



**Order of Service**  
**15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
Epiphany 2

**Introit: Sing Hosanna TIS 52**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

For this land

**We give thanks**

For the first peoples

**We give thanks**

We honour the custodians of sacred stories, of dreamings and the connections with the deep earth and the oceans.

**May we work together for the restoration of the land and sea and her peoples.**

**Safe Church**

Shepparton Uniting Church is a safe place for all to worship.

**May it be so.**

**Call to Worship**

Come everyone, come and see.

**We come to see the Saviour, the Lamb of God.**

Come and seek him, come and ask him.

**We come to stay a while with him.**

Come and see, then go and tell.

**Then go and tell some more.**

**Gathering prayer**

Jesus, whether we have known you for many years,  
or are just setting out on the fringes of discovery,  
we recognise that we have so much more to learn from you.

Today may we follow you more nearly,  
know you more clearly  
and love you more dearly, for your name's sake.  
Amen.

**Prayer of adoration based on Psalm 40**

**God of the Church,**

**you have put a new song on our lips.**

**You have raised us up and called us to be your people –  
and our desire is to do your will.**

**So, with our whole heart**

**we proclaim your faithfulness, love and truth.**

**In Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**



## Prayer of Confession

*Today we pray this together, but we speak in first person acknowledging, each of us, our own confession.*

Jesus, forgive me:  
for the times when I am so busy, I let you pass by.

Jesus, forgive me:  
for the times when I know you're there, but deliberately ignore you.

Jesus, forgive me:  
for the times when I don't share you with my friends  
because I'm scared to, or embarrassed to talk about you.

Jesus, I know there are times when I am not willing or able to take time out with you.

Help me to make space for you in my life – not by pushing everything else closer together,  
but by truly putting you **first** where you belong, and letting everything else fall into place around you.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
we have been made whole in you.  
You invite us to walk with you fresh each day.  
Thank you for wiping the slate clean.  
Amen.**

## Family Time

**Hymn: Jesus loves me TiS 229**

## Readings

### **1 Corinthians 1.1-9**

Salutation

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **John 1.29-42**

The Lamb of God

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did



not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

#### The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed[k]). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

#### Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

#### **Reflection:** Thought for the week from Roots on the Web.

When Facebook and Twitter first appeared, do you remember being bemused at, for example, a cake shop having 'followers'. How can you 'follow' a shop? Doesn't something have to be moving for you to follow it? Now phrases such as 'follow us on Twitter' are commonplace and unquestioned. But where does this following lead? If you follow someone – someone famous, perhaps – does it give you a true picture of who they are? Is it a picture you want to have?

In New Testament times, rabbis had followers – disciples whom they were training. John the Baptist had some; we heard of them in this week's Gospel reading. But John had made a discovery. He had seen something in his cousin Jesus that, perhaps, he wasn't expecting. And he didn't want to keep it to himself. Quite the opposite; he went out of his way to tell Andrew and his friends what he thought, even though it meant losing these disciples to Jesus.

But what he said was effective. Andrew was intrigued by this man Jesus. He went to see for himself. He accepted the invitation to find out more. And then he couldn't keep what he had seen to himself either. He went in search of his brother. This was not some sudden inspired grand plan to evangelise the world. It was just someone who thought his brother needed to know. So, he told him.

Peter didn't take it on trust either. He went to see too. And then he went and told others. Perhaps his friends, James and John – we don't know exactly; but we do know that he went on to tell many other people. He came. He saw. He told. And again. And again.

And what he told was quite simple, really: we've found the Messiah; come, and see.

And the story continues. But now it's our story to tell. We are the ones who have come to see. We are the ones who now have to repeat it to others. Our words, and especially our lives, need to be like signposts to Jesus, or like John's pointing finger. Behold! See!

Who are you going to tell this week?

#### **Hymn Jesus Put this Song TiS 670**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Offering**



### **Prayer after Offering**

Life-giving God,  
bless our giving and our living,  
as we follow the invitational way of Jesus. Amen.

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### **Baptism**

**During the baptism hymn: May the Feet of God TiS 779**

#### **Prayers of the people**

We come to the Lamb of God, on whom the Spirit rests,  
and we pray:

for all who preach, teach and model  
the good news of Jesus Christ and his kingdom.

**We pray to you, Lord Jesus.**

For all searching for purpose,  
or meaning or direction in their lives.

**We pray to you, Lord Jesus.**

For all who offer the hospitality of an open ear,  
a compassionate heart and a welcoming home.

**We pray to you, Lord Jesus.**

For those who light candles of hope  
and beacons of justice in this world.

**We pray to you, Lord Jesus.**

For all who live out the story of God's goodness and love  
in the dark and hurting places of our world.

**We pray to you, Lord Jesus.**

For ourselves, that we might be good news in our community.

**Gracious Jesus, take and use us for your name's sake.**

**Amen.**

#### **Sending**

Bless us, Jesus, as we step out the door.

Bless us Jesus, as we journey on into new days and new ways.

Help us to come closer to you and to draw others close to you too.

Amen.

#### **Blessing**

The blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

**Hymn: The power of your love TiS 685**

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