

Order of Service – 14/11/2021 – Pentecost 25

Opening verse on screen:

Let us build a house where love can dwell

Call to Worship

Ian

The Bell rings

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you

Light candle

Breathe deep...

Gathering Song

MV01 Let Us Build a House / All are welcome – Verses 1, 2 and 5

1. *Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

2. *Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*

5. *Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

SONG: [Let us build a house](#), by Marty Haugen, from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Acknowledgement of Country

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 and Introduction

Ian

Our service today explores themes of breaking down and rebuilding, locking down and opening up, going in and re-emerging. Our bible readings speak of destruction and rebuilding, of loss and new life, of death and resurrection – of God turning the world as we know it upside-down. We are emerging from a time of loss when so much about our lives has been broken down and disrupted. What new life is now emerging? Today we will focus on some of the many artworks in our Emergence exhibition – works made during lock down, in response to lockdown, often as a way of coping with lockdown. If you haven't seen the exhibition or are not able to visit the church, you can view the virtual exhibition online. Visit our website and follow the Emergence links.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Ian

A meditation on 4 artworks leading us through praise and confession and reconciliation.
Between each work we will offer our meditations to God in song, O Lord hear my prayer.

Image 1: One perfect moment – Jessica Kvensakul

Begin in black and white.

Jessica has captured the beauty and contrasts of nature, the light and the dark, the intricacy and the complexity.

Our creator makes a world of such awesome delicacy and power, and we are part of it.
What do you see? What do you feel?

silence

Let's offer our meditations to God in song:

TIS741 O Lord, hear my prayer

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

SONG: O Lord, hear my prayer, by Jacques Berthier, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, WORD OF LIFE

Image 2: Royal Way (Camino Real) – Lesbia Centeno

The next image is by Lesbia Centeno – her work encourages observers to imaginatively visit her homeland, Venezuela.

Before lockdown, Lesbia only drew in black and white. Then, she writes, “suddenly in times of social isolation in lockdown, from within I heard the screams of silence, which told me: colour your days, draw joy on your face and put colour in whatever you do these days because only colours will help you not to lose heart on the path you have to travel. I began to add colour to my drawings, until today I only think about painting and expressing the joy that the magic of colours transmit to me.”

Our God also colours the world with love through the life of Jesus by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

What do you see? What do you feel?

silence

O Lord, hear our prayers

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

Image 3: A Glass Cage – Naser Moradi

Back to a colourless place. Naser has been in immigration detention for many years. His whole life is spent in lockdown – there is no physical emergence for him. He writes: “our life is in transit, whether we want it or not, whether we are rich or poor, whether we are free or prisoners in a glass cage. It would be better to be like butterflies, able to fly away together.”

Even in God’s wonderful world so much is broken.

What do you see? What do you feel?

silence

O Lord, hear our prayers

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

Image 4: Hopeful World - Naser Moradi

Naser writes of this painting: “I have put all my compassion into painting to express my wish for Australia to become a green and beautiful country again very soon.” This is an image of hope for the world and a word of grace to us from detention.

The hope of our faith rises like colourful light out of the darkest night. Through the flourishing of new life in creation, through the cries of the prophets, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, comes hope that out of our brokenness comes rebuilding, out of the locking down comes emergence.

What do you see? What do you feel?

silence

O Lord, hear our prayers

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.*

Let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us to say:

***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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

Bible Reading – Selected Verses from Mark 13, 14, 15 & 16

Jenne

Including Children's time

Mark 13:1-2, 14:55-59, 15:25-30 and 16:2-6

Children move to a different artwork and reflect between each passage.

Jenne: A series of 4 brief readings from the last 4 chapters of Mark's gospel.

From Mark Chapter 13

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

Image 1: Joy Barrett – Emergence

Jenne: From Mark Chapter 14

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

Image 2, 3 & 4: Simone Alesich – Constellation Obscure. Move through the 3 images as Dave is talking to the children.

Jenne: From Mark Chapter 15

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

Image 4: Colin Hunter sculptures

Jenne: From Mark Chapter 16

Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."

Image 5: Cocoon, Catherine Lesley

Image 6: Spring Fever, Natalie, Glenice, Leanne and Bev

Song

Introduced and led by Shawn

Where were you? (Shawn Whelan)

*"Where were you when the universe sprang to life?
Where were you when I made the day and the night?
Where were you when the morning stars sang, to all the heavens' delight?"*

*"Have you walked into the springs of the sea?
Have you dwelled where the gates of death are revealed?
Have your minds yet comprehended the breadth of all that I see?"*

***O God, you breathe through all time and space.
O God, we know you here in this place.
Help us learn to sit in silence, to open up to your grace.
Oohh...***

*"Do you know the mountain goat in the wild?
Do you know the way she nurtures her child?
Do you know the way I treasure the earth that you have defiled?"*

*"O behold the birds of air that I feed.
O behold the deadly toll of your greed.
O behold the sparrow falling, and all that you never heed."*

***O God, your beauty all round us shines.
O God, we're breaking your good design.
Help us learn a humble spirit, before we run out of time.***

***O God, we pray you make us anew
O God, our damage help us undo
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you***

SONG: [Where were you](#) © Shawn Whelan 2021.
Written on the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River), Wurundjeri country, August 2021,
watching Salvatore the seal at play – after studying Job 38-39 with theologians Graeme Garrett, Jan Morgan and the Brunswick Uniting Church Eco-theology group. Contact me for permission to use this song
(readily given for non-commercial purposes, but the song itself is still evolving).

Bible Reading – 1 Samuel 2:1-8

Lyn Anderson

Hannah prayed and said,
“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.
“There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for you, LORD are a God of knowledge,
and by you actions are weighed.
The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
You, LORD kill and bring to life;
you bring down to Sheol and raise up.
You make poor and make rich;
you bring low, you also exalt.
You raise up the poor from the dust;
you lift the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are yours, LORD,
and on them you have set the world.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian and Matilda

2 chairs set at the front
1 handheld microphone

1. Tell us about the inspiration for and process of creating your artwork.

Matilda speaks about her work

First slide of Matilda's artwork (animated) – Soliloquy for a City.

Once animation has finished move to second slide.

2. What do you mean by: “I have unfurled into her (the city's) chaos, beauty, and contradiction”

3. Today our gospel theme is breaking down and rebuilding. How does this theme speak to your experience of art-making in the lockdown and the emergence?

Ian invites everyone to spread out through the church, choosing one artwork to stop in front of which resonates with your experience of emergence. Observe social distance. Find one or two people nearby. Discuss why you chose that artwork.

Hear the message we now are proclaiming

*Hear the message we are now proclaiming
about justice and peace for the whole world.
Hear the message we are now proclaiming
about justice and peace for the whole world.*

*With faith and with love
and with hope we shall fight for the world.
With faith and with love
and with hope we shall fight for the world.*

*El mensaje que hoy proclamamos,
Es justicia, es paz para el mundo.
El mensaje que hoy proclamamos,
Es justicia, es paz para el mundo.*

*La fe, el amor,
La esperanza de un mundo mejor.
La fe, el amor,
La esperanza de un mundo mejor.*

SONG: [Hear the message we are now proclaiming](#), Spanish words and music by Eleazar Torreglosa
[English: unknown], © 2007; Administered by WCC-COE 150, Route de Ferney,
P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland. For non-profit use only.

Prayers of the People

Helen B

God of our past, present and future,
as our lives open up again, we give thanks for all that you give. We give thanks for the birth, life
and death of Jesus who walks with us through the shadows, and helps us to find your light.

God of hope

We pray that we will build a world where love is found. We pray for peace, where there is
conflict, in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, and on the border of Belarus and Poland.

We pray for all the men, women and children who suffer and try to escape intolerance, greed,
and the quest for power.

We pray for all those who suffer in this Pandemic. For countries where there is little vaccine,
and poor health services. For governments to share knowledge in manufacturing vaccines so
we all benefit.

We pray for those who care for the sick and the dying, for Doctors, nurses, paramedics, and
hospital staff.

God of Creation,

we pray that we build a world that cares for creation. We pray that we will recognise the
warnings your creation is giving us. We pray that we join together, to save our animals, our
land, our seas, and our skies, our very lives and the lives our children.

God of Community,

we pray that we can bring an end to inequality and intolerance. Where colour, race, wealth,
disability, and age no longer matter.

We pray that we, your Church, will build places where all feel welcome. We pray for all the
groups that make up our Church, and for everyone who comes through our doors or watches
our service online. You have called us here from different lives and different places, we pray
that we can build a Church where we always listen, speak your word and show your love.

God of Love,

You hear our prayer, know our fears, our joys, our laughter, and our pain. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Architect and builder of our faith, our hope and our love.

Amen

Notices

Ian

Sending Song

MV120 Canticle of the turning

1. *My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

2. *Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.*

3. *From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.*

4. *Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around*

SONG: [Canticle of the turning](#), from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc.
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Postlude sequence - Thank you (with recorded music)

Liturgist:
Ian Ferguson (Minister of
the Word)

Acknowledgement of
Country:
Bridie Turner

Bible readers:
Jenne Perlstein
Lyn Anderson

Children's time
Dave Hall (Pastor:
Children, Youth and Young
Adults)

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
Matilda McClintock

Musicians:
Natalie Sims (coordinator)
Joel Hallinan
Alistair Hunter
Nicole Lowe
Kate Scull
Maggie Somerville
Melvin Tan

Prayers of the People:
Helen Burnham

Songs:
Lord listen to your children
praying - Words and Music by
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Shawn Whelan
Natalie Sims
Daniel Whelan

Artworks:
Ann Soo – Between
Shadow and light (5)
Beverly Evans – Butterflies
Beverley Evans – French
Lavender
Catherine Leslie – Cocoon
Colin Hunter – Celtic Cross
Colin Hunter – Dangerous
Dance
Colin Hunter – Hands
Graham Laming – Untitled
Janet Alesich – Arising to a
New World

Jessica Kvensakul – One
perfect moment
Joy Barrett – Emergence
Lesbia Centeno – Royal
Way (Camino Real)
Marilyn Hall – Relief
Matilda McClintock –
Soliloquy for a City
Naser Moradi – A glass
cage
Naser Moradi – Hopeful
World
Natalie Papworth, Glenice
Cook, Leanne Salau,
Beverly Evans – Spring
Fever
Phil Kreveld – Landscape
Simone Alesich –
Constellation I, II, III
Simone Alesich with SMP
– Through the Glass

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Martin Brown
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Alistair Hunter

Closing verse on screen:

Could the world be about to turn?