEBRUARY

LENT 2



Artwork: Steve Erspamer

Singing – we will remain seated while singing.

Congregational responses are printed in bold type

GREETING

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

And also with you

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

From before recorded time, the First Peoples (Nations) cared for this Land. We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have offered themselves in tending it.

We acknowledge the Elders and communities who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus: for overcoming the temptation to serve your own interests alone...

all praise be to You, Jesus.

Jesus: for serving your Father-God alone....

all praise be to You, Jesus.

Jesus: for your righteousness, love and grace in the face of endless human deviousness and temptation...

all praise be to You, Jesus.

Let us worship this man Jesus who focuses his whole self on God and God's love, whatever the personal cost

HYMN TiS 691 Faith will not grow

Faith will not grow from words alone,
from proofs provided, scripture known;
our faith must feel its way about,
and live with question-marks and doubt.

The pattern Jesus showed, we share:
life comes through death, hope through despair.
God is made known in brokenness,
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.

The church still tells how Jesus came
through death to glorious life again -
the strangest story! Yet, maybe,
our faith will thrive on mystery.

HYMN TiS 691 cont.

Faith takes the little that we know,
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!
Love and take courage, come what may;
Christ will be with us on the way.

Elizabeth J. Smith
1956-

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Great Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa, Jesus,
We pray together unto you.

From nation to nation

right across these lands now called Australia
From north, to east, to south, to west.
From coast, to forest, to desert, to city.
We are tuning in together on country.

For land and waters and sky,

For trees and plants and flowers,
For animals and fish and birds,
For hills and rocks and mountains,
For all peoples...
For country...

Jesus, we lament the injustice of the past

Jesus, we lament the ongoing injustice in the present

Jesus, we confess we have contributed to injustice

Jesus, we confess to having not loved our Aboriginal neighbour as you have called

Jesus, we thank you for the resilience, survival, and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Jesus, we thank you that we have the opportunity for relationship and friendship

Jesus, we know we must do better

Jesus, we know we must make things right

Jesus, we ask for your guidance as we seek justice in our lifetime

Jesus, we ask you
To open our eyes to see as you see
To open our ears to hear as you hear
To open our minds to truth as you know
To open our hearts to love as you love

As a movement of people pursuing Jesus and justice

We come together for the common good
We discover common ground
We share in common grace
We long to embrace unity with diversity

May the beats of many hearts create a beautiful symphony

In tune
In rhythm

With each other, with all of creation, and with Jesus.

As we pray for justice to roll like the waves of the oceans that surround these lands now called Australia

We pray to #ChangeTheHeart of Australia.
Amen.

Written by Brooke Prentis

FORGIVENESS

‘O Lord, forgive the failures of your Church to witness to the world that justice should run down as water and righteousness a mighty stream, O Lord, forgive the failure of the Christian life that lives so worldly, that few can see the life of the Spirit that must proclaim the kingdom of God's love to glorify his Name.’*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is God’s faithfulness. This is a new day. You are forgiven. You are loved. You are restored.
Hear Christ’s word of grace to you: Your sins are forgiven

Thanks be to God

Amen. **Fr. Gilbert Shaw, 1886-1967 in George Appleton, ed. , The Oxford Book of Prayer, Oxford University Press*

SHARING THE PEACE *Ron will direct us in a Covid-19 sharing of the Peace*

The Peace of the Lord be with you all
And also with you

EARLY WORD ‘Giving up and letting go.’ Heather Baxter

Bless to me, O God
The earth beneath my feet.
Bless to me, O God
the path on which I go.
Bless to me, O God
the people whom I meet.
O God of all gods bless
to me my life.

HYMN TiS 583 Take up your cross

‘Take up your cross,’ the Saviour said,
‘if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart
and humbly follow after me.’

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still:
your Lord refused not even to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength
and calmly every danger brave;
it guides you to a better home
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Charles William Everest
1814-77 alt.

READINGS

by Brenda Grootendoorst

Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet
A light to our path

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

ROMANS 4:13-25

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

MARK 8:31-38

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON

HYMN TiS 630 The Law of Christ

The law of Christ alone can make us free,
and love is the fulfilling of the law.

As children of our God we're sisters, brothers;
but will God's love to all the world be known
if we do not reflect his love to others?
In charity and justice God is shown.

The law of Christ ...

Millions believe the law of life is cunning
within a world of cruelty and greed;
how can they know God's charity and justice
if helping hands have never reached their need?

The law of Christ ...

Christ is at work through us who are his body,
he chooses us to witness and to teach,
to heal and raise and liberate and strengthen,
to be his hands and eyes, his heart and speech.

The law of Christ ...

There is no promise that we shall not suffer,

no promise that we shall not need to fight;
only the word that love is our redemption
and freedom comes by turning to the light.

The law of Christ ...

James Phillip McAuley
1917-76 alt.

NOTICES AND OFFERING

Please ensure you read the attached notices.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord

How rich are your offerings to us! As you offer yourself on the Cross for us so strengthen us that we might 'give our life away' for the sake of your children who are dispossessed, vulnerable and needy. Bless our offering we pray, in Jesus' name.

Amen

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Mardie Townsend

And now let us join in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Our father in heaven

SONG The SUMMONS

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me

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DISMISSAL

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

PSALM 22:23, 26-28

BENEDICTION

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,
remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.

May the Gum Tree, from it's roots to it's branches,
remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.

May the Eagle, who soars in the sky,
remind us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,
remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,
remind us of community.

So, with grace, mercy, and peace, go in truth, justice, love and hope.

Written by Brooke Prentis

WORD OF MISSION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

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NEWS AND NOTICES

MORNING TEA

The COVID group (Mardie, Robyn, Lorraine and Marg) are reviewing the situation with regard to morning teas following Sunday worship. It has been decided not to recommence morning tea until sometime in March. The group will meet near the end of February to review the situation. More details regarding this decision will be in advised shortly.

SUNDAY EVENING WALKS DURING LENT

As part of our Lenten observance this year you are invited to take part in a meditative walk each Sunday evening over the six weeks, commencing on Sunday 21st February. We will gather at Allnutt Park on Wheatley Road at 6pm and be given a provocation and question to reflect on as we walk. We will gather at the Wright Street Rotunda near the centre of the park. Enquiries to: Ron Townsend

ORMOND LEARNING HUB: AN OPEN AND CURIOUS FAITH LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We are delighted that our plans to launch a full year of courses for the Learning HUB are well advanced. The team of Lisa Saffin, Lynley Moore, Brad Denniston and Andrew Boyle have been working together over January and are excited about our program for the year. This is our first course:

Believing in our Contemporary World –

N.B. – START DATE DEFERRED ONE WEEK

As Christians, how do we reconcile tensions between being educated in a rational, secular context while drawing on ancient texts as the inspiration and guide to our faith. In three video sessions we will hear scholars and pastors unpack these issues.

Dates: Thursdays, 11th, 18th & 25th March

Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Format: Face-to-face

Location: Ormond Uniting Church, cnr North and Booran Roads

Cost: \$30

Facilitators: Andrew Boyle & Brad Denniston

More information on the church website

Enrolments to: learninghub@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

SYNOD MEETING

The Uniting Church Synod meets 26th to 28th February and Andrew will be (virtually) attending this. Ron Townsend will lead the service of Sunday 28th.

Are you interested in exploring Aboriginal issues?

Here are some ideas:

Movies:

1. "In My Blood it Runs". – movie ABC ivew

Confronting movie about a small lad's life as an indigenous boy. . Definitely worth viewing.

2. "Samson and Delilah" – movie (Google Play)

Two teenagers find love and look for a place where they can be together in peace in this comedy drama from Australia.

3. "First Australians" – series SBS On Demand

An opportunity to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues and the true history of this land now called Australia.

Read/Borrow (Heather and David have a copy of these):

1. "Dark Emu" – Bruce Pascoe

2. "Young Dark Emu" – Bruce Pascoe

3. "Finding our Heart" – Thomas Mayor

Act:

To stop Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Resources and template letter –

https://www.commongrace.org.au/key_event_resources

Pray:

Collated prayers and blessings written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians as well as prayeers for First NBations Peoples written by non-indigenous Christians –

https://www.commongrace.org.au/aboriginal_prayer_resources