



Eastwood Uniting Church

Epiphany 5

7 February, 2021

The Wonder of Grace



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.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

We Gather in Praise of God

YOU ARE WELCOME!

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD IN ALL PEOPLE

Gather us in, great God!

***The lost and the lonely,
the broken and breaking,
the tired and the aching,
who long for the nourishment
found at your feast.***

Gather us *all* in, great God!

***The done and the doubting,
the wishing and wondering,
the puzzled and pondering,
who long for the company
found at your feast.***

HYMN

Tune *Gather us in* TiS 474

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen CCLI 65422

A RECOGNITION OF AWE & VULNERABILITY

Let us acknowledge our incompleteness.

God in community,
***we have gifts we embody
and gifts we discover
which we too often keep to ourselves.***

God in grace,
***you call us to healing and wholeness.
Yet we hold onto our hurts
and pass them on to others.***

Break into our consciousness.
***Inspire us with your Spirit in forgiveness
so we may forgive ourselves
and those who offend us.***

Expand our hearts
so we may discern your need within others.

Open our hands and arms
so we might embody your grace.

Embrace your potential in us
***and reach out through us
in creative service and generous love.***

Origin unknown

GOD'S GRACE IS GENEROUS!

Friends, nothing we do or believe
can make God love us more.

Nothing we can do or believe
can make God love us less.

We are forgiven!

Thank God!

We Listen for word of God

YOUNG PEOPLE'S TIME

FROM THE BIBLICAL WITNESSES

Listen for words of faith in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Isaiah 40.21-31

This is the witness of God's People!

Thanks be to God!

Listen for words of faith in early Christian writings.

1 Corinthians 9.16-23

This is the witness of God's People!

Thanks be to God!

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel.

Mark 1.29-39

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

HYMN Tune *Dunedin* TiS 691

Faith will not grow from words alone,
from proofs provided, scripture known;
our faith must feel its way about,
and live with question-marks and doubt.

The pattern Jesus showed, we share:
life come through death, hope through despair.
God is made known in brokenness,
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.

The church still tells how Jesus came
through death to glorious life again –
the strangest story! Yet, maybe,

our faith will thrive on mystery.
Faith takes the little that we know,
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!
Love and take courage, come what may;
Christ will be with us on the way.

Elizabeth J Smith, CCLI 65422

A CONTEMPORARY WITNESS 'When Jesus couldn't care less'

We Respond to Grace Unlimited

HYMN

Tune *Lord of the Dance* TiS 242

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and the stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance, and I still go on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you as you live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain

Sydney Carter CCLI 65422

AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Let us together bring the Word to life.

***Around every corner
and beyond every horizon
is a new measure of abundant life
that invites us again and again
to look with new eyes
on those around us
and at the waiting world far from us.
For this insight
we give God thanks and praise.***

COMPASSION & COMMUNITY

PRAYERS FOR THE WAY

Tender hearted God, we pray:

For people in war ravaged countries
where there is conflict violence and misery –

***we ask your healing
through the generosity of our giving
and our other actions today.***

For displaced people –
in refugee camps,
escaping from oppression,
crowded on unseaworthy boats
towed out to sea by unwelcoming countries,

***we ask your healing
through the generosity of our giving
and our other actions today.***

For people who are 'doing it tough;' –
unemployed,
living with disability or terminal illness,
in despair over broken relationships,
grieving the death of one we love,

***we ask your healing
through the generosity of our giving
and our other actions today.***

For teachers
that their important work of education be acknowledged,
that education might be an invitation to journey in wonder,

we ask your healing

***through the generosity of our giving
and our other actions today.***

For people living or dying with COVID 19
and the many, many more
who are dying today of dysentery, hunger and other preventable diseases.

***we ask your healing
through the generosity of our giving
and our other actions today.***

Healing God,
may we, together with women and men
who experience you in *all* the religions of your world,
show all people
your love and welcome.

We offer our prayers to you, God,
who invites us
to mend what is broken,
to bridge what is alienated,
and to heal what is diseased.

Amen

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 OFFER OUR GIFTS IN GRATEFULNESS TO GOD

We make our offering
in love of God and neighbour.

Generous Creator,
you have blessed us with abundance:

***This beautiful earth and all we enjoy,
health and strength, family and friends;***

***work and rest;
home and belongings.***

We are blessed indeed.

***To support this community and provide for those who serve us,
to help those in need and extend our mission.
In proportion to what we have earned and saved,
in gratitude we now joyfully give.***

Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's World

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation,
or the loss of all that they cherish,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and transform their pain into joy.

A Fourfold Franciscan Blessing

RECESSIONAL HYMN Tune *You are Holy* TiS 753

**First sung in unison.
Then twice as a round**

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near;
blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness,
you are present,
let the cosmos praise you Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, our Lord!

P.G. Harling CCLI 65422

MUSICAL POSTLUDE



Minister - Rev Ian Pearson