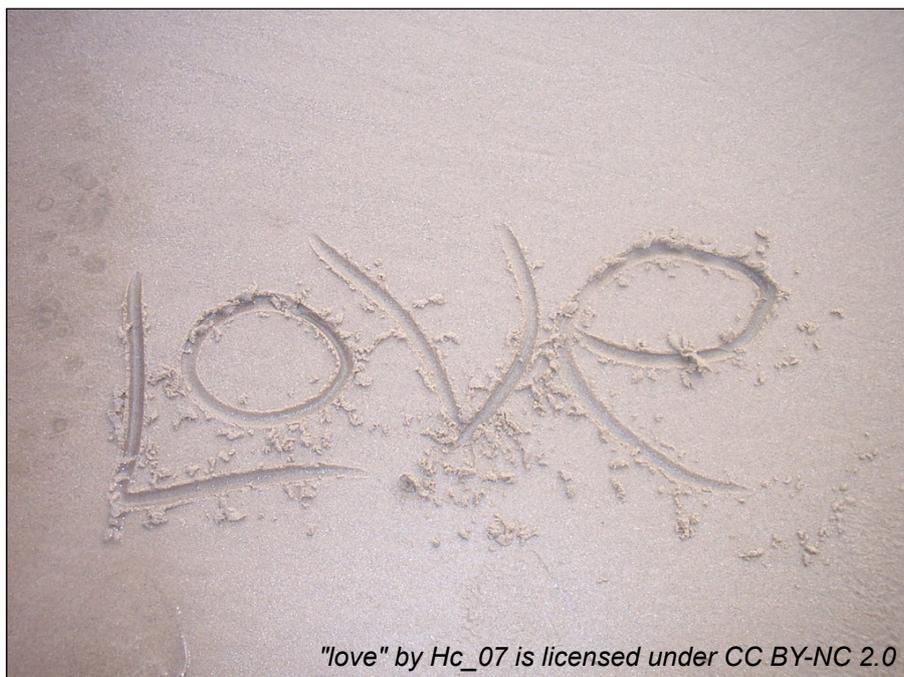


Responding to Poverty (Christians Against Poverty)

Gathering



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 Christ candle. The candle helps to centre us. Take some deep breaths as you gather your thoughts towards God.

A video of parts of this service can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/471267994/827ed6d7eb>

Welcome and introduction

Today's service points us to God's call on us to love our neighbour and the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

In 1987, then Prime Minister Bob Hawke made the statement that by 1990, "no Australian child will live in poverty." Our nation is still challenged by the reality that more than 30 years later, three quarters of a million children are living in poverty in Australia today.

Our church supports the work of CAP and we invite you to pray as we begin planning to offer a CAP Money Course in November.

If you would like more information, you can go to: <https://capaust.org> or talk with Marion Rattray.

Call to Worship

Jesus said:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' (Matthew 22:38-40)

We come in love - love for God, love for ourselves, love for all peoples.

We are people on a journey – a journey of faith and hope in God’s love.
The invitation has been sent to each of us – no matter who we are or where we are on life’s journey – we are all invited to join in following.
Come, people of God, let us recognise ourselves as one family of God, as we journey together toward peace and justice.
God unites us as one people, and journeys with us all the way. Let us worship.

Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, Resources for 21st After Pentecost, 18 October 2020

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

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.

(c) 2017, A.Koh-Butler

Sing / Listen: Beauty For Brokenness (TIS 690)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPvioAt5fq4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxfBh9ay8gE&t=39s>

Prayer

God of love,
our foundation and source,
we stand in awe of your
unending love for your beloved children,
we know that your great love
is given freely and in abundance for all
whatever or whoever we are.

God of love,
we give thanks this day
for the message,
for the commandment,
to love and to be loved.
Guide us in our journey
to truly live as you have commanded, teach us to love you,
to love our neighbour,
and to love ourselves.

God of love,
it is the greatest of your commands,
and though we strive
to live each day attempting to fulfil it,

we too often fail.
In a world of conflicting
allegiances and distractions,
where hate is easier than care,
help us to know your love.

God of love,
teach us to know
a love that is patient, kind, and giving
that seeks justice and equality for all,
that eschews the easiness of discrimination and prejudice
for the brilliance of a world,
a community, a life
lived in the warmth of
true love, given freely,
for and to all. Amen.

Spill The Beans, Resources for 21st After Pentecost, 25 October 2020

Assurance

As we seek to love God with all that we are - heart, should, mind and strength,
so God embraces us and restores us.

In Jesus' life we see the depth of God's love for us.

In Jesus' words, we hear the reassurance,

"You are forgiven."

And we give thanks to God.

Listening for God's Voice

Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶'Teacher, which
commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the
greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour
as yourself." ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

⁴²'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of
David.'

⁴³He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet' "?

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an
answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Reading: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through
the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went
into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the
prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Hear what God’s Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Let us pray:

Creator of life, you set before us the promise of freedom and opportunity to live in a just and compassionate relationship with one another and all of life. Thank you for the prophetic voices who remain empowered by the vision of a land of promise for all, and who call upon us to join our voice with theirs. Amen.

Seasons of the Spirit, Resources for 21st After Pentecost, 18 October 2020

On the video, the sermon is brought to us by Tim Hanna, former CEO of Compassion Australia on behalf of Christians Against Poverty.

Below are notes drawn from a Bible Study provided by CAP reflecting the ideas Tim covers in his reflection. If you would like to know more about the work of CAP, please contact Kath or Marion Rattray.

Luke 4:14-21 is the opening scene of Jesus’ ministry in Luke’s gospel. It sets the stage for all that is to come. In it we have what is fundamentally Jesus’ personal mission statement.

Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit (3:22) who then leads him into the wilderness for a time of fasting and testing. In his travels around Galilee, Jesus comes to his hometown, Nazareth. Nazareth was an agricultural village set on a major trade route and was close to the Galilean capital, Sephoris, which was being rebuilt during the time that Jesus was growing up. Nazareth is described as “the place he was brought up.” It is the place where he was provided food and nourishment that allows growing and flourishing.

When it is the Sabbath, Jesus does what he usually does, he goes to the synagogue. He stands up and reads from the scroll of Isaiah the prophet. It’s a passage that refers to the Spirit of God, the same Spirit who brought him to Nazareth. In this quotation the Spirit of the Lord is resting on the speaker for the purpose of proclaiming good news to the poor – to those who are economically disadvantaged and marginalised. Along with the poor as a broad group, good news is also proclaimed to specific groups of people: prisoners, the blind, and the oppressed. All of whom might also be described as “poor.”

This is the first mention of the poor in Luke. But already we have seen that the powerful and rich are sent away empty, while the hungry are filled with good things (Luke 1:52-53). Those who are at the bottom of society are the Spirit’s chosen recipients of the good news. As the Gospel unfolds the poor will be identified as worthy hearers of the good news, as recipients of God’s kingdom (6:20), as a sign of Jesus’ ministry (7:22), and as invitees to the kingdom feast (14:13). The good news that Jesus proclaims, and thus the good news

that Christians proclaim, must be good news to the poor, to the economically disadvantaged, and to the marginalised of our society.

What is this good news? It is news that this is the “year of God’s favour.” The year of God’s favour alludes to the Jubilee year when once every 50 years debts are cancelled and slaves are freed. Those who became poor were not to be taken advantage of nor taken as slaves but rather treated as hired hands and released at the year of Jubilee.

When he finished reading, Jesus sat down, and the congregation fixed their eyes on him to hear his teaching. Jesus begins explaining the Scripture by telling them that today when they heard the Scripture read it was fulfilled in their presence. In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the one who has been chosen (anointed) to preach and proclaim the good news of God. In the chapters ahead, Jesus will travel from town to town and wherever he goes he will teach and heal, living out the good news so that people can see the salvation that God offers.

Imagine a hometown congregation filled with all the characters of the village – rich and poor; seeing and blind; oppressed and oppressor – and wonder what this liberation looked like for them. Did they anticipate the good news would come first to the poor, the prisoner, and the oppressed? Or did they think it would come first for those with inside connections, the rich, and the religious? Jesus offers them good news. Will they hear it and receive it as good news to be shared with all, especially the vulnerable? Or will they hear it and hope that it is a message for them alone? Are they hoping that as Jesus’ hometown they will receive special favour? Or does their hope extend to the whole world?

We are planning to run a CAP Money Course in November. This course offers coaching in:

- How to build and balance a budget
Step-by-step, using CAP’s powerful online budgeting tool that does all the hard work automatically.
- The CAP Money System
A simple way to set up finances so that bills are taken care of, everyday expenses are covered, and debt can be paid off.
- Taking control of money
Organising money and using cash week-to-week to understand exactly how much is being spent — and what it’s being spent on.



Do you know anyone who might need some help and who you could encourage to take the course?

You might like to pray for the people in our congregation who offer their time and skill to facilitate the course: Marion Rattray, Alan Broad, Maurice Barton and Narelle Dempster.

Pray too for people with whom we might connect with.

Listen: Love The Lord Your God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLIM2u1vm5g>

Prayer for others

Ever loving God,
mother and father of all,
creator and guardian of everything that we perceive,
we come together today,
in praise and joy to give thanks
for your love and to rejoice in
the gifts you have given.

We pray for our world,
which has been terrorised by the
implications of Covid-19.

We ask for your eternal protection
on those who work to keep your
beloved children safe.

In a time where the interdependence
of all people has become ever more evident
and yet the divisions that plague our societies
have become ever more obvious,
we ask for the boldness to acknowledge
our prejudice and to work for
justice for all peoples.

We pray for your church,
for the individuals who make up
this body of Christ,
and for the institutions that organise
and facilitate the gathering of your
church in community.

In this time of change,
and hardship for a people who
have lost the privileged position
once occupied by Christians in the western world, help us to see the gift that this can bring
to guide us towards a simpler,
faithful church, focused on love of you
love of our neighbour and ourselves.

We pray for each person here today (each person in the Kiama Jamberoo congregation),
as we each chart our own path through life,
seeking to do good,
at times succeeding
and at times failing,
that we may each find strength in your love to live well
and show the radical love
offered in and commanded by your Son today and every day.
Amen.

Spill The Beans, Resources for 21st After Pentecost, 25 October 2020

Holy Communion

Please join us on Sunday 25 October for Communion at Jamberoo. All the COVID19 safety rules will apply. Due to limited numbers, you must register for this. For more information, call Kath on 0409 650 118.

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.

Let's pray...

God, we love because you first loved us (1 John 4:19).

These gifts are an expression of our love. But that expression is not complete.

As we offer some of what we have, we offer all of who we are, and we pray that our love will reflect your love, that all whom we meet will encounter you in us. Amen.

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.

Sending out

Sing - Lord Let Me See (TIS 681) (see video)

Sending and Blessing

As you look into the heart of another, try and recognise the touch of God.

As you look into the face of another, try and recognise the Christ within.

As you hear the words of another, listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

And be blessed in the name of God, the source of all life and inspiration.

Be blessed in the name of the Christ whose life liberates our expectations.

Be blessed in the name of the Spirit as she breathes new life through us all. Amen.

Rev Keree Casey, "Of Ash and Rainbows"