



Order of Service
5th September 2021

Welcome/Introduction:

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 on which I live, work, and worship. To the elders and members of the Yorta Yorta nation past, present, and emerging.

I pledge myself to work towards reconciliation between the first peoples of this land and those who have come to call it their home.

Call to Worship:

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surround his people, from this time on and for evermore.

(Psalm 125: 1 & 2)

Let us worship God.

Hymn: 135 (TiS) 'All things bright and beautiful'

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:

(A prayer for the Season of Creation that I wrote for the ARU newsletter)

Almighty and all-embracing God, the origin of all that is, and life giver to all in nature and the universe. You create out of love, and in your wisdom made us a family, a household dependent on each other for the welfare of the whole.

The lilies of the valleys you enriched with colours, you provide food for the birds of the air, the locusts and the flies are not forgotten. And, you satisfy the needs of humanity from the abundance of your stores.

We plead for forgiveness of our selfish and careless use of your creation. We are trapped in the nets of our own greed, ensnared by the traps of power, and our continued search for status. We have neglected your creation because we have neglected you our God, and your creation is crying out for help.

Lord of creation look favourably upon us and forgive us. Breathe new life into us and all of your creation, let your Holy Spirit lead us in the call of this Season of Creation, that we may renew our relationships with all things and each other. Fill our hearts with your love, encourage us with your grace, and empower us with your wisdom, that we may equally share your resources and equally accountable for the welfare of the whole universe, that we may live together in an Eden of harmony and peace.



In the name of Him who came, is coming, and will continue to come, to restore, to revive, and to save – Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness:

The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life.

As you hold this faith, I declare that you are set free from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *(UIW 1)*

Amen.

Doxology: 768 (TiS) 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow'

Readings: Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23: Mark 7: 24-37

Hymn: 447 (TiS) 'Lord your almighty word'

Sermon: 'The meeting place'

Hymn: 657 (TiS) 'God of freedom, God of justice'

Notices:

Joys & Concerns:

Offering: *(For those who continue to support the church and her mission, we offer this prayer for them and their offering)*

May the gifts we share for the work of this community help us to make your presence known in a world where hope is too often deferred, too many are groaning for too long and efforts to love can feel futile or choked by selfishness or greed.

Bless our gifts and us with them to be your love for the world.

Amen.

Prayers of the People:

O God, you know our thoughts before we speak them, and our hearts before we open them. This gives us confidence to pray so that you may lead us in your everlasting way.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for a world that is groaning with problems.

(moment of silence to consider the problems of the world)

We pray for the sufferings of this present time.

(moment of silence to consider the sufferings of this time)

Give us an eagerness, compassionate God, to reveal your presence in the midst of every circumstance:

bringing hope where there is none and light where shadows prevail.

Give us wisdom to discern your presence, loving God, in places where we would not expect to find you – where there are only stones for pillows and where people are strangers to one another:



bringing hope where there is none and light where shadows prevail

Give us courage to hope for what we cannot see, renewal where there is destruction, reconciliation where there is enmity and restoration where there is brokenness.

For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lord, give us patience, as we wait and act with hope. Amen.

Hymn: 690 (TiS) 'Beauty for brokenness'

Blessing:

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and strong.

Let all that you do be done in love. (*1 Corinthians 16: 13, 14*)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and for evermore.

Amen.

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

