

Opening verse on screen:

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you ..." Luke 6:20a

Gathering and Greeting

Saide

Good morning I'm Saide please take a moment to find a seat. As we prepare to worship here in this space, online, now or later, take a moment to feel your feet on the floor and the breath in your lungs, notice the tension you are holding and breathe it out. Wherever we are gathered, we are the body of Christ, called to worship God.

Let's stand now and sing as we welcome the Word and the light

Song: Song of Praise

*Creator of this great land, we adore you.
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.*

SONG: [Song of Praise](#), Written for the Commission for Mission by Ross Langmead for Synod worship, September 1996. Used with permission

Call to Worship

Saide

Now let us worship God with our breath and our bodies
with our joy and sadness, our laughter and tears
with our words, songs and prayers, our hands and our hearts.

Acknowledgement of Country

Matilda (video)

Please be seated as we acknowledge the people of the land on which we gather

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.**

Song of praise: Deeper River, AoV.2.6

Let us worship God together singing of living waters.

*1. There's a river running deep within the silence of our souls
where the quenching healing waters carve their art
at its source a spring of living water surging and sustained
It's the voice of Jesus waiting for the listening of our hearts.*

*When the living waters flow in us
when the living waters flow again
they will carry us they will wash us down
they will quench our thirst again.*

*2. Sometimes the river of our life winds wandering away
sometimes the rapids tumble restlessly
comes the time to stop and find the deeper river running strong
to drink refreshing waters and hear the spirit's song.*

*3. Hear the call to thirsty people there's no need to thirst again
to the weary come beside still waters lie
full of goodness full of mercy our cup will overflow
when the call of that deep river is a voice we've come to know.*

SONG: [Deeper River](#), © 1997 Digby Hannah, from [As One Voice](#), Vol 2, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd.
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Welcome and Introduction

Saide

Welcome to worship this morning. I'm Saide, and joined by Ian, Ray, Ralph, Julie and Shawn leading the musicians in leading and offering worship. Today is all about Beatitudes from the prophet Jeremiah, the psalmist and, of course, from Jesus. In Luke's Gospel the beatitudes are accompanied by woes as Jesus turns the world upside down. The psalmist and Jeremiah shape their beatitudes with images of trees and streams of water.

Our offering of morning tea after worship remains paused as we seek to keep each other safe, please stay on after worship in this space, on the steps or the lawn to chat and reflect together.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession including Word of Grace

Saide

Breathing together again, let us pray
We begin singing '**Strong as living trees**'

*Strong as living trees,
Let our roots sink deep and hidden,
Strong as living trees,
Beside flowing streams*

SONG: [Strong as living trees](#), by Linnea Good, inspired by the poetry of Lynn Baumann,
used with permission as a member of the Psalm-Body's Prayin' Subscription List

Creator God, we adore you.
You shape the world with love
birthing beauty, abundance, glory and wonder.
We see you at work in the world each and every day.
We discover you in hidden places, hidden faces.
We seek you with our whole hearts, you restore us.

Renewer of your people, we adore you.
You look deep within our hearts
searching out our hidden thoughts and longings.
We see you at work healing and teaching.
We discover you in amongst the people, offering blessing.
We seek to follow in all our living, you inspire us.

Transformer of all life, we adore you.
You shape us with love,
lifting us up, providing strength and sustenance.
We see you at work in the voices of the prophets.
We discover you in streams of living water
We seek shelter in the shade of your abiding love, you sustain us.
Amen

Let's sing ...

*Strong as living trees,
Let our roots sink deep and hidden,
Strong as living trees,
Beside flowing streams*

Creator, Renewer, Transformer
We long for shelter in these troubled times
We seek out shade, living water, peace, rest.
Forgive us our frailty, our doubts, our fears.
Help us to be strong as living trees
with our roots deep in the stream of your steadfast love.
Amen

Jesus came down and stood in a level place ...
and all in the crowd were trying to touch him,
for power came out from him and healed all of them.
Reach out then and know that in Jesus' name
Our sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen**

*Strong as living trees,
Let our roots sink deep and hidden,
Strong as living trees,
Beside flowing streams*

Children's time part 1

Dave and Ian

Invite the kids down. Cushions. Ian with some salt bush – kids can taste some of this now, to get ready for the reading. Listen out for two plants mentioned in this reading.

And a warning: Jeremiah was a prophet – a bit of a grumpy prophet at times, and so there's some stuff in here that's a bit hard to hear: both blessings and curses...

Ok, so let's listen out for the two plants mentioned, in particular.

Hebrew Scriptures: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Julie (recorded)

Thus says the Lord:
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

With the Children part 2

Dave and Ian

Alright, did anyone hear the two plants mentioned? (shrub in the desert, salt bush, living in very harsh land), and... a tree planted by water – doesn't get stressed in the drought because it knows rains will eventually come. Sends roots down deep. So many trees in outback Australia doing that for thousands of years – a great image of God's love and grace – waiting patiently for the water to come.

So, let's watch some footage of that happening in Australia's desert – happening right now because rain has fallen. Just meditate on this beautiful footage, and see where your eyes are drawn to.

[Show the clip \(no sound\). \(in Dropbox / Liturgy\).](#)

Any reflections – what were your eyes drawn to?

Dave / Ian: the edge of the water, keeps reaching out for more dry land, like God's love for us.

Song: The Tree Song

*1. I saw a tree by the riverside one day as I walked along,
straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky growing tall and strong.
How do you grow so tall and strong I said to the riverside tree,
This is the song my tree friend sang to me:*

*I've got roots growing down to the water,
I've got leaves growing up to the sunshine,
and the fruit that I bear is a sign of the life in me.
I am shade from the hot summer sundown,
I am nest for the birds of the heaven.
I'm becoming what the Lord of trees has meant me to be,
a strong young tree.*

2. *I saw a tree in the winter time when snow lay on the ground,
straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky and winter winds blew all around.
How do you stay so tall and strong I said to the winter time tree,
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:*

3. *I saw a tree in the city streets where buildings blocked the sun,
green and lovely I could see it gave joy to ev'ry one.
How do you grow in the city streets I said to the down town tree,
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:*

SONG: [Tree Song](#), by Ken Medema, 1976 Word Music, LLC (Admin. by CopyCare Pacific Pty. Ltd.),
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Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26

Ralph

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song: Beauty for brokenness, TiS 690

Let's stand and sing 'Beauty for brokenness'. If you have brought an offering please place it in the bowls near the baptismal font. The bowls will be brought forward for blessing at the conclusion of the song.

1. *Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.*

2. Shelter for fragile lives, cure for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.
God of the poor . . .

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.
God of the poor . . .

SONG: [Beauty for brokenness](#), by Graham Kendrick, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*,
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Let us pray

God of the poor, friend of the weak
We bring our offerings today
offerings as varied as each of us gathered today
offerings of loving intentions and gifts of hopes.
Bless all that we offer so that compassion,
justice, love and peace reshape the world
your Kingdom, in your name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Ray

We offer our prayers for the world, the church and our community.

As we pray we will sing the Taize chant 'How blessed are you'

After the prayers I will take the Christ Candle to the chapel space where you are welcome to light a taper during the final song or after the service. Let's sing ...

*How blessed are you who are poor
the kingdom of God is yours*

SONG: [How blessed](#), © Ateliers et Presses de Taize, WORD OF LIFE

Creator God we pray for the world
For all who are hungry and poor, for all who weep
For the ravaged earth, for our oceans and streams
For all who live far from their homes and not yet found a new home
For those who wage war and for those who suffer the effects
We pray for justice, for peace, for compassion, for blessing.

*How blessed are you who are poor
the kingdom of God is yours*

Renewer of all people we pray for the church
For all who lead, reaching out, taking risks, offering care
For your body throughout the world, at work in your name
For all whose faith has been tested and find their hearts broken
For those who have caused harm and for those who suffer the effects.
We pray for justice, for peace, for compassion, for blessing.

*How blessed are you who are poor
the kingdom of God is yours*

Transformer of all life we pray for our community
For all who are unjustly detained, damaged, longing for freedom
For those who bear witness, standing strong, crying out for change
For all who are lonely, looking for work, unwell in mind or body
For those who teach, keep us safe, look after our health and wellbeing.
We pray for justice, for peace, for compassion, for blessing.
Amen

*How blessed are you who are poor
the kingdom of God is yours*

Notices

Saide

It's time to share the news of the community. If you have something to share please come and stand to my right, take off your mask, tell us your name and share your news in a sentence or two. You can also keep up to date with things that are happening through the Olive Press, Facebook group and of course our website.

Sending Song: You are salt for the earth, AoV.2.4

- 1. You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, Bring forth the City of God!*
 - 2. You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!*
 - 3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, Grow in the Kingdom of God!*
 - 4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God!*
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SONG: [You are salt for the earth](#), by Marty Haugen, © 1986 GIA Publications, from [As One Voice 2](#), Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Blessing and Sending

We are a blest and a pilgrim people.

Let's go out into the week to be
salt for the earth, a light on the hill
and a seed of the Word.

Let's go out to reshape the world
with peace, justice and mercy.

And in all you do may you always
feel the steadfast love of God enfolding you
be guided by the words and actions of Jesus
and be sustained by the breath and fire
of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Thank you

Thank you for joining us and thank you to ...

Liturgist:
Saide Cameron

Andrew Dickinson
Joel Hallinan
Nicole Lowe
Elaine Potter
Melvin Tan

Acknowledgement of
Country:
Matilda McClintock

Bible readers:
Ralph Eduardo
Julie Perrin

Postlude Song:
Sent out in Jesus' name,
Traditional Cuban, from All
Together Okay, (412)
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Children's time:
Ian Ferguson
Dave Hall
(Children, Youth & Young
Adult Pastor)

Musicians:
Shawn Whelan
Natalie Sims
Jane Allardice

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Martin Brown
Michael Cameron
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Dave Hall
Dave Miller

Prayers of the People:
Ray Cameron

Musicians:
Shawn Whelan
(co-ordinator)
Mikul Denison

Images & Videos:
Ian Ferguson

Julie Perrin

JESUS MAFA. The
Sermon on the Mount,
from **Art in the Christian
Tradition**, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville,
TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48284> [retrieved February 11, 2022].
Original source:
<http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page:
<https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Desert river footage
sourced from the
Australian Wildlife
Conservancy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3CC8-6eLn8>

Closing verse on screen:

"They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream." Jeremiah 17:8a