

MOSMAN UNITING CHURCH

14th March 2021

Lent 4

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GREETING & WELCOME

The Lord be with you!

And also with you

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We honour the Elders past, present and emerging, of the Cammeraygal People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

WE LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus Christ is a light to the World

Thanks be to God

HYMN (TiS) 107 'Sing praise and thanksgiving'

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 107

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

those he redeemed from trouble

and gathered in from the lands,

from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God,

forgive us
when we forget your love,
for ourselves and for others.

(silence)

Forgive us
when we hoard or discard resources
out of the rich bounty that you have given.

(silence)

Forgive us
when we fail to see our connectedness to you
and to our neighbour.

(silence)

Bring us back to you time after time
until we fix our eyes on you,
God of our salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The good news for us again today is that God's love and grace is plentiful for all. When we come asking for forgiveness we hear again the words of Christ for all God's people, 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God.

THE PEACE

God reconciles and unites us.

The peace of God which is beyond our understanding will guard our hearts and our thoughts in Jesus Christ.

In worship the greeting of peace is given with a sign.

As the words are spoken now, we may turn our hearts and thoughts to neighbours near and far, hearing and repeating the words:

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

HYMN 192 'Christ is the world's redeemer'

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

BIBLE READINGS

Numbers 21: 4-9

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 14-21

This is the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

REFLECTION *From Rev Duncan McDiarmid, video recording click on image*



HYMN 351 'Lift high the cross'

WORK & WITNESS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

O God, may these, our offerings, expand your work in the world and add gifts to many people's lives.

Bless all that we have given today. Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Loving and gracious God,

We bring you our prayers as we seek your guidance for our world and for our personal lives.

Lord, may we turn to you and listen to what you are saying and may we read the words of your Son Jesus Christ and put into practice his teachings. Help us, Lord, to live our lives with compassion, with wisdom and with confidence, knowing that you are there with us always, loving us and guiding us every day.

May our world become a place of loving kindness and care for the most vulnerable in our society. We pray for our leaders and politicians that they will lead with integrity and rise above personal ambition. We pray for those in the world still under the restrictions of Covid regulations and for those who have lost loved ones. Lord, bring them comfort. May all the health workers continue their wonderful work feeling strong and supported, knowing how important and caring their work has been and will continue to be for some time. Give them inner strength to deal with the heartbreaking situations they find themselves in.

We pray for the people of Myanmar, that the killing of civilians will stop immediately, and that peace will return to that country. There are many areas of

conflict and suffering in our world, Lord. We just pray for your rule to come on earth as it is in heaven, and for peace to descend.

There are people known to us personally who are going through hard times. We pray for them, Lord, now, in the silence...

Show us your way for our lives, Lord, both as a faith community and as individuals in this world.

In Jesus name we pray the prayer he taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BEING SENT ON GOD'S MISSION

HYMN 571 'Forth in your name'

BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.
May we live in that love wherever we go.

And may the blessing of God who created us,
Christ who redeems us,
and the Spirit who sustains us,
be with us now and always.

AMEN AMEN AMEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to Louise for leading our worship.

With much gratitude to Rev Duncan McDiarmid from Eurobodalla Uniting Church for sharing his reflection with us today.

Prayers sourced with permission from UCA online worship resources, Church of Scotland weekly worship material and Spill the Beans resource team.

If you have concerns or needs which you think would be helped by talking to a minister of religion, we suggest you contact the Reverend Michael Thomas, minister of Crows Nest Uniting Church. Look on our website for details.

Revised Common Lectionary. Our readings for next Sunday will be chosen from the following list. Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33.

ICC Prayer: We pray for Liam McKenna and the people of Neutral Bay Uniting Church.

Service leader and prayers of the people: Louise **Reader:** Stephen

Singer: Judy Rough