



Eastwood Uniting Church

Epiphany 2

17 January, 2021

A sense of Humour



An Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wallumattagal people of the Dharug/Eora nation,
the first inhabitants of this place.

We honour them for their custodianship of the land
on which we gather today.

We Gather in Praise of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is near,
***as close as the breath we breathe
surprising us with love in times of doubt.***

God is far,
***like echoes of eternity
and sounds of angel song in the splendor of the universe.***

God is a small voice -
breathing into our souls vast wisdom;
and God is a grand voice -
***claiming the ground for love
amid seductive clamours for power.***

God speaks to our hearts
***in splendor
and, specially, in vulnerability.***

Pitt St Liturgy alt. 15/1/12

HYMN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js8RtT0mJpc> Tune: Two Oaks

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen, Used By Permission CCLI Licence No. 65422

A PRAYER IN HUMILITY

Gracious God in Jesus,
we are those who carry the name of your friends,
though some may find us inauthentic in our claim to be 'Christ's ones.'

Come, be our brave friend, Christ Jesus.

We are those who sometimes hold you to ourselves,
forgetting to introduce you to others,

enjoying the in-turned life of comfortable relationships and long-held faith,
resting in old habits and well-organised rituals
rather than the challenge which comes from new companions,
especially those who raise tough questions for us.

***Love us enough to face us with the truth,
and then forgive us, we pray,
for we come to you in faith. Amen.***

Pitt St Liturgy alt. 15/1/12

HUMILITY MEETS GRACE !

God in Christ Jesus looks upon us with love.
The heart of our God is gracious and eternally renewing.

Thanks be to God!

Pitt St Liturgy alt. 15/1/12

DOXOLOGY

***Amen, siya kudu misa.
Amen, siya kudu misa.
Amen Baba, Amen Baba,
Amen, siya kudu misa.***

***Amen, we praise your name, O Lord.
Amen, we praise your name, O Lord.
Amen, amen, amen, amen.
Amen, we praise your name, O Lord.***

Verse 1 in Swahili. Words by S C Molefe from *Together in Song* 704 Used by Permission CAL Licence # 555

THE PEACE

Resist corruption with violence?
No, Jesus told Peter to put away his sword
because violence
only gives birth to more violence.

John 18. 11

Benjamin L. Corey alt., Was Jesus A Pacifist? June 1, 2016

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We Listen for word of God

FROM A BIBLICAL WITNESS

Listen for a faith expressed by the ancient Hebrews.

1 Samuel 3.1-10

This is the witness of God's People!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRHltbRz7ml> Tune *Stories of Jesus* MHB 858

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here;
scenes by the wayside, tales by the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee;
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me:
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love-light of Jesus face.

Tell how the sparrow that twitters on yonder tree
and the sweet meadow-side lily may speak to me;
give me their message, for I would hear
how Jesus taught us our Father's care.

Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilea;
and how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my saviour for me was slain:
sad ones or bright ones, so that they be,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

William Henry Parker 1845-1929

FROM A BIBLICAL GOSPEL

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel.

John 1.43-51

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us

Thanks be to God!

Iona Abbey Worship Book p 18

A CONTEMPORARY WITNESS 'Awestruck!'

We Respond to God's Character of Grace

HYMN <https://youtu.be/m7lahycmvsY> Tune *Slane* TiS 547

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife!
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.

© 1974 Walter Farquharson. CCLI

AN EXPERIMENT IN FAITH

I invite you
to join me now
as we experiment in expressing our faith.

Let us affirm our faith.

***For the Christ who walked in friendship;
for the Christ who could be seen
as one that others loved and wanted to know;
for a Christ who was not
some distant, dispassionate wise teacher;
for holiness cloaked in the humility of Jesus of Nazareth;
for the God-ness Jesus brought close to humankind;
we are thankful.***

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us pray.

***Call to our hearts now, O God,
invite us towards your loving kindness
as we bring our offerings to you. Amen.***

Let us pray.

***Add your generous life to ours, O God,
expand our gifts like loaves and fishes
that we may image your love to others, we pray. Amen.***

OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

With all our heart
and with all our mind
and with all our strength,
let us pray with God in the Universe,

For this good earth,
this holy creation,
and for the wisdom and will
to cherish,
understand,
reverence,
rightly use,
and conserve it,

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

For all in danger, hunger, or sorrow,
for those aged and infirm,
those widowed and orphaned,
those sick and suffering in body or mind,
for prisoners and refugees,
poor and oppressed,
unemployed and destitute,
bereaved and alone,
war-torn and wounded,
and for all who care for them,

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

For all who hold positions of trust
in the worlds of religion, education, government,
business, community, culture, and family,

that they may promote the well-being of all creation,

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

For any who have caused us pain,
for those we struggle to understand and strain to love,
for all who do not love us, or consider themselves our enemies:
may they be truly blessed
and we be fully reconciled,

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

For our anxieties about politics and government,
for the United States of America and its critical condition this week,
for sufferers of flood and bushfire

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

For ourselves
and our circles of family and friends,
for the grace to learn, desire, and do your will
humbly in our daily life and work,

***Lord, we seek to fill full our prayers
in our daily actions.***

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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve God in Each Other

We shall go out with hope of resurrection.
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on.
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted.
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed.
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken.
We'll find a word for those whose lips are sealed.
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
vibrating love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joys with those who still are weeping,
chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief.
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all within the circles of our love.

We shall go out with hope of resurrection.
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on.
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted.
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed.
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

June Boyce-Tillman © 1993 Stainer and Bell, Let, London & Women in Theology
Used by Permission CAL Licence # 200

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

May our actions become your flesh, great God.
May we linger with intent to care.
May we breach the peace with justice
and pay you more than lip-service.
May we serve you
with our whole lives.

Amen.



Minister: Rev Ian Pearson