

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH

Easter 5

15 May 2022



WORSHIP AT HOME

This time is an opportunity to be still, seeking to be aware of the presence of God within.

Carve out a time for this practice; prepare yourself, as you might for a usual Sunday morning and remember that there are others from the congregation gathering at the same time as you. There are also many from the church around the globe who are gathering to seek the presence of God as we are.

Prepare a space in the house; find a comfortable chair, light a candle, turn off distracting noises and close the door if that will help you to be still. This is something that does not need to be hurried.

Prayer for today

Slow prayer

Rescue us this day, good Lord
from this unseemly haste;
the rush and bother of the week gone by.
We missed so much that we should have seen.

Help us stop to watch the roses grow
from eager bud to slow and wonderful unfolding;
a lesson about life told in a single bloom.

Help us stop to watch the children play
as innocence gives birth to joy
and laughter sings a hymn of praise.

Help us to slowly and with care
observe the universe summed up in raindrops,
and displayed in a single blade of grass.
Help us note the ups and downs of life
played out in the shedding of a mourner's single tear.

Help us to relish
the aroma of our morning cuppa,
clasped in warming hands
in the company of memories light and dark.

Help us to savour the texture of fresh risen bread
and read in it the rising of our Lord.
Help us in quiet contemplation
receive the Word made Flesh
that dwells amongst us even now.

And in this quiet time
and in this place set aside from
the scramble of our lives
and less controlled by times, and plans and duties,
help us to review the things we have done,
and the things we have not done,
and the things we might have done,
were we so inclined
and help us sort the wheat from the chaff,
the good from the bad,
the healings from the injuries,
and the hopes from despair.

And here and now
help us hear and take into ourselves
these quiet words
of your self-giving Grace:
"Your sins are forgiven."
Thanks be to God.

Scripture

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

John 13: 31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

Reflection



Compassion

There is a Japanese art form called Kintsugi. It is the art of taking a piece of broken ceramic (a bowl, a plate, a pot, perhaps) and gluing it together again. It is said that the mended article can be more beautiful than the original. Look at the image above of a Kintsugi bowl. It was broken, but has been re-born. It is not the old bowl. It is a new bowl. It is not a restoration but something entirely new.

We might usefully take this as a metaphor for compassion. The *Dalai Lama* is reported as saying that “compassion is loving kindness meeting suffering” — as with the bowl, brokenness is met with the desire not just to mend, or just put the pieces back together, but to bring new life to brokenness. So it is that broken pieces of a life might be re-assembled to make not just a working semblance of life, but assembled into a new life that has a rich beauty all of its own.

Compassion and suffering go together. There is such a lot of suffering around, and the amount of it seems to be growing by the day. Suffering, as many of us know, can be an intensely personal thing — the dreaded Covid, the downsides of old age — and suffering can be socially induced, by war, by neglect, by misappropriation of resources, by the misuse of power. So much suffering! Not enough compassion!

The truly compassionate person does not burden suffering with platitudes, skin-deep sympathy, false hope, arms-length charity. Compassion engages, it walks-with rather than walks-by. In our Jesus-led community we march behind the banners of love and compassion: these are the things that make us what we are. At our best we don't just talk the talk, we walk the walk.

Putting the broken bits together to make new life. That's our thing! That's our *shtick*! That's our *raison d'être* (our reason for being) — the thing that justifies our use of the label “Christian”. This is where we start when we search for new ways to become “church”; because that too is broken and badly in need of the *Kintsugi* treatment.

It's not too late! It's never too late. It's not too late to pick up the pieces of broken lives, broken institutions, broken societies, broken nations. We will rarely finish what we start, but that matters little. There are others who can take up the reins. And every journey starts with one step.

Prayers of the people – prepared by Brenda Grootendorst

Almighty God, we ask you to hear our prayers today, for our world, our country and for people in need.

In Ukraine, Lord, we pray for all who have lost loved ones, those who have been forced to leave their homes and people who continue to live in fear of the atrocities of war. We ask you to give strength and courage to the leaders of all nations involved, that they may work tirelessly to find a peaceful end to this and other conflicts around the world. While the spotlight is on the Ukraine and Russia may we not forget other countries in need of our prayers.

We pray for Afganistan and the uncertain future of their country, for women who have been disempowered by the Taliban and children unable to go to school – for the Hazaras and the ongoing persecution of their faith. Be with them Lord, as they continue to struggle day by day - we pray for you to give them hope and strength.

Lord, we pray for the people in many countries around the world who experience food insecurity, political insecurity, work insecurity and poverty. We pray for all those who have fled their homeland from persecution and conflict searching for safety in different countries. May these refugees find loving communities who will accept them and help them find healing from their traumatic experiences – Lord, we ask for your love and protection over them.

Loving God, we acknowledge that we are so blessed; in this land you have given us peace and freedom. In this country we have a society with a rich diversity of people that have come from many lands. We thank you for your Church, the acceptance of many faiths and the ability to worship freely. As we begin this week we are mindful of our upcoming Federal Election with many, debates, forums and conversations taking place. There are times when we have all entered into conversations without really listening. Lord, show us how to listen with open and humble hearts and give our leaders and prospective leaders the strength to be humble and the willingness to listen to every voice. We pray that they will be respectful towards each other with a genuine desire to unite our country rather than divide. Thank You that You walk with the frail elderly, children and families struggling against poverty and injustice, calling us to do the same. We ask that candidates running for this election will speak out about poverty and listen to the voices of the vulnerable. Give our leaders wisdom to create solutions that empower people living in poverty to survive and thrive.

Lord, regardless of the outcome of this election we pray for a government who will be committed to working with each other for the good of all people living in Australia, our neighbours and the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Blessing

Lord,
lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe.
Let us dream together, pray together and work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen.

Go in peace
to love and serve the Lord,

Thoughts for the week to come

A new Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.

At least not the last time I checked.
And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about except me,

or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom
to remember that I'm
not you.

Amen.

<https://www.jesuits.org/stories/a-new-serenity-prayer/>

15 May 2022 – service led by Rev. Karel Reus
Music Director: Mr Peter Hurley

Church Office
Fridays, 9am-5.00pm – 0411 958 127
office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Website: www.ormondunitingchurch.org

NEWS AND NOTICES

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held after Worship on **SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2022.**

Documents relating to the meeting will be sent by email and distributed in hard copy at a date to be confirmed.

Please put this date in your diary – we would love to see as many people as possible attending and participating in this important meeting.

Brenda Grootendorst
Congregational Secretary.

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE FOOD DELIVERY WEDNESDAY 18th MAY

Liz Northwood and I will be doing a food delivery to the ASRC on **Wed 18th May**. There are some specific foods that the foodbank is running very short of – these are...

- Tuna in oil
- Canned chickpeas, lentils, kidney beans and tomatoes.
- Cooking oil – 1L bottles Nuts

Thank you so much for all those considering a donation to our very vulnerable refugees. If you are unable to bring food to the church please contact Brenda and I will arrange for collection from your home.

Many thanks always, for your support.

Brenda Grootendorst
ph. 0433494600

LEARNING HUB

Ormond Learning Hub (OLH) presents 'Eden to Babel: A Journey through the stories of Genesis 1-11'.

Commencing June 2nd, these weekly sessions will challenge the notion that the early Genesis stories are literal history, scientific facts or irrelevant myths. We will explore both the inspiring and problematic role they have played in our culture, in our understanding of God and in how they can shape us as disciples.

Ormond Learning Hub, an offering of Ormond Uniting Church, is a safe, friendly and collaborative learning environment focused on faith formation.

For more information go to

<https://www.ormondunitingchurch.org/ormond-learning-hub.html> or call/SMS Brad Denniston (Facilitator) on 0411 864 774

CHURCH OFFICE COVERAGE

Cathy O'Connor, from our church office has confirmed she will be leaving us on 27th May. Since the beginning of this year, Cathy has also been working in another job 4 days per week, but her OUC work on top of this means she is working more than full-time, which is not sustainable. Cathy informed us several months ago that she would need to resign her position at Ormond but (typical of Cathy) she has stayed on much longer than was legally necessary, as she didn't want to leave us in the lurch. Cathy has been a joy to work with and we will miss her, but we are fortunate to have recruited Cate McHarrie as our new Office Administrator. Cate is working with Cathy for 3 Fridays to help her transition into the job.

(Mardie Townsend)

BOB'S BOYS MEN'S BREAKFAST

A reminder that Bob's Boys aka Men's Breakfast has commenced again, from **8.30am on the last Saturday of the month** meeting at **Fig Jam Café, 128 Koornang Road Carnegie.**

Contact: Neville Parker if keen to join in.

ACT FOR PEACE – UKRAINE CRISIS

Please refer to the link below for more information and ways to help.

As we are all aware, the crisis in the Ukraine continues and there are ways to help. Please refer to the link [here](#) (Cntrl & click mouse) for more information and for the many ways to donate and help this appeal.



UKRAINE CRISIS EMERGENCY APPEAL

The shocking Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis unlike anything seen in Europe since World War II. Millions of people could become refugees, forced from their homes and their loved ones.

Please give what you can today to help provide urgently needed food, medicine and temporary shelter to displaced families.

PLEASE GIVE URGENTLY

CALL: 1800 025 101
AFP.ORG.AU/UKRAINECRISIS

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actforpeace**

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia | ABN 86 619 970 188

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Indigenous Art - GLEN EIRA GALLERY (Town Hall)

Members of Ormond UC may like to take the opportunity to visit this significant exhibition of Indigenous art close by (details below), at the Glen Eira Town Hall Gallery, corner of Glen Eira Rd and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 5 pm and Saturday to Sunday , 1pm to 5pm, admission is FREE!

Alternatively you might wish to participate in a group visit to the exhibition with members of Ormond UC planned for Sunday the 29th May at 2pm that afternoon, that coincides with National Reconciliation Week. Following the visit you may wish to join others for a chat and coffee/cake at the Parkside Pantry (near Caulfield Park one block away) about 3 pm. If you wish to attend with the group please let Warwick, Heather or Lorraine know by Wednesday 25th May and whether you wish to go to the café, so that bookings can be confirmed. If you require a lift please indicate that to us as well. We hope you will take this great opportunity to learn more about Indigenous culture.

Warwick (on behalf of Ormond Indigenous Action Group)

Confined 13

Presented by The Torch

5 May to 5 June

Presented by The Torch, *Confined 13* includes artworks by Indigenous artists currently in or recently released from prisons in Victoria.

Featuring more than 400 artworks from 350 artists, *Confined 13* creates a strong visual metaphor for the over-representation of Indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system.

In 2022, *Confined 13* will coincide with National Reconciliation Week with a program of events celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

ROSTER for next week Sunday 22 May 2022

READING	Lisa Saffin	
PRAYERS	Warwick Barry	
EARLY WORD	Heather Baxter	
DOOR DUTY	Brenda Grootendorst	Frank Ortolin
SOUND	Graeme Davenport	
MUSIC	Peter Hurley	
MORNING TEA	Susie Fergusson	Lisa Saffin
RESOURCES DELIVERY	Mardie & Ron Townsend	