

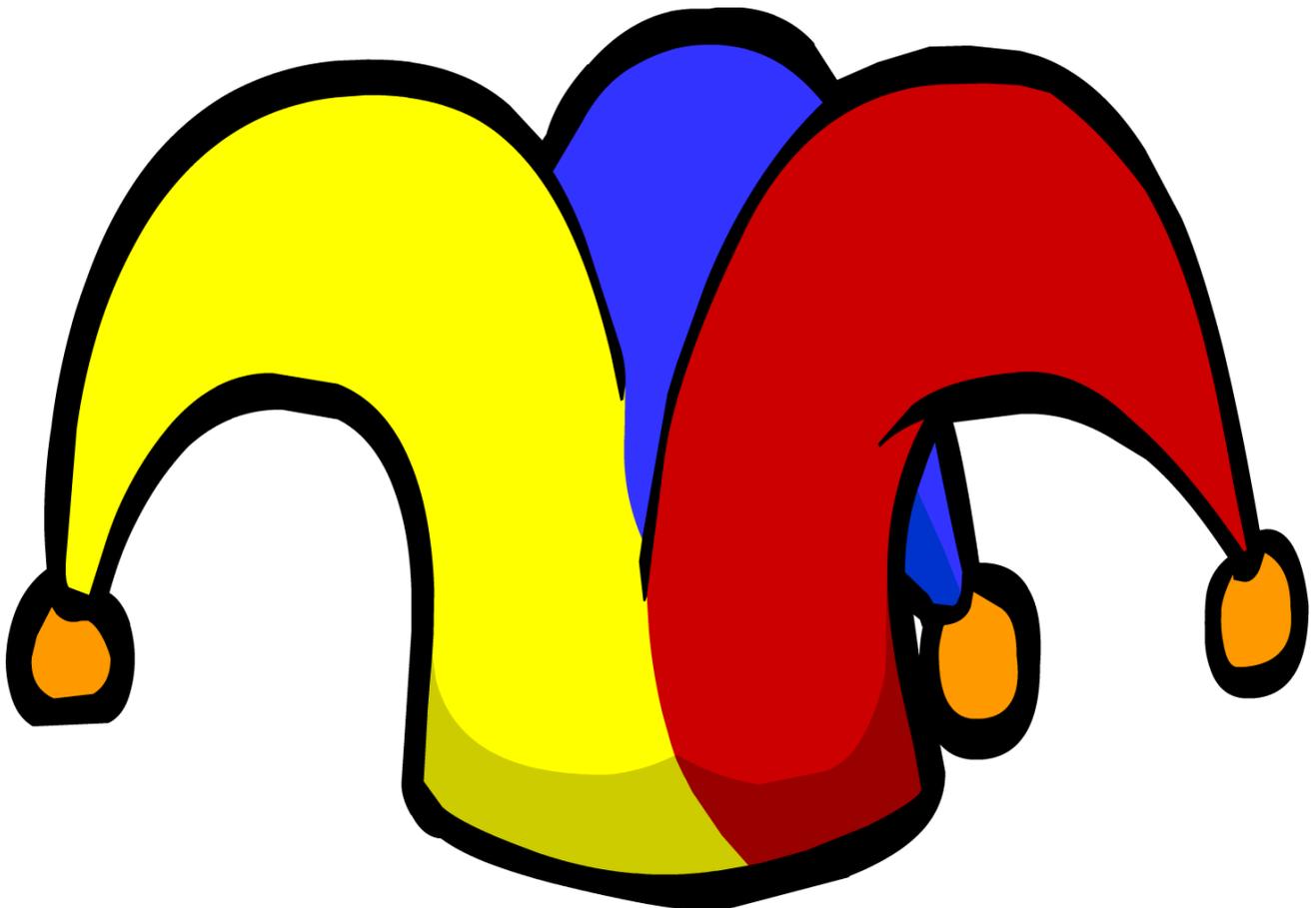
Eastwood Uniting Church



Lent 3

7 March, 2021

Jesus the Fool



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

A CALL TO CELEBRATION

Blessed, blessed, blessed are we!
The sound of this gift sings down the centuries.

***Blessed, blessed, blessed are we!
The God of Christ Jesus looks upon us with compassionate grace,
loving us all in our ordinary human efforts,
and hovering over us in warm disposition.***

Blessed, blessed, blessed are we!
Our God showers us with encouragement.
Let us sing to the God of our salvation.

HYMN

TiS 227

When morning guilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

To God, the word on high
the hosts of angels cry:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
let mortals, too upraise
their voice in hymns of praise
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
let air, and sea, and sky,
from depth to height, reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, when day is past,
of all my thoughts the last,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
the night becomes as day,
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
be this eternal song
through all the ages long,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Anon German 19th century

A RECOGNITION OF HUMILITY & GRATITUDE

Saviour, hanging on the cross, declaring God's love for us,
you are forgiveness.

Beside you hangs a thief,
beneath you waits Mary the forgiven,
***and all around watch
those many people to whom you give new life and hope.***

A New Zealand Prayer Book alt., p 130

HUMILITY MEETS GRACE !

Forgiven sinners become your body
and your Church;
***may the reconciliation we share
bring your gospel not only to us
but to all the world.***

A New Zealand Prayer Book alt., p 130

Please stand

DOXOLOGY

Sung twice

***Hallelujah! We sing your praises
all our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises
all our hearts are filled with gladness!***

From South Africa (TiS 541) Sing refrain only

THE PEACE

May the adventurous Spirit of Jesus be always with you.
And also with you.

Please share the peace with your immediate neighbours

We Listen for word of God

YOUNG PEOPLE'S TIME

HYMN Tune *Kelvin Grove* TiS 679

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

From Heaven Shall Not Wait by J. Bell & G. Maule 1994. Used with Permission.

WE SEND OUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY & LEARN

FROM BIBLICAL WITNESSES

Listen for a faith expressed by ancient Hebrews.

Exodus 20. 1-17

This is the witness of God's People!

Thanks be to God!

Listen for faith expressed by an early Christian writer.

1 Corinthians 1. 18-25

This is the witness of God's People!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN Not the powerful, not the privileged TiS 288

Not the powerful, not the privileged,
not the famous in the land,
but the no-ones and the needy
were the first to hold God's hand.

Not a well-established family
with an heirloom christening shawl,
but a homeless, wandering couple
parented the Lord of All.

Not, at first, to little children,
nor to those who faith burned bright,
but to adults, stalled in darkness,
angels brought God's love and light.

God, determined to be different
from the standards we think best,
in his choice of friends and family,
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

Not obsessed by our achievements,
worldly wealth or family tree,
may we, in and with God's chosen,
find our fondest pedigree.

Words and Music *Innkeepers and Light Sleepers*

Used by permission Wild Goose Publications John L. Bell 1949 – CCLI 65422

A CONTEMPORARY WITNESS 'The Fooldom of God'

We Respond to Grace Unlimited

HYMN Tune *Burton* AHB 491 ii

The least in God's kingdom is greater than John
for God is not founding the kingdom upon
the standards we use to determine and gauge
who ranks with the greatest and least of our age.

The world in which people and nations are classed
and property, priv'lege and profits dispersed
according to wealth and its systems of caste
will be in the kingdom completely reversed.

A shift in the world has already begun
through wonders and healings that Jesus has done
among those not favoured by riches or birth
yet bearing God's image of infinite worth.

Christ, topple the ladder of arrogant thought
we climb in our struggle for status and gain
that we may embody the kingdom you brought
through love that transfigures injustice and pain.

By Thomas H. Troeger, 1994 *Borrowed Light* Used by Permission CCLI 65422

Please remain standing

AN EXPERIMENT IN FAITH

I invite you to experiment with me
in what it might mean
to live in the Fooldom of God.

***We love a God who is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and sun rises over barbed wire.***

***We love a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.***

***We live a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action
and into vulnerability
and into the streets.***

***We commit ourselves
to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility,
take risks,
live powerfully
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life
and be used by a holy spirit***

**for God's new community
of hope.**

Amen.

Pitt St Church Liturgy *alt*, 11 March, 2013

COMPASSION & COMMUNITY

OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

Most loving God,
while most of us have easy lives,
around us exists
 wide bewilderment,
 suffering,
 injustice,
 and hopelessness.

Want and grief are so overwhelming,
that we sometimes try to disengage from the reality
and pretend that it does not exist.

But now, in these prayers,
we engage our mind and soul once more
with your passionate love for all human beings.

We picture them in our minds:
 persecuted minorities
 in Indonesia and China,
 hungry ones
 in parts of Africa and western Sydney,
 those who endure dire poverty in India,
 those who live with entrenched hatreds
 in Ireland and the Middle East.

***Holy Friend,
bless all who attempt to bring aid and peace,
along with those who fund these actions
through organisations like Uniting World.
By your Holy Spirit, change these lives for the better, we ask.***

We picture the heads of nations;
those powerful speech makers and handshakers
 who head the large and prosperous Nations,
and those others
 who govern the weak, poverty stricken countries.
Bless every leader with a humility and discernment

appropriate to the needs of their people.

***Holy Friend,
bless all who attempt to bring aid and peace,
along with those who fund these actions
through organisations like Uniting World.
By your Holy Spirit, change these lives for the better, we ask.***

We picture our own political leaders;
Prime Minister and Government,
the Opposition and minor parties;
cabinet ministers and hard working backbenchers.

Help our nation to better care
for the weak,
the exploited,
the abused,
the unemployed,
the angry and alienated,
the forgotten and the misunderstood.

***Holy Friend,
bless all who attempt to bring aid and peace,
along with those who fund these actions
through organisations like Uniting World.
By your Holy Spirit, change these lives for the better, we ask.***

We picture the heads of the churches;
Moderators,
Archbishops,
Presidents,
Assemblies and Synods.

We call to mind also
leaders of local congregations:
parish councillors,
ministers,
priests,
deacons and elders,
lay preachers and pastoral assistants.

May they all have the mind that was in Christ Jesus,
treating
minorities with the same respect as majorities,
and the fractious with the same patience as the easy going members.

Holy Friend,

***bless all who attempt to bring aid and peace,
along with those who fund these actions
through organisations like Uniting World.
By your Holy Spirit, change these lives for the better, we ask.***

We picture

those sad and sick among us,
anxious ones and painfully shy,
lonely ones and awkward,
infirm people and those of extreme age,
terminally ill ones and those mentally confused,
sorrowing ones and those disconsolate,
people hurting badly from broken marriages
or embroiled in misunderstanding
between young ones and their parents.

***Holy Friend,
bless all who attempt to bring aid and peace,
along with those who fund these actions
through organisations like Uniting World.
By your Holy Spirit, change these lives for the better, we ask.***

Most loving God,
gather up all the prayers,
and the unspoken, secret yearnings of our hearts,
and respond to them according to your great wisdom and love.

Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!

Bruce Prewer *Internet Lectionary Resource* Year A, 2002, Pentecost 22, 20 October

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Lord Jesus taught his first disciples, so we pray,

***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.***

OFFERING

God's love has no bounds.
So let us give freely
to causes beyond ourselves:
in the way of costly love.

Let us pray:

***Wonder-filled God,
may our scraps of paper
and bits of metal
and direct debit entries
serve as symbols
of our deep desire
for your love to transform
our time,
effort,
and substance
into works of creative compassion
for each other,
for our wider community,
and for the world beyond,
through this our church.***

Amen.

Jim Burklo blog alt. 28/7/14

We go to Serve God in the World

HYMN 110 Tune Mit Freuden Zart TiS 479 Sing praise to God!

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,

God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud your praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

Translator Frances Elizabeth Cox. Author: Johann Jakob Schütz (1675)

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Go with all the wisdom of the Fooldom of God,
which asserts:

***that goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death
and the profane is exceedingly sacred.***

May the voice of Christ Jesus
speak into our darkness,
the love of God
reach far into the shadows with gentleness
and God's Holy Spirit
turn us firmly towards the light.

Amen!

MUSICAL POSTLUDE



Minister: Rev Ian Pearson

