



We Gather

*Create a space for worship - perhaps with a small table with a bible, cross and candle. This week, it would be appropriate to find a **green cloth** or scarf to signify that we are moving into a time of "growing". And please bring some bread and wine/juice as we share in Communion together.*

Start by lighting the candle. The candle helps to centre us.

Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.

Introduction

Today we gather, still apart:

perhaps with hope of soon being able to gather again face-to-face;

perhaps with some joy having been able to meet with friends and family this week;

perhaps with some apprehension about what our new-found freedom might mean.

We gather in the shadow of a week of protest and frustration -

for Black Lives Matter

for the fair treatment of refugees in our country

for the protection of the earth.

Together or apart, at home or in the streets, Jesus calls us to proclaim the good news, "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the stewardship of the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation for the land on which we gather today.

From river to ocean
from campfire to hearth
may the First People
who have cared for this land
be blessed.

From breath to song
from step to dance
may those who follow your Songlines
guide us on the journey
to living honourably in this place.

From greeting to Amen
from silence to chorus
may our worship
join with the voices
of the First Peoples
of this Land.

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Call To Worship

From the north and from the south,
from the east and from the west,
from Kiama and from Jamberoo,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Out of poverty and wealth,
out of health and disease,
out of whatever circumstance in which we live,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Out of a spirit of jubilation and despair, out of times of hope and uncertainty, out of whatever state our heart is in,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Come, let us worship.

We pray...

You name us, O God,
with grace we do not fully grasp;
for you call us to love as we have been loved.
You send us, O God,
to persons and communities in need;
for you call us to see and respond with compassion.
In following your call,
strengthen us to follow
your example in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June 2020

Sing - Gather Us In (TIS 474)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

Prayer

Disciplining God,

we are made in your image and

called to follow your Son, Jesus, the risen Christ.

We are to be like him in every way, even unto death. Lord, this is scary stuff, help us.

Along with our brothers and sisters around the world, we gather to offer this time of worship, to acknowledge your love for us, revealed in Jesus.

In these strange days,

our gatherings are very different,

apart and yet united by our love for you.

Even today the harvest is large, many people seeking to find you amid this global pandemic and the fears and anxieties it holds for each one of us.

We are discovering new ways to engage with people and we are grateful for the wonder of technology that allows us to reach out to people in our communities and beyond.

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail you,

when we choose our own way instead of yours.

Forgive us, Lord, for our frailties,

help us move forward determined to be more like the people you created us to be, using our gifts and talents for the work of your kingdom, here and now.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to live,

the way to behave, help us to want to be more like you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Spill the Beans, Resources for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June 2020

Words of Assurance

You have been named by God

and called by the Spirit of Christ

to serve in this world.

Live in faith and proclaim the good news of God.

Adapted from Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June 2020

We Listen for God's Voice

A video of the readings and reflection can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/428390596/a57e7e73c5>

Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reading: Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Reflection

Let us pray,

Creator of all that is, break into our hearts and minds today.

As you have called faithful women and men throughout the ages, may we hear your voice calling us today. Amen.

"As you go," says Jesus, "proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'" (Matthew 10:7)

These last weeks, we have watched in awe and given thanks for medical professionals and staff of facilities from large hospitals to our local health clinics as they have responded to testing us, caring for us, and ensuring that ongoing medical needs are attended to. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We have enjoyed the start of the whale watching season - marvelling at these enormous animals as they make their way up the coast to warmer parts for the breeding season. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We have seen families come together in ways that were surprising to us. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We have seen complete strangers reach out to one another to offer care and support. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

In the midst of violence and rage, we have seen people hold each other, comfort each other and encourage one another to keep trying, keep being, keep on. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We see our own Church Council wrestling with government regulations and requirements in an effort to make it possible for us to meet face-to-face sometime soon and to re-open our facilities for the many community groups who need a place to gather. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Every time we receive a gift of love and grace for another human being. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Every time the people of God gather around the table sharing in bread and wine. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Where do you see the kingdom amongst us?
What does this kingdom look like? What does it feel like?

As we turn our attention once more to the story of Jesus as recorded by Matthew, we pick up the narrative as it shifts direction. In the chapters leading up to chapter 10, Jesus has been teaching broadly to the crowds who have gathered to hear him. He has been traveling throughout Galilee, teaching and healing.

He has attracted the attention of the Pharisees for spending time with all the wrong people - and he has managed to offend them.

So we pick up at the point where Jesus shifts his attention away from the crowds, "harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd" (9:36) and towards his disciples. Chapter 10, then, has us listening in as Jesus prepares his disciples to share in the work that he has been doing. To this point, the disciples have been watching and hopefully learning, but now it is their turn to have a go themselves.

"Proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons."

Jesus instructs them and gives them authority to do all that he has been doing. The language here is of commissioning, giving them authority to be his agents in the world. Agents, in the sense, that the words they proclaim, the decisions they make, carry all of his authority; they bear all that he is.

So if we are disciples, sent by Jesus into the world we live in and know, we too, are his agents, bearing all that Jesus is.
How does that sit with you?

For me it brings great joy and a great sense of responsibility.

In proclaiming God's kingdom in our midst, we affirm the hope of healing and wholeness and grace for everyone. For me, the kingdom of heaven is that time and place where justice and righteousness meet, where peace is known, where human dignity is upheld and embraced, where love is embodied.

And yet I sometimes weep when I have to acknowledge how far short of bearing Christ's image to the world, I fall, and God's church falls.

How often do we get caught up in our worries about money and property?

How often do we carry far too much baggage with us?

How often do we think we need so much more than we really do?

How often do we think ourselves better than another human being and fail to speak up when we see injustice?

And yet, Jesus continues to call us, continues to draw us out of ourselves, and to send us into the world.

This time of isolation has shown us, perhaps starkly, that we can pare back quite a lot of "stuff" that we do and carry, and still be well-able to proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our midst.

By the time that Paul gets to writing his letter to the church in Rome, the early Christians have discovered that sharing good news can sometimes come at a cost - whether that is the loss of wealth and privilege or the kick-back or persecution they were beginning to

endure. Paul reminds them that “suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5).

The rest of that passage, is a summary of the gospel as Paul describes it:

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.” (5:1-2)

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (5:6)

“God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” (5:8)

These are all statements that are familiar to us but how do we share these deep truths with people who have yet to hear about Jesus? It is certainly not the kind of language I would start with.

Jesus sends his disciples into their communities not to talk about being “sinners” or being “ungodly” as true as that may be. Rather, Jesus sends them to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven has come near, and to heal, to cleanse and to give life.

How do you offer healing?

How do you give life?

How do you name the presence of God in our everyday?

Being a disciples is not always easy, perhaps it is never easy - it is not meant to be.

In the rest of chapter 10 in Matthew’s gospel, Jesus also warns the disciples that things may not always go well. He tells them that if they are not welcomed, to “shake the dust from their feet” and keep moving (10:14).

Being a disciple may not be easy, but it is life-giving - for us and for the people to whom we proclaim good news.

In many ways, I think the main thing is to keep it simple, and to try to remain as unburdened by the things the world says we need as we can.

So keep looking for the signs of God’s kingdom all around you and keep reminding the people you encounter of those signs.

As we gather around this table, apart yet drawn together,

know that God loves you and that such love enables us to know peace.

And as you go from here, offer healing, and be life-giving.

For that is what Jesus calls each one of us to do and to be.

Let us pray,

Healing God, help us to open ourselves to your call to aid others.

Teach us how to sacrifice our own comfort and expectations to better serve the needs of our hurting world.

Grant us vision, strength, and joy for this work. Amen.

We Respond

Sing - The Summons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnXOEUS7BBM>

Prayers for Others

Holy God, Friend and Guide,

we pray for those who have power but do not have the wisdom to use it well,

and for those who have wisdom but do not have the power to apply it.
For people who want to learn but have no access to teachers,
Children in refugee camps, those in isolation with little family support
Or those without internet or devices.
For those who have much information to teach but no one who will listen to them.

Holy Friend hear our prayer,
Loving God, make us into a blessing.

We pray for those who have been forced into unemployment or to retire too early,
and for those who are overworked and long for retirement or rest.
For some people who are well known yet long for some privacy,
and for those who are lonely and long for recognition and company.

Holy Friend hear our prayer,
Loving God, make us into a blessing.

We pray for those who are targeted because of their skin colour,
Singled out and treated differently,
For those who don't notice what is going on,
and for those who are tough and need to be made gentle.

Holy Friend hear our prayer,
Loving God make us into a blessing.

For the wounded and diseased who have inadequate care,
and for the pampered who turn ill health into an obsession.
For people who are dying with no one to mourn them,
and for those who mourn with no one to comfort them.
For all who remain cheerful in the midst of poverty and grave handicap,
and for some who are disgruntled in spite of plenty and good health.

Holy Friend hear our prayer,
Loving God, make us into a blessing.

Holy Friend, you love all as one human family, yet deal with us individually
as if we were the only child you have. Please give to us your generous and practical
Spirit, so that our prayers may be converted into deeds, day by day.
Through Christ Jesus our Redeemer.

Amen!

*Adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer
Prepared by Janice Freeston*

Holy Communion

Please join us at 9.30am on Sunday 14 June for Communion via Zoom - either using the
link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/94890493686>
Or by phone: 02 8015 6011
Meeting ID: 948 9049 3686

Please bring some bread and wine or juice for your family to share.

Lockdown Liturgy for Communion

Adapted from liturgy prepared by Cara Heafey, UK
<https://worshipwords.co.uk/call-to-communion-on-line-cara-heafey/>

Invitation

Jesus shared meals in all kinds of homes:

The home of Zacchaeus
a collaborator and a crook.

The home of Simon, a Pharisee
where he defended the woman
who caused a scene at the dinner party

The home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus,
his friends,
a house where he could laugh and relax.

We're used to sharing this meal
in grander buildings,
spaces set-apart as sacred.

But this is where it all began:
in ordinary houses.
In upstairs rooms and wayside inns
and around kitchen tables.

In the spaces where people live,
surrounded by the ordinary clutter of living.

Come, living Jesus, be our guest
here in our homes.
Come, living Jesus, be our host
here at your table.
Amen.

Sharing the peace

When the risen Jesus appeared in the house
where some of his disciples were holed up
grieving and afraid,
he said to them "Peace be with you."

Let's use sign-language to share, through our screens,
this greeting of peace.
Peace be with you [demonstrated and shared using BSL]

The story of the Lord's Supper

Let's hear, again, the story of Jesus' supper with his disciples on the night before he died,
as it's been recorded by the writer of the Gospel of Matthew:

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, [*take bread*]

and after blessing it he broke it,
gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'
Then he took a cup, [take cup]
and after giving thanks he gave it to them, [*lift cup*]
saying, 'Drink from it, all of you;
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God!

Let's give thanks to the source of life!

We bring our thankful praise!

We praise and thank you, Eternal One,
Love that will not be contained.
For you created the earth:
it's grandeur, its detail, its delicate balance.
And you created us, women and men,
to tend and protect and delight in it.

And when we forgot our beginnings,
neglected our purpose and lost our way,
you sent prophets to call us back
and laws to illumine our path
and finally came yourself
to show us how to live
and to demonstrate the magnitude
of your love for us.

Love that will not be contained.
Love that will not give up on us.
Love that will journey into the darkest places,
even the grave,
to find us.

And so, we lift our voices
to join with nature's song
and the great chorus of witnesses
on earth and in heaven:
Holy, holy, holy,
Love that will not be contained,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who is risen from the dead
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessing

And so we pray...
Holy Spirit, here with us always,
uniting us even though we are apart,
pour out your blessing on our bread and wine

and on us, your gathered people.

We don't need an altar,
a silver chalice or starched table linen.
It's your presence
that makes these ordinary things holy. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And so we pray a prayer that has united Christians for two thousand years, we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

***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.***

Sharing bread and wine

Here is bread [*invite someone to hold the bread*]:
broken, as the body of Christ was broken
broken, as the heart of God was broken
broken, as the seal of the tomb was broken
broken to make us whole. [*break the bread*]

The body of Christ, broken for us. [*share and eat the bread*]

Here is wine [*invite folk to hold their cup*]:
a cup that brings us together, even in our social distancing
a cup of forgiveness and blessing.

The cup of Life, poured out for us. [*drink the juice/wine*]

Prayer after communion

Thank you for the grace that makes space for us at your table.
Thank you for the familiar and beloved faces on our screens.
Thank you for the closeness we experience through technology,
and through sharing this meal together.

May we continue our lives
having been nourished and strengthened,
filled with your uncontainable love
that spills over to bless the world.
Amen.

Offering

*In responding to what we have read and how we have heard God speak to us, we commit ourselves to moving with God's Spirit, breathing life in the world around us.
If you make a regular financial contribution to the Kiama-Jamberoo Congregation, consider putting that amount aside now and keeping it safe.*

God of all,
we see where the world is harassed and helpless and are moved to show care and compassion. We notice when those around us manoeuvre about like sheep without a shepherd and are tossed about like flotsam on the tide.
So, we choose to be workers in your harvest, to step out in faith and stand up for what is just, to be bearers of your liberating good news of liberty and love. Abide with and within us. Amen.

Adapted from Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June 2020

Notices

Keep an eye on the website, facebook page and the e-news for updates.

If you hear of or notice anyone needing a bit of extra support, please let Kath, Janice, or one of the Elders or Pastoral Partners know.

Sing - O Jesus I Have Promised

Traditional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svgHDdzP5xY>

Modern: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A>

We Go

Sending and Blessing

God, help us shake the dust off our feet,
and go into the world with a spirit of healing love.
Faith, belief and discipleship are to be lived out.
May we, your followers in this generation,
go to meet our world:
with your blessing,
with the example of Jesus ever before us,
and the energy of the Spirit driving us.

Adapted from Spill the Beans, Resources for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 14 June 2020

And may the love of God enfold you;
may the life of Jesus Christ inspire you;
and the breath of the Spirit fill you with life and love for all the world.

Reflection

Sometimes...
often...
we need one more sign;
one more word of
reassurance,
one more affirmation,
one more marker by which
to gauge
the evidence of God at
work.

It's not so much
that we are unconvinced
by the evidence all around.

It's not that we doubt the
presence
and the leading of God.

But we question our own
preparedness,
our own competence,
our own suitability
for the task that lies
ahead.

We know that God is
faithful.
The question is: are we?
Are we up to the task
of stepping into the
unknown;
ill-equipped,
under-resourced,
inexperienced?

And if, by some amazing
quirk
others should journey with
us,
can we keep our nerve,
remain resolute along the
way?

Are we able to keep on
discerning
and to follow the prompts
revealed?

Are we able to bear the
burden
of those who will grumble
when we cannot chart the
territory
or the fear of those
who see no need to
change direction,
or the scorn of those for
whom
the old ways are working
just fine?

Do we have the resilience
it will take
to weather the saboteurs,
not least the doubts and
fears within us
that whisper that we're not
fit for the journey?

May the God of infinite
wisdom and patience
give us one more sign
against all the odds
that we are called to this
journey now
in faith, in hope
and in love.

We are called to step out
with the God of mission
who maps out a new path
and calls us to journey
alongside,
and who grounds and
resources us
from the depths
showing us in ancient
stories
the way to God's promised
future
one step, one sign at a
time.