

Opening verse:

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Psalm 67:3

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Saide

Good morning, welcome and thank you for continuing to wear your masks during worship. A reminder that we do not have a heater at the moment so please rug up next week if you are cold today. Please stand.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed

Alleluia!

Come let us worship God today
Holding the joys and pains of living with gentle hearts
With hands ready to do God's work in the world
And voices raised to sing God's praise.

Song of praise: Jubilate Deo, TiS 731

As we welcome the Word and the Light let's sing out our praise this morning in the spirit of the psalm for today – Psalm 67. We'll sing in Latin and in English

*Jubilate Deo omni terra.
Servite Domino in laetitia.
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!*

*Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!*

SONG: [Jubilate Deo](#), The Taize Community, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*; WORD OF LIFE

Acknowledgement of Country

Saide

During our worship for the Easter season, we are hearing recorded acknowledgments of country from all around Australia from places where our members live or travel. As we gather here on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people, let us remember all the peoples of this land now called Australia. Today Simone Alesich offers the acknowledgement from Baarkindji Menindee NSW.

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

Saide

Welcome to worship. In these challenging times we continue to be grateful for the opportunity to worship in person and online so welcome today in this space and in your homes or wherever you are. Let's breathe into the space together, holding and acknowledging all that has taken place in recent weeks and looking towards the future with hopeful hearts.

I'm Saide leading worship this morning with Ian, Matilda, Gwen, Ray and musicians led by Courtney. Today we meet Lydia, a worshipper of God, who deals in purple cloth. In John's gospel we are reminded of Jesus' gift of peace.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession with Word of Grace

Saide

Let us pray

God you are our still point, the constant source of love in our lives.
We breathe in your love, we are nourished, we are renewed.
You hold us when our hearts are breaking
You lift us up and send us out to love as you do.
We love you, we adore you.
Forgive us our constant frailty,
our inability to trust in the face of so much suffering.
Forgive us as we turn again and again to you.

*Heavy our hearts that are burdened,
Tired our hearts that are pained,
Weary our hearts that are broken;
Come to our aid.*

Jesus your love knows no borders, you welcome all.
We breathe in your love, we are nourished, we are renewed.
You speak words of peace into our hearts
You call us to follow you, to speak truth to power.
We love you, we adore you.
Forgive us our constant stumbling
Our inability to believe that we can truly make a difference.
Forgive us as once more we commit to following you.

*Comfort our hearts that are lonely,
Melt our hearts of stone,
Gentle our hearts with compassion;
Come, make us whole.*

Holy Spirit, dream whisperer, you shape our loving and living.
We breathe in your love, we are nourished, we are renewed.
You set our hearts on fire with love for the world.
You send us out to open doors for those in need.
We love you, we adore you.
Forgive us our fear and uncertainty,
Our distraction amidst the clamour of anger, hate and despair.
Forgive us we open ourselves to receive the gift of your power.
Amen

*Shelter our hearts by your loving,
Tender our hearts by your care,
Heal our hearts by your promise;
Come, hear our prayer*

Jesus said 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' Acts 14:27

So, friends, be at peace and know that in Jesus' name

Our sin is forgiven

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Saide

Today we're going to meet Lydia as she listens to Paul speaking outside the gates of Philippi. If you are young or young at heart, come and grab a cushion and let's listen to Bridie reading the story for us. See if you can hear where Paul goes, where he meets Lydia and see if you can hear what Lydia does, what her job is.

Bible Reading – Acts 16:9-15

Matilda

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Ian

Focus on the place of prayer and meeting. Paul is meeting and praying with a group of women. This is not unusual for us but it would have been then. We're going to create a river for prayer using this purple cloth. Why purple? What did Lydia do? The purple is to remind us of Lydia and the women who prayed with Paul. We're going to pray now by placing these boats on the river. What will we pray for? For Ukraine, for the new government, and for whatever is offered.

Song: Draw the circle wide, MV 145

*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

Gospel Reading – John 14:23-29

Gwen

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song: Down to the river to pray

Saide

Responding to God's love, to Jesus' gift of peace we offer our gifts to support the work of the church and to lift up those in need. We do this through the offering of our money, the time we devote to the committees and programs of our congregation and the wider church and all the many ways we seek to follow Jesus in our living and loving. We offer our gifts of money through direct debit (see the details on the screen) and placing money in the bowls by the font. As we make our offerings let's stand and sing ...

*As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown
Good lord, show me the way*

1. *O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, Come on down
O sisters let's go down,
Down in the river to pray*

Chorus

2. *O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, Come on down
Come on brothers let's go down,
Down in the river to pray* Chorus

5. *O sinners let's go down
Let's go down, Come on down
O sinners let's go down,
Down in the river to pray* Chorus

SONG: Down to the River to Pray, from soundtrack for O brother where art thou

Prayer

Generous God you love us beyond our understanding
Bless our gifts, the offerings of our hearts and hands
that all people may come to know your steadfast healing love.
In Jesus' name
Amen

Prayers of the People

Ray

With Lord Jesus Christ, TiS 737

*Good morning I'm Ray Cameron, offering prayers for the world, the church and our community.
Through the prayer we'll be singing 'Lord Jesus Christ'. After the prayers I'll take the Christ
Candle to the Chapel space where you are welcome to light a taper for your personal prayers
during the blessing song or after worship. Let us pray ...*

Loving God, still point in our lives, we pray for the world.
We hold the suffering of the world before you and pray for peace.
We pray for people everywhere whose lives are in peril
From war, climate change, disease, dislocation.
We pray for the peoples of many African nations, of Ukraine and Afghanistan.
We pray for their leaders, for all who work for peace,
for harmony, healing and an end to war, conflict and suffering

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

Jesus, peace maker, we pray for the church.
We give thanks for the 16th Assembly meeting of the Uniting Church.
We pray for Assembly members now returned to their homes,
for President Sharon Hollis and all who support her
for the many and varied expressions of the Uniting Church in Australia
across the country as together we seek to participate in
Christ's mission in the world through worship, witness and service,

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

Holy Spirit, breath of peace, we pray for our community.
We pray with hope in our hearts for our newly elected government, we pray
That one day all people will be welcomed and have a safe place to live

That our leaders will be moved to respond to the threats of climate change
That all who work in health care and education will be acknowledged and supported
That people of every age, gender, ethnicity will know they are valued and loved.
We pray for harmony and healing and an end to hate, greed, loneliness and despair.

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

SONG: [Lover of all](#), by John L. Bell, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*
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Notices

Saide

It's time to share the news of our community. Please line up to my right to share your news as briefly as you can and remember to check the website, weekly Olive Press and Facebook for further details and information.

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 5th June followed by a shared lunch. Nominations close today for the role of Elder. Catch up with me after worship for more information.

Sending Song: Peace I leave with you, NCH 249

*Peace I leave with you, my friends,
Shalom, my peace in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
I give to you so you can give to others too.*

*1. To share God's love is why I came
To show God's kindness without end
Go now, my friends, and do the same,
until I come again.*

*2. Take my hand and be at peace;
The spirit of our love I send.
And with this love you will be free,
until I come again.*

*3. With this love now all will know
That loneliness is at an end.
Rejoice, my friends, although I go,
for I will come again.*

SONG: [Peace I leave with you](#), by Carey Landry, from New Century Hymnal,
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Blessing and Sending

Saide

Let's breathe together, breathe in Jesus' gift of peace
Offered to Lydia and all his disciples through the ages.
Breathe in the love that shapes our gathering as a community.
Breathe in the joy of offering and receiving the gift of care.

Breathing together let's go out into the week
With the blessing of God
Who is steadfast Love, Word and Breath of Life.
Amen.

Thank yous

Thank you for joining us and thank you to

Liturgist:
Saide Cameron

Acknowledgement of
Country:
Simone Alesich

Bible readers:
Meg Orton
Bridie Turner

Children's time:
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Ray Cameron

Musicians:
Courtney Rohde
(co-ordinator)
James Balsillie
Michael Cameron
Glenice Cook
Andrew Dickinson
Quilan Goff

Images:
Ray & Saide Cameron

Postlude Song: Peace I
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Musicians: Natalie Sims,
Shawn Whelan

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Dave Miller
Jason Minator

Closing verse:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27