

Opening verse on screen:

What God has made clean, you must not call profane. Acts 11:9

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Helen

Hi all. Please find a seat as we are about to start the Service. We would like to thank you for still wearing your masks, it keeps us all safer and as we have realized, Covid is everywhere.

We continue our Easter worship today.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Song of praise: Halle, halle, halle, TIS720

*Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah.*

SONG: [Halle, halle, halle](#), Tune Caribbean traditional. Words: traditional liturgical text, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country

Helen

Each week we are seeing a video of our Acknowledgment of Country, these are sent in by members and friends from where ever they are living or visiting. It is a wonderful way to learn more about our First Nations.

Video: Simone Alesich and Michael Silverton at Broken Hill

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.**

Gathering Song: Draw the Circle Wide MV145

We are here today, glad to be able to stand together, because together we can do more, be more, show more of God's love in our world.
So let us join our voices, stand and sing

*Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

- 1. God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing is lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.*
- 2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.*
- 3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.*

SONG: Draw the circle wide, by Gordon Light, from More Voices, United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Welcome and Introduction

Helen

Good morning everyone. My name is Helen and I am the Liturgist for today, and along with Ian, the Musicians and all our technicians we welcome you, whether you are here in person, or watching online.

Please join us after the Service for morning tea and a chat in the hall.

Today we will be hearing readings from John 13: 31-35. Here Jesus gives us a new, revolutionary Commandment. And from Acts 11: 1-18, where Peter is accused of breaking the Jewish laws by eating with Gentiles. Peter replies with a radical word of inclusiveness, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean."

Prayers of Adoration and Confession including Word of Grace

Chant: The Kingdom of God MV146

*The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom*

SONG: The Kingdom of God © 2001 Taize Community, Ateliers et Presses de Taize from More Voices (146) United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc.

Holy one

You are our God, you are the centre of our lives, and you have given us all that we have. The food we eat, the water we drink and the wonderful and unique land we walk on. We, your people, are overwhelmed by the love and faithfulness you have shown us. That for you, there is no race, colour, gender, nationality, or religion that excludes us from your radical love. That when we reach out you are always there.

Brother Jesus,

You walked this earth as we do, you made a life with us, you taught us how to live, and sacrificed your life for us. And you left us with a new commandment, that we love one another, as you love.

Holy Spirit.

We breathe you in and you revitalize, strengthen our lives, helping us to open our hearts to the world.

Holy Three in One

You have given us a new Commandment, and you have asked that we love, not with a passive love, but an active, radical love. To love as Jesus loved.

From a Chosen people, you embraced the world and made a place for all of us in your heart.

Forgive us when we fail to love as you love.

When our courage fails and in our fear we exclude, discriminate, and marginalize those who do not look like us, think like us, eat like us, believe like us.

When in our complacency, we fail to see you in the multitude of faces around us.

Forgive us when we try to close our hearts and minds, and refuse to learn when you are turning our world upside down,

just as you revolutionized Peter's world.

So "who are we to think we can oppose God?"

Amen

*The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom*

Word of Grace

Holy one

In your great love, forgiveness and faithfulness, you gave us your Son, and made a place for the whole of humanity in your heart.

So we know that, in Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,

Our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

With the Children 1

Helen and Ian

Helen – invite the children to come down and gather round the table for a meal.

Ian – check out the menu on the screens and choose what you would like to eat.

Images on screen:

1. Deep Fried Tarantula with a side of Skewered Snake (Cambodia)
2. Escargot/Snails with Herbed Butter (France)
3. Beondegi – Fried Silk Worm Pupae (Korea)
4. Deep Fried Battered Haggis with Chips (Scotland: sheep's heart, liver, and lungs, minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, and spices, cooked encased in the animal's stomach).
5. Roasted Witchetty Grub (Australia)
6. Durian (SE Asia - a fruit that smells like rotting flesh)
7. Barbecued Bat on a Stick (Indonesia)
8. Vegemite on Toast (Australia)

Helen – anything you want to order?

Ian – Listen to our bible story now about a time when God asked Peter to eat things which he found disgusting. Let's see what happens.

Bible Reading – Acts 11:1-18

Claire

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Helen and Ian

What did you hear?

Peter must have felt like us thinking about eating Tarantulas.

We may not want to eat all the foods in the world, but it is not God who is stopping us.

There are no "unclean, forbidden, prohibited, against the law" foods for Christians. And there are no unclean people.

Song: We will take what you offer, ATW 498.

*We will take what you offer,
we will live by your word;
we will love one another
and be fed by you, Lord.*

SONG: [We will take what you offer](#), by John L. Bell, © 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, Open Book Publishers, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE # 604502

Gospel Reading – John 13:31-35

Mal Rowe

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song: In My Father's House

Ian

Verse 1

*Rainbow of colours a complex of creeds
Age-old perspectives meet fresh ways to see
Everyone welcome fling open the doors
You'll learn of my path and I'll learn from yours*

Chorus

*In my father's house there are many rooms
But no walls to divide
In my father's house there are many rooms
The gates are open wide*

Verse 2

*The strong and the scared
Come from left and from right
We're not so different seen in this light
There at the table a banquet is served
For every person a place is reserved*

Verse 3

*Some greet a stranger some serve the poor
Some shake the system right to its core
Some have found true faith others still search
'Cause it takes all kinds to make up a church*

Verse 4

*A voice for the voiceless justice for all
And for the listless a clarion call
A church of inclusion we're bringing to birth
Just like in heaven it can be on earth*

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Prayers of the People

Clare, offered by Kenna

Creator God, we come before you with hopeful, hurting hearts.
The world is more divided than ever,
with the voices of the powerful shouting ever louder...
and leaving the quieter, vulnerable voices behind. Yet we know, God, that you call us to *listen*.

[pause]

Loving God, move us to hear the voices of those left out, left behind and ignored.
For us to look beyond our preconceived ideas,
our pre-judgements about what “those people” might look like, sound like, *be* like.
Help us to remember that *everyone* belongs,
no matter their gender, sexuality, race, age or disability.
We all have a place here. We all deserve to feel safe, and that we belong.

Help us, too, dear God, to *act*. Let our listening be an active sort,
that hears the needs of the most vulnerable around us,
and amplifies their voices, so that they – and we –
may drown out the hate-filled shouting of the powerful.
Let our collective love shine out fiercely, like the bright flame of our Easter candle.
May we as a church be an active model of radical, grace-filled protective love in the world.

[pause]

God, we also pray for deeper listening and active love in the wider world.
The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and elsewhere;
the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic;
and the escalating threat of climate change.
Everywhere, people, communities and the natural world are crying out.
May we hear them, and act.

In the same way, we pray for discernment, ahead of the federal election on Saturday.
We ask for grace as we ponder all we have heard during this bitter campaign. M
ay we vote with the fire of love in our hearts.

[pause]

In the name of Christ. Amen

Notices

Helen

Now is the time for us to share all our news. So form a queue to my right and please keep it short if you can. Of course you can keep in touch through the web site or on Facebook.

Sending Song

Tune In: Community.

-
- 1. Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
Care for the earth and sea, we need to keep them free,
So we care for the earth and sea
Care for the ones we meet, love is the face we see,
When we care for the ones we meet*
 - 2. Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
Sharing our joy and pain, praying and keeping faith
By sharing our joy and pain
Singing a song of rights, imaging God in life,
By singing a song of rights.*
 - 3. Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
Talk to the lonely, bind up the broken, this makes community
A glass of water shared with the thirsty, this makes for dignity
This makes for dignity, this is community*
-

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Jesus said,
I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.

Go in peace to love as you have been loved.

With the blessing of God,
Source of Love,
Word of Love,
Spirit of Love.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you

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

Liturgist:
Helen Burnham

Acknowledgement
of Country:
Simone Alesich
Michael Silverton

Bible readers:
Claire Foley
Mal Rowe

Children's time:
Helen Burnham
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Clare Keogh
offered by Kenna Morrison

Musicians:
Elaine Potter (coordinator)
Yvonne Groot
Alistair Hunter
Nicole Lowe
Robert Sargent
Maggie Somerville
Melvin Tan

Postlude Song: [When I
needed a neighbour](#), by
Sydney Carter, from
[Together in Song](#), Harper
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Musicians: Natalie Sims,
Daniel Whelan, Shawn
Whelan

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Alistair Hunter
Owen Sun

Closing verse:

What God has made clean, you must not call profane. Acts 11:9