



The Uniting Church in Australia

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

Order of Service for
Sunday 22nd August 2021

Introit

Hymn: Onward Christian soldiers

Welcome

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also, with you.

Acknowledgement

I pay my respect to the traditional custodians of the land in which I live, work and worship. To the elders and members of the Yorta Yorta Nations past, present and emerging. I pledge myself to continue to work toward reconciliation between the first people of this land and those who have called it their home.

Call to Worship:

In Christ we know the dignity of righteousness and the brave actions needed to bring it into being.

In God we are surrounded by creativity and a profound commitment to all that is.

In the Holy Spirit, we are met by a love which will not let us go and eternal invitation to grow and be transformed.

To walk in faith is to enter new places and to see more clearly the will of God.

Even as the church, we are called to explore who we are and what we do, knowing that we, too, may need to change.

Let us worship God.

Responsive Psalm 84 selected verses

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house

And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young

At your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

Than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

O Lord God of hosts,

Blessed are those who put their trust in you.



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Hymn: Will you come and follow me if I but call your name

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession: - Today we will use The Peterhouse School Hymn

Lord, in this place we pray that we may find
Those bonds of service that can make us free;
Our sacrifice of body, soul and mind,
With thankful hearts we offer here to thee.

Though called as saints, without thy help too weak
To follow in the way that thou hast trod;
Grant us the grace of courage, strength to seek
The hard high calling of the sons of God.

Help us to know and to uphold the truth,
To fight undaunted, mindful of thine aid,
Fulfilling with our lives the dreams of youth,
Our ceaseless quest a crown that shall not fade.

In humble penitence we here unfold
Our tale of failures and of deeds half-done,
False words, vain thoughts, and actions uncontrolled,
Imperfect loyalty to thy perfect Son.

Forgive us, sinners easily content
With feeble strivings to attain the goal,
Who, saved by sacrifice, again present
Our threefold gift of body, mind and soul.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 547 (TiS) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Children's address

The story, "Because there was no one here to tell him it was impossible"

Children's activities

Colouring "The Armour of God (See below)

Sword of the Spirit

Helmet of salvation

Breastplate of righteousness

Belt of truth

Shield of faith

Feet fitted with the readiness
that comes from the gospel of peace





Red—helmet, shield; Green—breastplate;
Yellow—sword, shield, belt; Blue—boots

ARMOR OF GOD



Readings:

Readings – Pentecost 13

1. Ephesians 6: 10-20
2. John 6: 56-59

Message

In previous weeks we have explored earlier parts of John 6 we saw Jesus working to sustain life in the present world in the feeding of 5000 people from one small meal echoing the theme of providing extra wine at the Cana wedding feast. And of course we see people wanting Jesus in the words of Theology of work commentary, “People want to keep Jesus around to serve as a Magical Baker King, who will keep the loaves coming”. The crowds wanted to make him king

Jesus corrected this in the middle of this chapter, John 6:26-27, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

In today’s reading we find Jesus in synagogue at Capernaum reminding people of need to connect to the source of life and all its abundance verse 57 “Just as the living Father sent me (B) and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me”. The source of abundance is the word of God, the word that give eternal life. John explains the importance of Jesus as the way to God making reference of the Passover to relate with the freeing of God’s people from bondage. “Abiding in Jesus is synonymous with living, really living; what we call “truly living” John calls “eternal life.” It refers not so much to quantity as to quality”. The Adam Clarke Commentary notes that “Of all connections and unions, none is so intimate and complete as that which is effected by the digestion of aliments, because they are changed into the very substance of him who eats them; and this our Lord makes the model of that union which subsists between himself and genuine believers”. Christ is our Redeemer, through Him is our redemption, the pardoning of sin, Grace and life everlasting

Ephesians 6:10-20

Here we have Paul charging all believers to be defensive and offensive as he call to us to put on the whole armour. The Christian armour is not some inferior man made cumbersome uniform like the one Saul offered to David in the David and Goliath story. But it is a divine one, one of divine workmanship.

1 Samuel 17 v 45 "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head".



Paul is calling on Christians to dig in to what is beyond visual, beyond the visual and cumbersome armour which David tried but could not move in. He is calling for spiritual agility only gained from consuming the word of God. Matthew Henry's commentary says, "The Christian armour is made to be worn; and there is no putting off our armour till we have done our warfare, and finished our course". We don't have the luxury of taking it off, it is and must be part of us.

Paul did not provide for a back shield thus we cannot afford to turn our backs on the enemy so it is a truly It an "Onward Christian solders marching on to war", it is an offensive warfare". "Like a mighty army moves the church of God; Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod; One in hope and doctrine", reminds me of the catoon Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds theme song

One for all and all for one,
Muskehounds are always ready.
One for all and all for one,
Helping everybody.
One for all and all for one,
Can sound pretty corny.
If you got a problem chum,
Think how it could be.

(Der, durham, der, durham)
They cross their hearts and pray.
(Der, durham, der, durham)
They cross their swords, night and day.
(Der, durham, der, durham)
They drink their beer and swear
They're faithful to their King.

Are we faithful to our Lord and King? If we are, let put on the full armour of God and take our stand against the devil's schemes and being alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people

Hymn: 592 (TIS) Stand up, stand up for Jesus

Prayers of the People:

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.



Hymn: 'One more step along the world I go

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me traveling a long with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see,
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Sending out of the people of God:

Let us go in peace to live with the true authority of God's goodness. And may courage be born within us; Christ Jesus be our eternal example and the God of love be with us in Spirit and in truth.

Amen.

779 (TiS) 'May the feet of God walk with you'.