



Order of Service

12<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Introit: TiS 716 Father, we adore you**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God of hope is with us.

The Spirit of hope flows through us.

Jesus reveals hope in us.

**Come, let us celebrate this wonder  
of three in One and One in three.**

Be open to our God of love

and worship as faith-filled people together.

**God of Hope, settle into our hearts today.**

**Open our ears to hearing your word anew.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God who created the world,

Jesus the Son given for the world,

Holy Spirit ever present in the world,

be with us in our worship that we may know the fullness of the Holy One.

As God lives in Triune community,

so may we live in communion with God and each other. **Amen.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are meeting today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of this region.

**WELCOME**

**HYMN TiS 142 Glory be to God the Father**

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 8**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,

**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> **Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,**

**to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

**the moon and the stars that you have established;**

<sup>4</sup> what are humans that you are mindful of them,

**mortals that you care for them?**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God

**and crowned them with glory and honour.**

<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

**you have put all things under their feet,**

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,

**and also the beasts of the field,**

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,

**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**



## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

Creation sings daily praises to you, God of all.  
From the highest hills to the depths of the sea,  
beauty reveals your delightful creativity,  
new buds reveal your desire for timelessness,  
storms reveal your strength and vitality,  
mountains reveal your steadfastness,  
and water reveals your never-ending energy.  
We are in constant wonder at the world around us  
in which you reveal so much of yourself.  
Gracious God, we feel and see your Spirit flow  
in and through, around and across all the pathways we travel.  
May we always take time to honour the works of your hand,  
and cherish it with worthy care. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God, creator of all the wonders which make up this world...  
When we treat our part of the world as a commodity to be used rather than  
a gift to be cherished;

### **Forgive us.**

When we fail to care for and protect this lovely land, with its mountains and ancient rock formations; its oceans,  
rivers and lakes; its unique flora and fauna;

### **Forgive us.**

God, bearer of our humanity in Jesus Christ...  
When we fail to live out the commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us;

### **Forgive us.**

When we judge a person by the colour of their skin, by their possessions or their achievements, rather than  
accepting them as persons loved and accepted by you;

### **Forgive us.**

God, giver of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth...  
When we betray the truth of the gospel through our lack of integrity or our  
abuse of ethical and moral principles;

### **Forgive us.**

God - Creator, Redeemer, Life-giving Spirit - fill us anew with your creative power  
that we may be reborn in your image, glorifying you in and through who we are,  
and what we say and do in Jesus' name.

As Jesus' disciples and in his name we pray. **Amen**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS :**

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us,  
and God's love for us is demonstrated in this: while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

*(Romans 5:5,8 NRSV)*

The good news therefore is this: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **AN EARLY WORD**

### **HYMN TiS 465 Father in heaven**

**BIBLE READINGS:** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
John 16:12-15  
Romans 5:1-5



## REFLECTION

There are so many claimants to the truth these days. Some say, for instance, that climate change is rapidly having an effect on our planet, while there are still some who say it's all rubbish. In the lead up to this year's Federal election, people on all sides of politics were trying to convince us that truth lay with them. In a religious context, across the world different groups of people are convinced that God is on their side, and that truth can only rest with their particular dogma.

Where is the truth in all this? How confusing it all is.

Because the truth is so difficult to discern in many of life's situations, wouldn't it be useful to have a guide to assist us. There is such a guide that we have encountered in the pages of the scriptures, and hopefully in life as well. Jesus is one who can be trusted to assist us. When he lived on earth, he seemed to know the truth about people – the Samaritan woman at the well who had five husbands, for instance, or Zaccheus, the little guy who cheated people. And knowing the truth, Jesus helped many people move beyond the issues they couldn't or wouldn't face in the present, and unlock their true potential. No matter the reality, Jesus knew - and could handle - the truth about people.

Further, Jesus represented all that was true. Many world religions know the teachings of Jesus and claim him as a great moral teacher. Jesus spoke the truth about life.

How easy it would be to turn to someone like this and ask: what is the truth? If Jesus were here, among us still, he could answer the difficult questions of the day and give us guidance. He could explain his life and his ultimate purpose. He could tell us now, in his own words - not words that have been translated, interpreted, or paraphrased - the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about himself and the world.

Clearly, we don't have Jesus with us in such a physical sense, and he cannot speak directly for himself. We have his words contained in the scriptures, but even these are open to interpretation.

The verses we read today from John chapter 16 tell us that Jesus knew the truth would be difficult to determine after he had left the scene. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you in all truth" (16:12). It is as if the disciples were saying, "We want the truth," and Jesus replies, "You can't handle the truth, yet."

So, Jesus sent another person, a third part of the person of God, the Holy Spirit, to be that ongoing witness.

Advocate, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Wisdom, Spirit of God, Holy Spirit, wind, breath, fire – across our Bible and within our Christian traditions, we experience many aspects of the Spirit. From before Earth, as we know it, was formed, and during the genesis, God's Spirit was present. Wisdom is in Creation, comforting compassionately, informing righteousness, at the heart of justice, breathing peace into troubled spaces, interceding, advocating, and imparting ways to express ourselves when we alone cannot find a way. As Jesus' earthly mission concluded, he breathed the Spirit into the lives of the disciples. Later, the Spirit's presence transformed a gathering of unlikely acquaintances through a Pentecost of renewal, connecting them through living faith and God's love.

Now, Jesus says to us: "You now have the Counselor, the Spirit of truth so that nothing will remain hidden and all things will be revealed." We are given this wonderful gift, so that even in the absence of the physical witness of Jesus, we can listen to the Counselor and hear the truth that can change the heart and transform the world. Thanks be to God. Amen

Prayer: Eternal God, you reveal yourself to us as Creator, Son, and Spirit. Thank you for making the world as a home for us, for sending Jesus to show us who you are, for the gift of the Spirit to guide us into truth. Help us to know you in all your ways and rejoice in your glory. Amen.

**HYMN TiS 402 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly dove**

**OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

As we pray for others, we also ask God to increase our capacity for genuine love.

Let us pray.

Loving, three-person'd God, you are the Friend of people who are neglected or rejected. Please enlarge our awareness and stretch our compassion to include those who are edged out by circumstances into an isolation that they do not really want.

Make us aware of those in our own neighbourhood who are feeling forgotten or isolated from the main stream of community life.

Please stretch our compassion and show us the best ways to assist.

Make us aware of those living in remote places, or those who are lost in big cities, whose need for friendship and support is not being met.

Please stretch our compassion and give us the will to make a difference.

Make us aware of refugees and migrants who are finding it difficult to feel included and valued in our community and nation.

Please stretch our compassion to reach beyond race, skin colour and culture.

Make us aware of folk who are hungry for a community of faith.

Please stretch our compassion to include strangers in our midst.

We know loving Friend, that you are already working in the lives of these for whom we have prayed. We dedicate these prayers, and whatever talents we have, to cooperate with your work of gathering into your love all the lonely and unwanted people of the world. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

***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 TiS 447 Lord, your almighty word**

## BENEDICTION

People of faith, step forward in hope.

Open your eyes to the revelations in God's Creation.

Open your ears to the whisperings of the Spirit of Wisdom.

Open your hearts to the word of Jesus.

Before us, behind us, above and below us,  
our Trinitarian God surrounds and sustains us

on our journey as faith-filled friends.

Go with peace, work for justice, live in love with God of all.

**TiS 781 Father, bless us as we go**

