



DRAFT

Confronting Temptation

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Creating Community with God

Acknowledgement - God's Land

*When we see the Land as markers in the revelation of God,
we stop thinking of ourselves (humanity) as the centre of all creation.
When we see God as the centre and God's creation as receiving life from God,
we see a different pattern, helping us to find our special place.*

Warami Mittigar! *[Darug: Warm Welcome]*

This is God's Land.

Many have gone before who have honoured God by caring for the Land,
in the ways they have lived and in the stories they have shared.

We give thanks for the Wallumattagal clans of the Dharug-speaking peoples
who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land and living in harmony with it.

May God honour and bless them – now and to eternity.

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A CALL TO WORSHIP WITH THANKSGIVING

As people of hope and wonder, as people of peace and joy,
as disciples of Jesus, wandering his Way—let's get ready to worship God!
To prepare ourselves, join me in the Prayer of the Three Deep Breaths!

Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, "Thank you, Creator."
Thank you, Creator.

Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, "Thank you, Jesus Christ."
Thank you, Jesus Christ.

Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, "Thank you, Holy Spirit."
Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Thank you, loving God, for being with us, always,
and helping us to make time in this place.
We ask you to help us remember
all the moments of gratitude that have filled this week,
and we ask you to help us look forward
to all of the moments of gratitude that are still to come.
Blessed are you, forever and ever.
And the people said—
Amen!

SONG of PRAISE TiS 569 Guide me O thou great redeemer

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 hold me with thy powerful hand:
 bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore,
 feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain
 whence the living waters flow:
 let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through:
 strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.

William Williams 1717-1791 tr Peter Williams 1722-1796 and William Williams
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CONFESSION and ASSURANCE of GOD's GRACE

You created humanity to be 'very good',
yet in the stories of scripture we see the human habit
of redefining 'what is good' as 'what we want'... or 'what we think we can manage'.
Yet, what we say we want is not always very good for us and for your creation.
What we can manage forgets your call to us to move mountains in faith.
Our world too often resists your version of what is 'very good'.
We get confused. We choose what is good in our own eyes.
We too easily forget you and the challenging Way of Jesus.

[Reflection: Turn your eyes upon Jesus]

We ask you to come upon us, gracious God.
We ask you to heal brokenness, to show mercy,
to restore us to fullness of life.
We ask this for ourselves, our community and our world.

Hear the good news according to the Apostle Paul:

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

God forgives and restores us!

Thanks be to God!

Human and Divine – encountering God's story

A TIME FOR EVERYONE

Prayer for Growing in Faith

SONG Is the Lord with us? © Robin Mann

1. They were moving through the desert —
they were hungry and sore —
and they started asking loudly, "What for?!"

Why are we here? Where are we going?
Don't like the scenery, don't like the plot.
Is the Lord with us, Is the Lord with us,
Is the Lord with us, with us or not?

2. Some are hungry, some are greedy,
and there's always a war.
So we keep on asking loudly, "What for?!" (chorus)

[bridge]

Is the Lord with us
when the house is burning to the ground?
Is the Lord with us when a child is dead?
Is the Lord with us
when we have so much it weighs us down,
while a countless number don't even have bread?

3. Though we know your love in Jesus,
in his dying and pain,
reassure us when the world seems insane. (chorus)

SACRED STORIES from SCRIPTURE

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

For strange stories of death and life

Thanks be to God!

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

For the story of Jesus' love for the world
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

MESSAGE

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE (Lead us on our journey, p.109 Eggs and Ashes, by Ruth Harvey)

God, our God,
you have called us to be a people
on the move;
travelling light,
dying to live,
ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

You have called us to be a people
with a purpose;
travelling without a map,
travelling to where we are led,
sustained by your Spirit,
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.

You have called us, your people,
to be the church.
But we are a church with problems:
too strong for the weak,
too staid for the young,
too respectable for the poor,
too divided for mission,
too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,
too unsure of our message to speak to the world.

Move us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to go.
Open our eyes on the way
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,
who can bring colour to our lives.

Take us on our journey
from where we are to what you want us to be;
so that we become a community
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,
all are valued and no one is made feel inadequate,
all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

lead us on our journey
from who we are to who you want us to be;
so that patience is built into us,
kindness is assumed in us,
gentleness is part of us,
compassion flows from us,
truth is second nature to us,
and the commitment of love is part of us.

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter –
the journey towards death and resurrection.
Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

COMMUNION HYMN TiS 526 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord. | 3 | Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's son;
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord. |
| 2 | Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord. | 4 | Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord. |

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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Good and gracious God,
You are the one in whom we live and move and have our being:
we are restless until we find our life in you.
We thank you, God, that from the beginning
You made the world, the seas, islands and continents,
and all their creatures.
You made humans, in your image, to live for you and each other.

We praise you, God our creator,
We thank you for coming to us in Christ Jesus,
for his teaching, his ministry of healing,
the way in which he drew alongside all sorts of people and
for the way in which he embodied your will for us.

We are filled with sorrow that he should have been
despised, rejected, betrayed, handed over, crucified:
We are filled with hope because you raised him from the dead;
that he is now ascended, once more with you in your presence;
and that you now come to us in and through the Spirit,
who enables us to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

We are yours: we belong to Christ.

And so, now, with all those who have gone before us
and with those who will come after us with the whole creation
we sing your praises:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of Consecration:

Gathered at your table of hospitality;
we remember the meals Jesus shared with others
especially the last supper he shared with his disciples.
We remember that On the night he was betrayed
he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave thanks and said
Do this in remembrance of me;
and, then, in the same way, after supper,
took the cup, blessed and poured it out for our sake.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the body and blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the body of Christ, given for the world you have made. Amen.

The bread we share forms us into the body of Christ.
The cup is a sharing in the life-blood of Christ.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Post-Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
**You put your life in our hands,
Now we put our lives in yours.
Take us, mould us, remake us
For we have broken bread together:
We have drunk the cup of wine.
We have shared in the mystery of your death and rising to life again.
Our hope is in you, to the close of the age, Amen.**

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Shine in our lives, Warm us with courage
Keep us close to you
Shine in our lives, Light up our darkness
Keep us close to you
Shine in our lives, Sweeten our sadness
Keep us close to you
Shine in our lives, Raise us up to glory
Keep us close to you

Sung Blessing – TiS 778

**Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

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