

ORDER OF SERVICE - Sunday 17th May Easter 6

Lectionary – May 17th 2020 Easter 6 Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21 W

Preacher – Valentina Satvedi Leydo **Liturgist** – Jenne Perlstein **CYYA Pastor** – Dave Hall

Ceremony of release – Valentina Satvedi Leydon, Yoo Mi, Dave Hall, Peter Blair, Helen Rowe.

Acknowledgment of Country – Sophia Twigg

Music Coordinator – Natalie Sims

Bible Reading – Peter Hornby, Vivienne Webb

Prayers of the People – Tim Budge

WORSHIP BEGINS Prelude - For you Deep stillness (instrumental)

SONG: [For you, deep stillness](#), by Julie Perrin, from [It all depends](#), NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

OPENING SLIDE: Verse on screen John 14:15. 'If you love me you will keep my commandments'

GREETING....

Jenne

Good morning, I am Jenne your Liturgist for this sixth Sunday of the Easter season

.... Please have a bible at hand & a table with your candle ready for lighting and prepare yourself for worship and coming into Sacred space with some deep breaths of breathing in Spirit

Let us proclaim

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed

I invite you to light our Christ candles together as we prepare to worship the Risen Christ.

Light the candle

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenne

O God Breathe through us, helping us to focus on you, to worship You, breathing You in, helping us to focus the breath of life into each of us & into our community, making us one.

Breathe yourself into this sacred time & space.

Let us be in unison in your breath, outpoured into all and binding us as one loving worshipping community.

Let us worship God, Jesus Christ & the Breath of Life Holy spirit 'because I live, you also will live.

On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you'.

Let us join in singing, O sing to the Lord

GATHERING SONG VU 214 O sing to the Lord based on Psalm 66:8-20.

1. [O sing to the Lord, O sing out a new song \(3 times\)](#)

[O sing to our God, O sing to our God.](#)

3. [So, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets...](#)

4. [O shout to our God who gave us the Spirit...](#)

SONG: [O Sing to the Lord](#), Trad: Brazil, from [Voices United](#) PUBLIC DOMAIN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sophia

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of this land since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land is not ours to own, but to look after;

and that if we listen, we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.

Responding to this call, we commit ourselves

to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.

WELCOME

Jenne

Welcome to worship this morning over the internet! I'm Jenne your liturgist. Today we have Valentina in her final preaching role, as Supply Minister. Yoo Mi Park is also concluding in her supply pastoral care role, before Ian returns on Sunday May 19th. We thank them so much for their service and a CEREMONY OF RELEASE will occur at the end of this Service. In addition you will hear and see today, Dave Hall, Sophia Twigg, Peter Hornby Peter Blair, Helen Rowe Tim & Meredith Budge, Vivienne Webb, Saide Cameron. I also want to thank Ray & David & Saide Cameron for their filming & technological & coordination skills & Natalie, Shawn & Fay White for the music. Our gospel reading from John and the Acts reading speak of God's Spirit, the gift from Jesus after he left this earth & went back to the Loving Divinethe gift of the Breath of God in us, with us and binding us all as One in Love. And we will be breathing this through out the service.

I encourage you to continue our tradition of sharing morning tea after the service by calling a friend or member of your community for a chat.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION & CONFESSION & DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS.

As we pray, I will ask you to breath in & out and pause inviting Gods Presence – Gods Breath, 'in the Hebrew Roach Elohim', into your being, ready to praise the Divine. Breath in deeply, breath out slowly.... sense the quiet, calm, indwelling breath of life of the Spirit of God.

Let us pray. We praise You O God, the one who breathes life into us. For Jesus your Son & his gift to us through You, of the ongoing presence of your loving Holy Spirit. We have the loss of the earthly presence of your Son, but Breath remains, since He himself gives this life and breath to all living beings & mother Earth & the heavens

We praise you for this breath that helps us to remember you, focus on you & as a sign that you are with us. Praise you forgiving us the breath of life that empowers, offers wisdom & understanding & centres us. Oh God we thank you for Spirits life – breath moving in our mouth, nose, lungs & body, in the wind showing your mystery through touch on the skin, hearing its force, seeing it effects on the waves, the trees moving, yet it is invisible & uncontainable. Thank you for its renewing cooling and revitalising, when we are dispirited about the World, have no life or energy left, are in despair & loneliness.

Praise you God for the Holy Spirit as the living concentrated love, energy & breath within us. We praise you that we can experience you, recognise your hand, your breath in our selves & lives. We thank you that when we breathe, it is a spiritual practise offering us life, calm, focus, centring and silence.

As we offer our prayers of confession, I will ask you to breathe in & out and pause, inviting God's Presence Gods Breath 'Roach Elohim', into your being. Breathe in deeply, breath out slowly.

We become aware of our shadow, our dark places our ways of restricting you God, giving up, not opening ourselves to your breath of life, forgetting you, forgetting to ask for your help & advocacy, though You are so close to each one of us. We become preoccupied & forget that we are all endowed with the breath of God reminding us to embrace others to breath in your love.

But You can transform. Let us accept your forgiveness, strengthen us, recognise your hand in our lives, give us peace & awakening, light the dark, showing truth through your breath oh God.

God is blowing into you the pure essence of love...

From the dust God breathed into us and gave life & we can become anew.

As we declare & claim God's forgiveness for us, breath again, breathing in God's love & forgiveness & Know that in the name of Christ, our risen Saviour, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks, be God. Amen

Please join me in singing O sing to the Lord

1. [O sing to the Lord, O sing out a new song \(3 times\)](#)
[O sing to our God, O sing to our God.](#)

BIBLE READING Acts 17:22-31

Vivienne

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

WITH THE CHILDREN –

Dave

Dave's family participated in a 'Hard Quiz' about the life of Paul. This was followed by a video of Paul's life offered by Harriet and Clementine and art works prepared by Oscar and Hamish, Clara, Hoth, Anya, Hudson, Oscar and Hudson

SONG: TiS 412 God sends us the Spirit to befriend and help us / Spirit Friend

1. God sends us the Spirit to befriend and help us,
recreate and guide us, Spirit-friend:
Spirit who enlivens, sanctifies, enlightens,
sets us free, is now our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Father, Spirit-friend,
Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit-friend,
Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend.

2. Darkened roads are clearer, heavy burdens lighter
when we're walking with our Spirit-friend:
now we need not fear the powers of the darkness:
none can overcome our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Father, Spirit-friend,
Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit-friend,
Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend.

SONG: Spirit friend, by Tom Colvin & people of Malawi, Hope Publishing Co. USA,
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GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21

Peter

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Hello church,
The Peace of our Risen Christ be with you! (Pause for response...)
May God's Spirit cascade on us today!
May the wondering of our hearts,
The reflections of our minds,
Show us how to continue in Jesus' way! Amen

In early January (the 5th to be specific), I had the opportunity to share a reflection with you from this sacred space. It was a Sunday morning following Christmas, just on the cusp of Epiphany. The text for that morning was from John chapter 1 and as I reflected on the texts for that Sunday, I was able to reflect with you and alongside you about Emmanuel – God with us!

It is approximately four and a half months since that day and one of the lectionary texts for today is from John - chapter 14. The text reminds us once again that Emmanuel – God with us! But in a different way.

Much transpired for Tom and me during the first quarter of this year. As 2019 ended, and 2020 began Tom and I had made some tentative plans and we were looking forward to what lay ahead.

Tom had been granted long service leave for Term 1 and we were considering travel during that time – our travel would perhaps take us North on this continent spending time with friends and family we have not visited in a while and explore parts of this country that I have yet to see. Then fly across the Pacific/Indian Ocean to accompany my ageing mother in India for a while among a few other adventures.

That was the plan, and then came the call.

Many of you probably know what comes next. Our narrative was interrupted and so I invited Tom to discern with me in prayer what the call meant for us. The call was to accompany Brunswick Uniting Faith Community in a specific role for a short term. Along with me, YooMi was also called to accompany this community.

This because Ian was called to accompany the Uniting Church faith community in Gippsland in the wake of devastating bushfires.

So, while Ian accepted his call, you also accepted your call to release Ian. Just as YooMi, I also accepted the call - this upon discernment - and here we are.

It is about four months after that call and approximately a three-month accompaniment in the role of Supply Minister. It has been a journey and while none of us (Ian, the congregation, the ministry team, the presbyteries, myself) expected what was to come – we have been able to walk, to reflect, to share, and to arrive at this place, this day, and this time.

Pandemic or not, accepting a call of any kind in ministry, one always has this thought – Is this where God is calling me? How is this going to be? How will I fare? How will the community fare?

In our lectionary text from John's Gospel chapter 14 verses 15-21 as read for us by Peter, Jesus is bidding farewell. It is known as "the Farewell Discourse" (this extends from John chapters 13 through 17). This is Jesus' way of saying goodbye to his disciples.ⁱ Jesus was crucified, he died, he was resurrected and now he is headed towards his ascension.

Jesus has been with his disciples for a while now. He has shown his love for humanity as he walked alongside and advocated for the oppressed, for the marginalized, which included the disciples. Jesus was aware that the disciples may feel abandonment upon his ascension and so he offers assurance by stating that "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." And as a way of sharing with them that his moving on will not result in death – he reminds them of the resurrection, stating, "because I live, you also will live" (14:18-19).

We are still in the season of Easter and we the disciples are invited to remember that death is not the end and we are not alone.

Believing that this (death, farewell) is not the end and that there is more is a matter of faith. The disciples are asked to have faith that they are not being abandoned and they will be accompanied on their journey after Jesus has ascended. They are also asked to keep the commandments and are assured that someone is certainly going to guide them, to help them discern, to advocate for them. Until now Jesus accompanied them. Now someone else will.

Have you experienced accompaniment?

Who has been accompanying you?

Who are you accompanying today?

Accompanying someone comes with responsibility. You may have heard of the organization Christian Peacemaker Teams also identified as CPT. I have several friends who have been and continue to be part of CPT. The work of CPT includes “accompanying partners” upon invitation – “partners who nonviolently defend their (own) rights” and the rights of their “communities.” They (meaning CPT) do the work of advocacy by “amplifying the stories and voices of those experiencing violent oppression.”ⁱⁱ Christian Peacemaker Teams have been accompanying communities in Palestine, in Colombia as well as among the First Nations of Canada. Accompaniment, walking alongside someone, is a responsibility and a privilege.

The Holy Spirit that Jesus is referring to in the Gospel today, is the one who walks alongside us.

How have you experienced this accompaniment?

We live in a world where people are interested and continue to explore ways of being religious and spiritual alongside the secular- similar to the Athenians that Paul encountered in the text read by Vivienne. Paul is in the midst of people who were exploring unique and unusual things. Paul offers them something and speaks of God who endures.

This God who endures is the God we know and worship. This God is known to us in Jesus - who asks us to love. In the previous chapter - John 13 we hear Jesus saying, “³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Are we able to love one another in our chaotic world, where nothing can be taken for certain, where everything is possible, and some things are not possible? In this season and in this world, are we able to live out the call of Jesus, of loving one another?

On this journey, which is our life on planet earth, love may mean multiple things. It might mean accompanying someone who rubs us the wrong way – be it individual, family, community, city, region, even continent?!

Who and what are we being invited to love? How do we fulfill our call to love in a season of physical distancing? How do we build and perhaps restore relationships that are life giving? Where do we see the need to accompany others? Whom do we need to accompany?

The Holy Spirit that Jesus speaks of this day, moves in and among us, invites us to love in ways that are different to what the world expects. The Spirit calls us to do the work of justice and peace, to challenge oppressive behaviours and values while inviting us into relationship not just with God, but also all God’s creation.

It may be hard, but we are not alone, we are not abandoned. The advocate is with us.

May we find the grace and the strength to love God and God’s creation. May we continue to feel the accompaniment of the Spirit now and always. May we know and remember Emmanuel - God with us!

Amen!

Reflective Time – *video of the Christ Candle burning*

SONG: ATW 487 [Make your home in me](#) (Fay White)

[Make your home in me](#)

[As I make my home in you](#)

[I am everywhere that you can be](#)

[Make your home in me](#)

[If you fly to the point of the day’s sunrise](#)

[Or westward across the sea](#)

[If you travel to the uttermost ends of the earth](#)

[There I will be](#)

I knew you and loved you before you were born
As a child in you mother's womb
I have seen your struggles in the secret place
I know you through and through (and still I love you)

You will find me in the faces of the broken ones
In the sick, the troubled and the poor
You will find me in the wounds of your very own soul
I am knocking at your own heart's door

SONG: [Make your home in me](#), by Fay White © 1998, from [All together whatever](#),
Open Book Publishers, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

OFFERING

Dave

(holding bowl)

We come now to our time of offering – offering our money, time and energy to God. On a personal note, my attitude towards the offering changed about 20 years ago when I heard an Old Testament scholar by the name of Richard Lowery speak at a Stewardship conference.

He reflected on this idea of God's sacred surplus. That at the heart of so many of our treasured stories in the Bible there is some sacred surplus. In the beginning, there was not just work, work, work, but a seventh day of perpetual rest – delight, a sacred surplus. Generosity from God.

When the Israelites were searching for food in the wilderness, on the sixth day a double portion of manna from heaven was provided – a sacred surplus. Generosity from God.

Even the Sabbath year, where our modern-day long-service-leave comes from: the land must rest every 7 years so that the labourers can rest. A sacred surplus. Generosity from God.

So, inspired by God's generosity, I invite you to think about your sacred surplus, and the ways you can share it. At the risk of sounding like a tele-evangelist, there are bank details on our website, which you might like to access now, or at the end of the service, or you can put some money aside at home, and pop it in our offering bowl when we are back together again.

For these gifts, and for the gift of life, we give thanks to God.

We will now sing a beautiful Hawaiian song, Ka mana'o 'i 'o

SONG: MV103 [Ka mana'o 'i 'o](#) (Joe Camacho) Hawaiian song

[Kamana'o 'I 'O ko kakou Akua](#)

[Faithful, faithful is our God](#)

[Kamana'o 'I 'O ko kakou Akua](#)

[Faithful, faithful is our God](#)

[In love there is no one more faithful than our God](#)
[Who brings the light into our darkness](#)
[The God who shares the breath of life with you and me](#)
[All living things upon the earth](#)

[In quiet moments God whispers tenderly](#)
[The mystery of unending love](#)
[For God is good and holds us as we sleep](#)
[To wake us to the morning light](#)

[The mercy of our God we seek to share each day](#)
[To help each other on our way](#)
[To be God's hands and heart with tenderness and care](#)
[God's faithfulness is always there](#)

[When we share love, we seek to share each day](#)
[To help each other on our way](#)
[To be God's hands and heart with tenderness and care](#)
[God's faithfulness is always there](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Tim

1. My name is Tim Budge and I will be leading Prayers of the People today. Wherever you are, welcome to this time of prayer and contemplation of our world and our place in it.

I will be using a series of images from Michael Leunig, please feel free to look at them, let them speak to you and guide you in your own thoughts and prayers.

2. The first image was drawn by Leunig as a contribution for a Passion Play, performed by a Christian community in the Western suburbs many years ago. The image appeared on the windcheater worn by Jesus as the play followed the Stations of the Cross around Yarraville.

Feel free to look at this image. Let the drawing speak to you and guide your own reflections and prayers for the world.

Feel free to speak out, to name the people, places and burdens that come to mind.

Loving God, we pray for our world. It is struggling at the moment, overburdened by wars, disease and environmental destruction. We particularly pray for people who are carrying the big burdens at the moment, especially in this time of pandemic. We pray for health workers, parents, carers. We pray for governments everywhere and the important decisions they need to make at the moment.

And we pray for those who are reaching for the stars. May they reach their dreams and continue to inspire us.

3. We pray for individuals, family members, friends that we know, especially for those who might feeling a bit lost, uncertain or alone.
4. We remember those whose lives are tough at the moment, for those caught in the storm, for those struggling with pain, doubt, fear, or illness. We name them and know that you, God, have heard us.

Holy Spirit, help them to hang on and help us to know how to support them

5. Loving God, we pray for our church, its leaders, its ministry, its place in the world. We thank you for the people and the work of this church. We commit all its ministries, committees, activities and resources to you.
6. Rachel Held Evans wrote "Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable." May our church be that place. May we be safe, may our church be a refuge for all but may your Spirit provoke the right level of discomfort in us, a holy unsettledness, an ever deepening desire to work for your Kingdom, in all its riskiness.
7. We pray for the other things that are on our hearts, for what weighs us down and worries us and also for those around us who carry feel the same.
8. Guide us in decisions we have to make, choices big and small. Help us to find wise counsel, to ask for support. We name people, issues and decisions that are most on our mind and bring them to God.
9. Gracious and healing God, in this time of pandemic, we pray for the right focus. Help us to quarantine ourselves from fear. Help us to resist isolation from this world. Instead, may our compassion be contagious, may our love be infectious. For we ask in your name.
10. Amen

CEREMONY OF RELEASE VALENTINA AND YOO MI,

Helen Rowe, Dave Hall, Peter Blair

Dave:

Friends, back in early January, the Brunswick Uniting Church Council very clearly heard the call of God and the wider Uniting Church to release Ian for three months to provide vital supply ministry to fire-affected communities in East Gippsland. A short time later we were very pleased that both Yoo Mi and Valentina responded to God's promptings with a yes... to provide supply ministry to us – in preaching and discipleship (Valentina), and Pastoral Care (Yoo Mi).

It's hard enough to offer supply ministry during Lent and Easter. No-one could have predicted you being asked to do it during a pandemic as well. Offering pastoral care while not being able to meet people or go in to our homes, preaching in an empty church or to a camera, offering communion without bread or wine. This has been an unforgettable, extraordinary time, and yet you have both ministered to our community with wisdom, compassion and God's grace. We thank God for you, Valentina and Yoo Mi. And we are about to release you, unburden you from this role, for the next

phase of your life and ministry. Valentina will continue as a member of this congregation, so we are not saying farewell. We do say farewell to Yoo Mi as she continues her preparation for placement and ordination.

I invite you to say the responsive words on the screen.

There are diverse gifts

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God:

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways:

But it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

And there is no gift without its corresponding service.

There is one ministry of Christ

and in this ministry we all share.

Together we are the body of Christ:

And individually members of it.

We are grateful for the ministry you have shared with us and in particular your work with the Pastoral Care, Worship and Discipleship & Education committees.

Yoo Mi and Valentina briefly address the congregation...

Yoo Mi:

Being part of the Compassion Team here over the last three months has given me many grateful memories to cherish as I move into a new chapter of my ministry life. I appreciate the Compassion Team, Ministers' Team, Supply Ministry Support committee and those who have shared their joys and concerns with me during the time of challenge. I will probably never forget how welcome everyone made me feel at the Olive Way and Olive Arts on my very first day. Peace of our risen Lord be with you all. I hope we can support each other in prayer during our life and journey of faith. Thank you.

Valentina:

A few of you are aware or have been aware that I have been in discernment for a while now. The discernment has been about return to pastoral ministry in a traditional role and that too in a tradition different than my Anabaptist tradition. As a part of that discernment and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit I accepted the call to be supply minister with this faith community here in Brunswick for a short while. What a call! Never did I imagine being in ministry during the time of a pandemic, a global crisis. Being in ministry in California on and after 9/11 was an experience, this also has been an experience. What has been evident to me is the leading and accompaniment of God's Spirit. I will confess that it has not been easy but I offer my thanks to God for the ability to walk with you in these past few months. I take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to Ian, the Elders of the Church Council, the Supply Ministry Team, the Discipleship & Education Team and the Worship Team. And to all of you who make this faith community your home. I wish to acknowledge that this is a resource blessed congregation and for that I give thanks to God. I thank you for your support, your affirmations and your prayers in this time. Thank you for your calls, your notes and the cards you have sent me. Thank you for the conversations and for checking in on me. This includes the Presbytery Ministers. Thanks also to the members of the Ministry Team – Peter, Dave and Yoo Mi – who have walked with me and supported me by sharing their wisdom and offering opportunities to discern. As Dave said, I remain a part of BUC so you might hear me or see me until the time we meet again in person. But all this after a short break. I give thanks to God and offer my thanks to you. Peace of Christ to each of you.

Helen (Church Council Chair): Yoo Mi and Valentina, you have worked closely with Dave and Peter as a team in your respective ministries, supporting one another in love so inspiring God's people in their common ministry for Christ. We now formally dissolve this ministry team and commend you all to God as you form new ministry relationships. I invite you to exchange a sign of peace with one another to mark this change.

Yoo Mi, Valentina, Peter and Dave exchange a sign of peace.

Peter B:

And now, Yoo Mi and Valentina, we thank you for your ministry in this congregation, and pray for God's blessing on your continuing ministry.

Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid: for it is the Holy One who goes with you.
Your God will not fail you or forsake you.

Let us pray.

O God, be with us all in this time of transition;
bless Yoo Mi and Valentina as they move on
to the next phase of their life and ministry,
and all of us with them as we continue
to do your work of love as a church.
Through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING – MV214 May God's sheltering wings (Judith Snowdon)

Peter

May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you.
And hold you in her love,
And hold you in her love.

SONG: May God's sheltering wings, by Judith Snowdon, from More Voices,
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NOTICES

Saide

Good morning I'm Saide. Please keep up to date with the news on our website. The Olive Press, our weekly newsletter, along with the Events Calendar, include information about worship, projects, climate action, regular and special events. These include our virtual church camp experience on 23rd May, and three special projects: the Household of God, Community of Faces (a few photos were shown in the prelude) and Sharing Candle stories (stay on during the postlude for some photos). Please check the details for all this and more on the website and Facebook. Ian has concluded his supply ministry and will be returning to ministry with us this week. On Pentecost Sunday 31st May we will be participating in the Assembly live streamed service series. Worship will be live streamed at 10 am through Facebook. Please see the Events calendar on our website.

As part of sharing and acknowledging the work being done to sustain and build connections Peter Blair, our Olive Way pastor, will speak to us about how the Olive Way ministry continues to care for people. But first a message from Peter about work being done in the Olive Way and then Courtney, our camp coordinator.

Peter announced that the Olive Way will be painted in the near future and invited people to send a text or call if you are interested in assisting with the preparation phase of the project prior to the professional painting phase of the project. Courtney offered a video about the camp: <https://youtu.be/XZd7NLnmnbo>, also call Courtney – 0448 233 321

OLIVE WAY

Peter Blair

Hi folks, I'm Peter, and I'm the Olive Way Pastor coming to you from Olive Way. This place would normally be buzzing with people when we are open, but today it all closed up. Our doors have been closed here since the 24th of March, 8 weeks now. For the first part of that shut-down we spent a great many hours working together with the Olive Way steering committee, the church council and the Nudge group looking at how we would respond to the shutdown. And while it will always be a 'work in progress' to some degree, as the situation continually changes, there are a few things we have been able to nail down.

To do this I tried to boil Olive Way down as much as possible to its basic ingredients. I discerned that there were two essential ingredients that make up Olive Way, the first being food, and the second, pastoral contact. Food for us in Olive Way is primarily a function of the pastoral contact, and not and ends in itself. Our core business is pastoral contact. So in order to make sure these two aspects of OW were continuing, at least in form, we came up with the following responses.

The first is that we wanted to ensure that people still had access to prepared meals. This is particularly important to the many homeless folk who visit OW who are unable to cook meals, and who lost out with the panic buying earlier in the year. We had a series of conversations with Salvos and we decided to that in order to reduce the points of contact that we would remain closed that they would be the primary distribution site in the area. They provide meals for around 50 people a day (although that sometimes gets a little close the line) on Monday Wed, Fri and Sun. We also decided to contribute what we would normally spend on our Wednesday lunches to them, which enabled them to open on an extra day, that being Tuesday. We also lent them our cook, Peter Murphy who has been seconded to them to help out on Monday and Tuesday.

The second thing we wanted to continue during shut down was our pastoral contact. My main forum for this is the Salvos lunch distribution on Mon Wed and Fri where I am able to meet and chat with a good portion of our usual OW guests. Conversations are brief as we're not supposed to linger, but its important for me to get a sense of what people are experiencing. Boredom and loneliness is a big one. The other thing is that There are a lot people who come to OW who don't have phones or don't have access to phones. Where possible we have been trying to bridge that gap. So a big thanks to all you who donated your second hand mobiles. It means that some of those folk are able to get in touch with services and be contacted when help becomes available. It also means that we are able to extend our pastoral contact to them.

It's been a delight to work with Salvos, I've really appreciated the ecumenical approach to this pandemic. I am hoping we can continue to keep our close contact if and when things return to normal. It's also been great to see the cooperation between agencies during this time, including with Moreland council. Of course it's been said many times, but we are all in this together, and that means that we will all come out of this together. I only hope we learn and grow through this experience.

In the meantime my hope is that we can make this space look clean and inviting for when we do return. Stay tuned.

SENDING

Jenne

Thank you, Peter. I want to take this moment to thank Natalie for the music this morning and to all the musicians who have been offering music from their homes. A reminder to call someone after worship today, maybe someone you haven't spoken with for a while, share a drink together and celebrate the simple joy of connection.

Yoo Mi and Valentina will offer the Benediction after our sending song -

SONG: TiS 421 Where the Spirit is there's freedom (Per Harling)

[Where the Spirit is there's freedom.](#)

[Where the Spirit is, there is life!](#)

1. Not by the world can our freedom be nourished,
not by our things, only by Spirit.

Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit,
drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!

2. Heaven on earth, here we live, free to
love and to share, carried by joy.

Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit,
daring today to taste God's future.

3. Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened,
imaging God, reflecting Jesus.

Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit,
heaven is here, time made eternal.

SONG: [Where the Spirit is](#), by Per Gunnar Harling, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious, copyright unknown

BENEDICTION/ Sending/Blessing
Friends,

Yoo Mi and Valentina

We believe in God who abides in us
As We abide in God

We believe in God who does not abandon us
God continues to accompany us

Be assured that wherever you are
God is with you

Know that you do not go alone
The love and the presence of God goes with you
Now and always
Amen!

POSTLUDE – TiS 412 God sends us the Spirit to befriend and help us / Spirit Friend

CLOSING SLIDE: John 14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

ⁱ Commentary on John 14:15-22 by Karoline Lewis

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1995

Accessed May 2020

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cpt.org/about>