



Order of Service
30th October 2022

INTROIT : TIS. 716 'Father, we adore you.' [Spirit... Jesus...]

CALL to WORSHIP : [*From Ps. 121*] *Let us worship God...*
I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,
from this time on and forever more.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of COUNTRY: We respectfully acknowledge the tribes of the Yorta Yorta people, traditional custodians of the lands & waters of this region. We pay our respects to their elders, past & present; & to their cultures.

WELCOME: The Lord be with you! - - - . Welcome to friends from Dookie U.C.

This week brings us to Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day. It's a good time to give thanks for the 'great cloud of witnesses' - those who surround us & whose faith has helped our own faith journeys.

** We have a different service this morning – the focus is on Scripture readings & hymns that give us strength in challenging times. Thank you to those who've contributed suggestions...

HYMN : TIS. 165 'Praise our God, the great Creator.'

PRAYERS of PRAISE and CONFESSION :

Loving God our maker, all creation sings your praise! All the children of eternity sing of your glory. We, who have been found by the love of Christ, add our voices to theirs.

Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who weaves us into a community. Today may we worship and honour you as you deserve. And may our living show our gratitude for your work in our lives.

Loving God, you know us so well - this morning, some have come here feeling confident, some feeling anxious. Some find faith easy, some find it difficult.

Our love can be patchy; & not all our decisions are right.

We turn to you for help because you offer us your love, grace & hope.

Please forgive our wrong-doings & failures, & set us free.

For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord & Saviour. Amen.



ASSURANCE : Friends, God does not turn a deaf ear to us, but listens to us.... does not shame us, but reaches out to heal us. So hear the good news, in Christ's word of grace to each of us: '*Your sins are forgiven...*' **Thanks be to God....**

EARLY WORD : '*How to Pray*' from **Matthew 6**. [*Chn's Story Book Bible*]

HYMN : TIS. 146 'God who made the earth.'

SCRIPTURE READING : prophet Isaiah speaks a word of hope to God's people, exiled in Babylon... **Isaiah 43 : 1-5a.**

HYMN : TIS. 647 'Comfort, comfort all my people.'

DISCUSS with neighbour/s : 'What has been your experience in recent days? What concerns do you have?'

SCRIPTURE READING: *Romans 8 : 35 – 39. Nothing can separate us from God's love.*

HYMN : TIS. 153 '**God is love, let heaven adore him.**'

SCRIPTURE READING : *Psalms 46 : 1-3, 10 & 11. Responsive.*

For the Word of the Lord - **thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE..... 'Be still???'

This morning we've re-visited some of the resources available to us from our ancestors in the faith, as we've looked at Scripture verses and hymn words.

Down through the years, God's people have been through many life-changing & life-threatening events. We benefit from their willingness to record their responses. They shared the nitty-gritty of how their faith was challenged, & how they fell back on God's trustworthiness.

Psalms 46 is a great example. Despite the storms & dangers from the natural world, the writer reassures us '*The Lord of hosts IS WITH US.*' ...

But there's something else in this psalm: a reminder – '*BE STILL, and know that I am God.*'

We can readily become overwhelmed by events like the recent flood emergency. Whether or not we're personally affected, the questions arise - how to respond; where to begin; where to focus our energy? These can cause anxiety, & distract us from God's presence.

So, to 'Be still, and know that I am God' means we need to be intentional. To take the time & space to focus on God, to calm our breathing, to just be quiet. Then we find the strength is there, & the wisdom to decide what needs to be done.

HYMN : '**Be still and know that I am God.**' [Scrip. in Song 27]

OFFERING : Gracious God, although our gifts never compare with your generosity to us, thank you that you're pleased to receive what we offer. Please bless the gifts we bring, & our lives; help us to use wisely all that you give us. Amen.



NOTICES & SHARING TIME.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE : *We pray for...*

People affected by floods – here; other areas

Displaced people

Emergency workers, chaplains

Ukraine war; leaders

Rev. Kerrie & Don

Rev. Loni

Help us to see where we can be part of the answer to our prayers.

*We join in **The Lord's prayer... Our Father in heaven.... & the glory are yours. Now & forever. Amen.***

HYMN : TIS. 28 "God is our strength & refuge."

BENEDICTION : *[Rev. Helen Richmond, U.C.A.]*

May God be a smooth path ahead of you, and a bright star to guide you.

May his loving eyes be upon you today, tomorrow and always.

May the God of love strengthen us in our love for others.

May Christ Jesus be our living hope, and the Holy Spirit surprise us on our way. Amen.

BLESSING SONG :

"May the Lord, mighty Lord,

Bless and keep you forever.

Grant us peace, perfect peace,

Courage in every endeavour.

Lift your eyes and seek his face

And his grace forever.

May the Lord, mighty Lord,

Bless and keep you forever. " *Tune : Edelweiss.*

