



Order of Service  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**INTROIT: TIS 693 Come as you are**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive - Psalm 1-6)**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
**praise him in the heights above.**

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
**praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
**praise him, all you shining stars.**

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
**and you waters above the skies.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
**for at his command they were created,**

<sup>6</sup> **and he established them for ever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay respects to their elder's past, present and emerging.

**HYMN: TIS 217 Love divine, all loves excelling**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION**

**Our God and Heavenly Father, we come before you this morning to praise you and adore you. How awesome is your power, that you can allow the waters to rise and the mountains to crumble, yet keep the most helpless among us safe and alive. How great is your wisdom, that you can lead us and guide us, close a door and open another, give us trials as well as blessings, and shepherd us all our lives until we are safe and finally home. How deep is your love and how boundless your mercy, that no matter how grave our problems, how terrible our mistakes, how shameful our secrets, and how often we stumble and fall, we can pray to you for forgiveness, we can find in you our salvation.**

**Gracious God, on Sundays we come to this place and you fill us up with your goodness and light and we are renewed. But when we go out into the world, we fall short in so many ways. Sometimes we are easily influenced by temptations and fall prey to all kinds of sins. Sometimes we are lazy and neglect the things that we are meant to care for, or we care too much for what is meaningless. Sometimes we hurt and lash out at others. Sometimes we are too self-absorbed to realise our own faults that we accuse others of. Sometimes we are greedy and buy things we do not need or grab for more of what we have enough of. Sometimes we might forget you and we wander around in the darkness. Forgive us dear Father, for our sins and our shortcomings. Forgive us for taking for granted the gift of the sacrifice of**



your Son. May your peace and loving presence occupy our hearts right now, throughout this day that you have made, and always. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Our God fulfils his promises and is true to his word. We have confessed our sins. God has forgiven us, because Christ died for us. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY:** TIS 768 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**READINGS:** ACTS 11:1-19, JOHN 13:31-35

**HYMN:** TIS 491 Father Welcomes All His Children

**SERMON – A NEW COMMANDMENT**

**SERMON SUMMARY NOTES – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

- The theme for the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly 'Dwelling in Love' offers us an opportunity to reflect on how God's love dwells in us, with us, and amongst us as followers of Jesus Christ. As Geoff Thompson (Uniting Church Theologian) said, "Love is central to both our understanding of God and Jesus, and of our practice of Christian discipleship."
- In that love of God in which we dwell, we share our joys and bear one another's burdens, and it unites us in a commonwealth that abides in that love.
- Our gospel reading for this Sunday (John 13: 31-35), John reminds us of how Jesus lived in that love by demonstrating how that love looks like in real life. For example, Jesus knew who was going to betray him and he responded by feeding the betrayer: "So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot" (13:26).
- Jesus knew that his hour is coming to depart from this world and return to his Father and he responded by getting up from the dinner table, takes on the role of a slave, and washes the disciple's feet. Having loved his own, he loved them to the end (13: 3)
- Jesus also knows that Peter will deny him.
- Jesus's departing words were not of blame for the past and future failures, but of reassuring his disciples that they will not be abandoned.
- Then Jesus gave them a new commandment – "that you love one another as I have loved you."
- The love that Jesus speaks of and demonstrated in his life and death, is a love that extends from the simple and mundane things in life and encompasses every kind of self-giving act of love.
- It is by this kind of love that everyone will know that they are his disciples. (John 13:35)



**HYMN: TIS 699 A New Commandment**

**NOTICES/JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OFFERING:**

Gracious God, your generosity overflows us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us.

**Receive all that we bring in faith, loving Jesus. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:**

Loving Lord, we thank you for the gift of life. You have given us so much. You bless us richly with goodness every day. We thank you and praise you. Lord, we live in a time of considerable confusion, uncertainty and destruction, and we seek your guidance, strength, healing, comfort and peace. We pray for the people of every war-torn, divided and afflicted nation. We pray for families that are torn apart and hearts that are grieving. We pray for the spiritually lost, the fearful and the confused. We pray for the ill and those who suffer from anxiety and depression. We pray for those in broken relationships and abused spouses. We pray for those who are weighed down in financial hardship. We pray for all people dealing with overwhelming problems. **Merciful God, heal their pain, mend their brokenness, take away their sorrow, lift them out of their troubles, and relieve their burdens. Bring your healing spirit upon them all, and also help this community to comfort, console and strengthen those who are hurting. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**HYMN: TIS 100 All Creatures of Our God and King**

**BLESSING**

**HYMN: TIS 778 Shalom**

