



“Come”

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 now in a time of “growing”. Start by lighting the candle. The candle helps to centre us. Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.

A video of part of this service can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/445478362/2ccb125dbc>



Call To Worship

In a world that often feels overwhelmed by waves of bad news, **we often feel like disciples at sea – tossed and turned in the chaos of current events.**

But we are part of a dream – we are part of God’s great dream!

And we are not alone in this time of storms and turmoil.

There is a presence reaching into our lives, offering calm and peace and hope.

There is a dream that is being fulfilled through our lives;

God’s dream of abundant life.

Come, Disciples of Christ, let us hold tight to the vessel of faith and the dream of possibilities; and let us be God’s people in worship.

For in our worship, we reach new shores;

and in our worship, God’s dream is fulfilled.

Come, let us worship in hopeful anticipation and faith.

Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9 August 2020

Let us pray,

Liberating God, we raise our voice with thanksgiving and praise for the presence of your spirit that is continually at work among saints and sinners, bringing into being the hope of your love and justice for all creation. Amen.

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.

(c) 2017, A.Koh-Butler

Listen/Sing - Oceans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GGFb6LcX3U>

For a longer version (9 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw

Prayer

Here we are, Holy Dreamer, your people. Here we are, carrying our dreams in our spirits, and at the same time wondering what your dream is for us. Here we are, tossed about in a sea of anxiety and conflict, holding fast to the edges of our known reality, yet hopeful that even our current uncertainty and anguish is somehow part of your great dream for humanity and this planet.

Come to us, we pray, as Jesus came to the disciples in that stormy sea many years ago. Come to us, as Reuben came to the rescue of his brother, Joseph. Come to us and bring your calming touch and faithful presence into our awareness. Enter our boat and be in our midst in ways so tangible that we have no more room for doubt or fear. Come to us, and anchor our confidence in your grace. Amen.

Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9 August 2020

Prayer - Confession

Our dreams have been small, Loving God. We confess that we have not believed ourselves to be worthy of the bigger dreams that linger in our imaginations and knock at the doors of our hearts. We have allowed our fears and self-doubt to diminish our courage. We have allowed our past experiences of failure to define how we see the future. We have allowed resentments of others' success to get in the way of wonderful possibilities in your grace.

Forgive us, and dance in our dreams once more. Whisper your wisdom as we sleep so that we arise with hope renewed. Spark our waking hours with visions of what is possible, so that we act with faith and confidence. Help us enable fruition of all good dreams, even those of our brothers and sisters, toward healing this world, and strengthening all relations. Forgive us and help us to dream again. Amen.

Assurance

The great good news is that each of us is part of God's great dream. And God is not afraid to act upon God's vision of what is possible. When we turn in contrition and confession, God's dream is closer to being realised. Let us stand tall in knowing that we are each important to God's good dream of wholeness. We are loved, forgiven, made new. Amen.

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We Listen for God's Voice

Reading: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.

⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' ¹⁴So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' ¹⁶'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' ¹⁷The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan." ' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.

¹⁹They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' ²²Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.' ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time

the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

²⁵And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’

²⁸ Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ ²⁹He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

In this we find the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Gracious God, you are generous to all who call on you, and so we come today asking for your guidance as we enter your word together. Throughout history you have sent us messengers proclaiming your word, in order that we might know you, trust you, and so enter your abundant life. As we listen with heart and mind open, we pray for the gift of insight, that we may be inspired and transformed as we put your word into practice. We pray in the name of Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination by Teri Peterson, <https://revgalblogpals.org/2020/08/04/worship-words-for-9-august-2020-dreams-deferred/>

Today's gospel reading is another familiar story - where Jesus comes to the disciples, in the middle of a storm, walking on the water.

As the writer of Matthew's gospel tells the story, Jesus had sent the disciples out onto the lake and they had done what he asked. And then they found themselves in the middle of some rough seas - the wind was against them and the waves were battering the boat - probably more than a little uncomfortable.

Thankfully they didn't end up like the fellows whose boat foundered off Bass Point this week and had to be rescued.

The disciples' boat held firm, even if their courage had wavered a little.

But imagine - they were out in the boat, it is dark, the very early morning, the waves and wind are troubling them and hindering their progress. And then they see a figure out on the water.

The gospel writer tells us they were terrified - not just a bit concerned, terrified.

So Jesus speaks: “Take heart [or take courage], it is I; do not be afraid.” (14:27)

Peter needs to check it out - *“if it is you, command me to come to you on the water”* (14:28). So Jesus invites him, “Come”.

Suddenly, Peter has forgotten his fear, is no longer bothered by the waves and the wind, he just wants to get to Jesus. He gets out of the boat and starts to walk towards Jesus. All good!

But then, but then, Peter realises what is happening, he hears again the sound of the wind and feels the wind and waves buffeting around him, his fear takes over and he starts to sink. As he cries out to Jesus, Jesus reaches out to him and lifts him out of the depths to which he had sunk (14:31). And Jesus says to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (14:31).

When the troubles of life surround us, are we ready to get out of the boat?

Are we ready to walk towards Jesus, knowing that we rely on him for every step we take? In this time of restrictions on our movement, and concern about our own health and that of our friends and family, particularly in Victoria and perhaps in other parts of the world, how do we get out of the boat?

The waves are high and the wind is strong - do we shelter in the safety of what we know, or are we prepared to risk what we know to follow the One who bids us "Come"?

Right now, in many parts of the world, the church is not able to gather for worship. Its buildings remain largely empty.

Right now, it is time for the church to get out of the boat and *be* the church - in caring for people who are lonely and isolated, looking out for people who are hungry or homeless or simply anxious about what the future might hold without a job to support their families.

In this community alone, 4 young people have taken their own lives in the past month. We will never know what hurt takes someone to that place, but we do know that being willing to talk, asking a question, being available to each other, can and does break the chain of events.

Worshiping God in our homes is one thing, but we need to be getting alongside the people around us (in a physically safe distance kind of way!). We need to check in with one another, support those who are hurting, encourage one another, and hold one another in prayer.

The journey out of this will be long - in terms of our health concerns, financially and as our communities are forced to re-shape ourselves. Experiences such as those we have had together over the past 8 months - drought, bushfire, flood, and pandemic - change us. As the winds and waves begin to subside, how do we emerge on the other side?

The wind drops away as Jesus and Peter reach the boat.

And the others, the disciples who had watched all this unfold before them, make this extraordinary statement: "Truly you are the Son of God." (14:33)

In Matthew's gospel, this is the first time the disciples have said out loud who they understand Jesus to be. They worship him. They name him as the one the prophets had promised would come to redeem Israel.

Ahh Israel: the nation; the sons of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob...

At the other end of the scriptures, in Genesis, we pick up the story of the Hebrew people, of Israel, as Joseph enters the scene. When was the last time you read this story for yourself? The lectionary only give 2 weeks to the story of Joseph which covers 13 chapters so if you have some time this week, have a dip into Genesis 37 to the end. As you do, what do you notice? What questions does it raise for you?

Today we notice that Joseph, while clearly having a gift of dreams or prophecy, was favoured by his father and a bit of a "dobber" (37:2). His father gifted him with a fine coat, more recent translations of this text do not think it was multi-coloured as the Hebrew word is not clear. The NRSV translation suggests it was a long coat with sleeves. Whatever it was, it was certainly a fine piece of clothing and recognisable as belonging to Joseph.

His father's attention fanned the flame of jealousy amongst his brothers. The NRSV goes so far to say that they "hated" him and that they couldn't speak with him without ending up in an argument (37:4). And the bit our reading skips over reveals that as Joseph shares his dreams with the others, he does himself no favours. His stories of one day being in charge over everyone else, remember he is the youngest, understandably weren't received so well.

So when Joseph goes to see his brothers while they are out taking care of the family's herd of sheep, his brothers decide to take their chance and get rid of him. And even though Reuben, the eldest, convinces them not to kill Joseph, they instead sell him to slave traders and then hatch a plan to tell their father that Joseph had been attacked and killed by a wild animal. You could say they were pretty confident he wasn't coming back!

And yet...

Through these brothers will come the twelve tribes of Israel. In spite of the deceit, the wheeling and dealing, the jealousy, the violence, God will continue to work with these people, revealing Godself to them, calling them, drawing them, at times angered by them, at times needing to save them from themselves. And in time, this God will send a son, to redeem not just Israel but the whole of God's creation.

As we seek to follow the One whom God gave to us to teach us, to reveal more of Godself to us, may we find ourselves, on the other side of the lake, worshiping the Son of God, recognising that Jesus is indeed the one sent to redeem the world.

May we not hide behind our brokenness, our sense of not being "good enough", may we move beyond any petty jealousies or family in-fighting, and find our place in the dream of God.

May we hear Christ's word calling to us, "Come."

Let us pray,

Christ Jesus, you call us to get out of the boat. Even though the wind and waves, the troubles of this world, surround us, you call us to get our feet wet. And we know that when our eyes are fixed on you, you will keep us safe.

May we find the courage to get out of the boat.

Help us to resolve our differences, our jealous feelings towards others, seeking to be reconciled with one another and with you.

And as we seek to live out your dream, your way of living in the world, may our lives be examples of your love for all people. Amen.

We Respond

Prayers for Others

Lord, Father of us all, You who are within every cell of us and give us the privilege of being a part of You, how can we escape You and the wonder and Glory of You?

Every moment of our lives You are there with us, letting us go our own ways, making horrendous mistakes, remaining selfish and self-centred in our demands and expectations. Yet still You remain, loving, forgiving, caring, allowing us time to wake up, change and learn and turn back to You.

We ask you to hear our requests for the wellbeing of the world as we watch the terrible events unfolding.

Teach us to reach out and care in whatever way we are able for all those who hurt.

Show us how to be thankful for the gift of all those who daily provide help to all suffering - whether through illness from the virus, depression and feelings of helplessness, fear of financial loss and inability to provide for our families, inability to understand the behaviour of others who choose not to care. We beg You to provide strength and wisdom to those trying to make decisions for our well being, whether financial, political, medical, security issues.

For all those who go out each day to provide transport, cleaning, food, safety, medical care please know we are grateful and truly thank you for their goodness and beg You to keep

them strengthened and safe and wise.

Especially we beg You to lift up and comfort the innocent children everywhere in the world who know only suffering, we cannot understand why this goes on and can only depend on You to save them.

In our immediate world, we ask for the safety and care of our families, our church family as they grieve, feel the fear and loneliness of those they love being absent and cut off and are worn down by the ongoing situation.

In our hearts in the silence we offer up the names of those we know, love and pray for. Please comfort them and keep them safe.

In our church family, we thank You for our minister and the members who continually watch out for those who are in need, who continue the work of keeping the church going financially and business wise.

Hold in Your comforting arms those who you know are needing You and find blessings for those who we don't have our love or respect. Please give them a glimpse of Your glory and compassion. We thank You. Amen.

Prepared by Evelaine Berry

Holy Communion

Please join us at 9.30am on Sunday 9 August 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

If you would like to share in Communion and are unable to join in communion this way, please let Rev Kath or Rhonda Back know. Now that restrictions have been eased a little, we are able to bring Communion to you in your home at a time that suits you.

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.

Gracious Dreamer, we bring you our dreams.

Bless and transform them, we pray, into your great and good dream fulfilled.

Along with our time, talent and resources, we offer our visions and hopes for the possibilities of new life in all your people.

Help us to endure, to be renewed, and to be agents of your grace whenever possible.

We thank you for dreaming us into being, and we offer ourselves to your love. Amen.

Seasons of The Spirit, Resources for 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9 August 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.

Listen/Sing - Strength for the Journey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1UQ1g1HO9I>

<https://vimeo.com/168720942>

We Go

Sending and Blessing

We might never walk on the surface of water, as if immune to life's troubles,
yet, neither do we need to sink.

For God is with us.

God's hand is upon us.

God's love is for us.

God's commitment to us is endless.

Spill The Beans, Resources for 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9 August 2020

So go in peace with the blessing of God: Creator, Saviour and Spirit of Life.

Share such blessings with the world!