



Order of Service  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Introit: TiS 693 Come as you are**

**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 96 Sing Praise to the Lord**

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 42:1-6**

As the deer pants for streams of water

**so my soul pants for you, O God.**

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Where can I go and meet with God?

**My tears have been my food day and night,**

**while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"**

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

**how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God,  
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.**

Why are you downcast, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.**



### **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**

I have some different colours here today. Each of these colours is to represent a person, with their own gifts,  
talents, strengths. On our own, we have: yellow, red and blue. Three individual colours. If we keep these colours  
separate, we will only ever have three colours. But what if we combine them? If we combine some of our yellow  
with some of red, we get – orange. If we combine some of our red with some of our blue, we get – purple. Now let's  
combine some of our blue with some of our yellow; we get green. By joining together, we don't have just three  
colours anymore, we have six! We can keep joining different combinations of our colours to get more colours.



God designed us to come together. He has given us family and friends that we can share with and be with. We can help each other achieve great things – just like red and blue helped each other to achieve purple, each of us can support other people.

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father

Thank you for blessing us with the gift of community. You have given us family and friends to help, and to help us.

Please remind us that we have many gifts to share with others.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### **HYMN TiS 584 Just as I am**

**BIBLE READINGS:** 1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

### **REFLECTION: Created For Community**

In our reading from Galatians this morning we are reminded that we are all one in Christ Jesus. "The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law" (Gal. 3:24-25). Our sin no longer binds us, Christ paved the way for our sins to be wiped free. What a great place to start this Sunday morning, in a place of knowing we are free from sin, to live our lives with the promise of eternal life.

Now we go on to verse 28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28). We are all one in Christ Jesus.

In a world where we are encouraged to stand on our own two feet, to demonstrate our strength and courage through independence... it is easy to lose sight of the support networks God has blessed us with. But we are all one. We come together to share our commitment and love for God, and in doing so we form a community.

We can go back to the Ten Commandments, the law that leads us to Christ Jesus, and we find that all ten commandments are about relationships. The first four focus on our relationship with God and the last six are about our relationship with each other. In the New Testament we see how Jesus lives in community with those around him and many of the lessons are also about how we relate to God and others. God is also community, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three in one.

We have spent time over the last couple of years in isolation. Our face-to-face contact has been cut off from friends, from family, from colleagues. Never has the impact of community and of connection felt so important than when it is taken away. We have had to adapt, get by, and accept the difficulties – but here is the clincher – for the short-term only. We are not meant to live like this.

When we strive for independence we are going to be disappointed. Because we were created for community. We were meant to live this life with other people. With other people work becomes easier. Try moving heavy objects by yourself instead of with the help of a few friends.

How many of you were born independent? You were born and could you care for yourself? Could you live on your own and make your own decisions? No, we were born dependent on others, dependent on community.

We were created for community in the beginning, but it is also our goal, our destination, and the benefits are two-fold.



1. We come together to support. We find comfort in our community.
2. We come together to serve. We can achieve greater things when working as a community.

When we come together to support one another, we can be comforted in the fact that we are not alone. We do not need to be self-reliant, nor does God expect us to be. In our struggles we can reach out and find help.

I grew up on a property, surrounded by aunts and uncles, grandparents and cousins. My family were pivotal to my community. As an adult I have made career and life choices that have seen me live in six different towns across different states and countries over the past 16 years. That is a lot of starting from scratch. A lot of building up my community, my support networks from scratch each time. And in every new town God has provided. We are not expected to live independently; God provides for us a community to support us.

Josh and I, along with 20 000 other residents of Greater Shepparton found ourselves quarantined last year. Quarantined but not isolated. We were seeking food - our neighbour reached out and supported us with groceries. I was seeking Christian connections – within 48 hours of asking Loni, there was a Friday night fellowship zoom. God provides us with the support we seek. The support we need.

As I think about a community, I think of the quilt my mum made for me when I went to boarding school. She chose different colours and patterns of fabric that together form a piece of beauty. This beauty would not be achieved without the diversity of fabric, just as the beauty of our community would not be achieved without the diverse individuals.

This brings me to the second benefit of a community.

Together we can achieve so much more than on our own. Just as the beauty of the quilt is achieved through different fabrics being joined together, so too can great things be achieved when our community works together towards a common goal.

On our own we can only achieve so much. Together we help so many more. Individually we could not serve our community as successfully as we can when we work together on projects such as the Winter Shelter. Think of all the people that play a part in the success of this project – together we achieve more.

The apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God’s grace in various forms.” When we serve we are sharing God’s love and grace.

What can you do to serve your community?

What can you do to serve at church?

What can you do to serve within the community?

What can you do to serve within Australia? Internationally?

We can praise God, sharing His love and grace by serving within our communities.

Eternal God, you have blessed us with communities that we may support and to support us. Allow your Spirit to work through us as we serve within our communities. Help us to share your love and grace with others. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**HYMN TiS 209 And can it be**

**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 569 Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer**

## 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.

**Doxology:**

**TiS 771 Now to him who loved us, gave us**

**Blessing:**

**TiS 778 Shalom to you now**

