



Order of Service
Sunday 31st July 2022

TIS 690 – Beauty for brokenness

TIS 717 – Give thanks

Welcome and Call to Worship

We are gathered here today as the people of God in this place at this time. We gather on the lands of the traditional owners who never ceded their land. We pay respects to the traditional elders of this land past and present and pay respects to any elders here with us today.

We gather at this time and place
We gather together as the people of God
We gather together as the body of Christ

We gather here with whatever is happening in our life still within our minds and hearts
Let us take a moment to close our eyes, to breathe deeply, to relax our shoulders and to be present in the here and now.

Let us worship God.

Song – TIS 693 Come as you are

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Our prayer of thanksgiving this morning will be Psalm 49 read as a response.

Psalm 49

¹Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

²**both low and high, rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**

⁵Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,

⁶**those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?**

⁷Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it.

⁸**For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice**

⁹that one should live on forever and never see the grave.

¹⁰**When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.**

¹¹Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own.

¹²**Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.**

¹³Such is the fate of the foolhardy, the end of those who are pleased with their lot. Selah

¹⁴**Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; straight to the grave they descend, and their form shall waste away; Sheol shall be their home.**

¹⁵But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah

¹⁶**Do not be afraid when some become rich, when the wealth of their houses increases.**

¹⁷For when they die they will carry nothing away; their wealth will not go down after them.

¹⁸**Though in their lifetime they count themselves happy—for you are praised when you do well for yourself—**

¹⁹they will go to the company of their ancestors, who will never again see the light.

²⁰**Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.**



Confession and Declaration of forgiveness

Loving God,
please don't let us get away with spoiling our own lives.

Whenever we become a fool,
and think more about toys and clothes and things than about being loved by Jesus and loving you,
please be hard on us and save us from ourselves.

Clear our muddled brains, put our own Spirit in our hearts,
that we may again start acting less like a fool and more like your true children.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen!

Family of God, lift up your spirits with thanksgiving to God whose nature is always to have mercy. All who have come clean and sought forgiveness, shall never need to revisit old shame again. The untarnished future is God's and it is now offered to you with open hands. You are forgiven, all things have become new! Through Christ Jesus our Saviour!

Thanks be to God! Amen

Introduction activity

Readings

Hosea 11:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Song - TIS 547 Be thou my vision

Message

Vices and virtues

A week ago I spent 5 days in Melbourne doing an intensive subject called Monastic Wisdom, learning and experiencing the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers living in Egypt in the 4th century. One of the Monks or desert fathers that we learnt about was called Evagrius. This early writer from the early monastic tradition wrote about vices and virtues. He said that we were all susceptible in our lives to vices – such as:

- greed, pride, envy, anger, lust, gluttony, laziness.

But, alongside this were virtues that were available to us as a sort of counteractive element to those vices. Virtues such as:

- Continence, Charity, Temperance, Courage, Patience, Prudence, Understanding

In this parable of the rich man, Jesus was not saying that wealth itself was what the problem was but rather the use of that wealth and the attitude of that wealth. It is the vice of greed and gluttony that are what is wrong here.

When we pay attention and heed the wisdom of Jesus and of people like Evagrius, then we take the focus away from these things that consume us – changing our attitude from that of feeling like we want or need more, towards a different attitude.

It is not the wealth itself that is the problem, but it is the blind pursuit of wealth and this leading to the development of the vices of pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony and laziness. But when people turn to God then the virtues come out and these vices no longer take hold in our life.



The rich man had enough to feed all the hungry with what was stored in his barn, but he didn't do that, he wanted to keep it for himself. This is not about giving to religious causes or to the church, but about not accumulating money in the first place. Instead of being rich in accumulating things, we are directed to sell our possessions and give away the proceeds and in that way put our affections and our efforts where God's heart is – with the poor.

We need to clear away that which clutters our life, that which distracts us from time, energy, effort, and love towards God. When we change our focus from these things then we are more able to serve others as God calls us to.

Song TIS 690 – Beauty for brokenness

Notices and Offering

Prayers for others

Song TIS 473 – community of Christ

Blessing

As we go from this time of community in worship together,
may our Creator always show us and remind us of the abundance that is around us always
May Jesus guide us to share what we have in abundance with others.
May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen the virtues that are within you.

Go out to love and serve the world.
Amen

Sending out song

TIS 782 Go now in peace

