

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



28 JULY 2024

PENTECOST 10



# WORSHIP AT HOME

THEME: Teaching on how to discover and use resources we have

## A TIME FOR BEING GATHERED TOGETHER

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

*Set aside 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. We join with them all.*

*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.*

**“The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”**

**“And also with you”**

**Focussing ...** As we pause to contemplate this season after Pentecost – the growth and dispersion of the Christian communities, we consider the stories which highlight the God who calls out and accompanies on journeys towards unseen and undreamt places and peoples. We hear of and are invited to name our own experiences of the generous grace and mercy given for the whole creation, the richness of life unearned and undeserved. In the quietness and stillness of this time, be grateful to the loving creator/parent, who faithfully travels with us through the storms of our lives, especially when we feel alone, confused and despair.

**Acknowledgement of Country:** We come to meet this morning from all manner of places, and on the Country of diverse Clans and Nations of First Peoples’, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging, and commit ourselves afresh to the journey of justice and reconciliation.

## Joining the scattered community

Here, with the community gathered on Sunday, we begin another week, weaving together the fabric of our lives, in all their different textures and colours, their changing forms and flows. Here we mark the things that have gone before and look forward in hope for newness to come. Here we celebrate each other’s place as one thread in the weaving and cherish the moments when the fabric of our lives become whole.

## Greeting & Call to Worship

Once a singer sang that *“It is an awe-full thing to fall into the hand of the Living God!”* Do we dare to come into God’s presence in worship? **Yes, for all are welcome in God’s family.**

If we are a stranger here, unfamiliar with how things have ‘always’ happened here, dare we come in? **Yes, for all have a place in God’s family.**

If we are not all dressed the same, not all living the same way or not understanding the same, dare we come in? **Yes, for all are equal in God’s family.**

If life is hard, the journey long and dark, life’s struggle unending and unheeded, and if our presence here sporadic and uncertain, dare we come in? **Yes, for all are loved into life in God’s family.**

Yes, it is indeed *“... an awe-full thing to fall into the hand of the Living God!”* But this is God whom Jesus calls ‘Abba’, Daddy. As this God’s beloved children, let us offer our worship and praise!

**Hymn/Song – TiS 152 Joyful, joyful**

## (Please Sit)

**Prayers of praise & thanksgiving** followed by our **confession** and an assurance of the promise of God's loving forgiveness.

God of peace, you bring peace to a troubled world, you bring peace to troubled hearts, you bring peace to our past, you our present and to our future.

You are the great reconciler. Your loves binds up the broken world. Your peace heals. Your joy fills our minds and hearts.

You never stop loving us. You never give up on us. You never fail or falter. We live in a world flooded with your light and love and for this we give thanks.

*(Words for Worship 20221120)*

**Confession:** We have journeyed into a far country and wasted our gifts and resources ... Lord, have mercy on us – **Lord, have mercy on us.**

We turn our backs on family and friends, neighbours, and others in need, seeking our own pleasure and satisfaction ... Christ, have mercy on us – **Christ, have mercy on us.**

We seek from you gifts and interventions for matters entrusted into our own hands, but patiently waiting, you keep on loving us and welcome us home with rejoicing ... Lord, have mercy on us – **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Silence

**Assurance:** God is love. Through Christ God forgives us all that leads into brokenness and away from God's gifts of life. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your lives in the freedom and power of God's Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

*(Uniting in worship – adapted)*

## A Time For Listening

Your Word, Oh Lord, is a lamp to our feet;

**A light to our path**

**A reading from the witness of the Bible – Read by Gary Richter**

**2 Samuel 11.1-15 - 11** In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup> David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup> When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" <sup>11</sup> Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." <sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, <sup>13</sup> David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk, and in

the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

**David Has Uriah Killed** - In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup>In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

### **John 6.1-21 - Feeding the Five Thousand**

**6** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."



<sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**Jesus Walks on the Water** - <sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.



The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## Song: Together in Song (TiS) 466 Peace with the Father ...

### Reflection on the Word – *Teaching on how to discover and use resources we have*

**Jesus went to the other side ...** This is a trip from the familiar to the unfamiliar, from the Jewish side to the Gentile side. In our life, we go to the other side too, just like this...

**People followed him ...** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing - preaching the coming Kingdom of God, and healing of the sick.

**Where are we going to get bread – resources?** Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’

**There is a boy here ...** who has five barley loaves and two fish. From the most unnoticeable there comes our resources. But what are they among so many people?’ We start with what we have got.

**What WE have is more than enough!** Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ From Jesus to the disciples, from eating to gathering. From the gathering, there comes the community of faith.

**Then comes the boat ...** Jesus is walking towards us, once he is on board, the boat reaches land.

**Prayer for the week ahead ...** *When circumstances change and overwhelm us, God speak to us and in us. Through the darkness and silence teach us how close you are and how mindful of our circumstances and need for hope.*

*God who comes in the sound of sheer silence (1 Kings 19.12), who lives in and through the lives and presence of others, enfold and enable us, buy your grace to truly speak heart to heart with another in words, songs, documents, conversation ‘in language’ – each other’s language and not simply our own.*

(Revd Dr Tony Floyd)

## A TIME FOR RESPONDING

**Some of what we do and give in response to God’s Word –**

**Song – (TiS) 626 Lord of Creation, to you be all praise**

**Prayers of the people** – Prepared by Warwick Barry

*"As we prepare for our prayers for others, we light this candle to remember all those who are part of our church community but who are not at worship with us today."*

*Light the candle.*

We have grown familiar with chains.

Stumbled into by accident,  
or carefully crafted by our own vice,  
we have become used to their cold weight.  
At times we even draw comfort from them,  
finding a broken sense of identity in our victimhood,  
or a platform for our self-righteous anger and violence.

And so our world remains imprisoned...  
by the way we choose control and aggression  
over peace and mutual understanding;  
by the way we idolise quick answers and quick wealth  
over preservation and careful management of natural resources;  
by the way we allow our self-interest and greed  
to overshadow the lives of the poor and hungry who die each day;  
by the way we prefer hiding in a fortress of pride  
over making things right and letting others into our hearts.

But, if we will listen, we can hear a voice  
making a new way through this desert,  
offering a new hope,  
and gently seeking to loosen the chains.

Help us, Jesus, to follow this voice;  
The gentle whispers of your spirit,  
lead us like a Shepherd,

save us, and free us;  
so that, as our chains fall away,  
we may loosen the chains of others.

And so we bring before God our prayers for all those people whose vulnerability is especially at risk this day.

We pray for--

Young people who, subject to peer pressure, are at risk of taking drugs or submitting to sexual promiscuity.

Loving God, hear us.

***Jesus, save your people.***

For over-busy Christians who are in such a rush that they are in danger of losing touch with their core peace of their faith. The very heavenly-minded who are so caught up in their own religion that they hardly see Christ in a needy neighbour.

Loving God, hear us.

***Jesus, save your people.***

Middle aged folk who, after years of married faithfulness, are sorely tempted to sacrifice it for a brief affair. For leaders in business, politics and unions, who are all too ready to surrender their early ideals for personal gain or aggrandisement.

Loving God, hear us.

***Jesus, save your people.***

For the weary person who, having risen above many previous setbacks, is now close to giving in to bitterness and despair. For The church pastor who, seeing so little of his early visions and prayers fulfilled, is on the verge of resigning from ministry.

Loving God, hear us.

***Jesus, save your people.***

For suffering people who feel that maybe their faith in God was wishful thinking and are about to retreat into bitterness. For The folk in this congregation who might this day be wrestling with fears and temptations that threaten to overwhelm them.

Loving God, hear us.

***Jesus, save your people.***

Most loving God, you are the companion of the lonely, strength of the weak, comfort of the sad, scourge of the apathetic, physician of the sick, rebuke of the self-righteous, friend of sinners, and the light of all those who must walk in darkness. Faithful God, fill our hunger with the food that lasts, the living bread of God, Jesus Christ, who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world and his people, through His ever-present Spirit.

**Amen!**

(Adapted from Sacredise & Bruce Prewer)

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

# A time for Leave-taking and Scattering

## Song TiS 687 God gives us a future

### **Sending** (from Ephesians 3.14-19 – A prayer for the Readers)

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### **Blessing** (from Ephesians 3.20-21)

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord ... **In the name of Christ! Amen!**

# Postlude

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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Presider: Rev Dr Tony Floyd

Music: Peter Hurley

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