

Order of Service – 19.6.2022 – Refugee Sunday

Opening verse:

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Amelia

Good morning, as we gather to worship God together among the cold and rainy days of Waring Wombat Season we remember the needs and longings of all the living things that we share this place with in Brunswick.

Who else shares our pleasure at warm sunshine falling toasting our cold backs, at hearing a voice of welcome and friendship, at being woken by the morning light?

Let us remember the joy of sharing this life with others as we stand and sing together.

Song: As the deer pants for the water, TiS 703

*As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

SONG: [As the deer pants](#) by Martin Nystrom, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious* Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502 ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

Acknowledgement of Country

Amelia

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

Amelia

Welcome to Worship on the first day of Refugee Week, a time when we are asked to try and understand some of the issues and difficulties that are faced by refugees through the theme of healing.

My name is Amelia and I am the Liturgist for today. Along with Ian, and all of the worship leaders and supporters, we welcome you to our church in Brunswick, whether you are here in person, or watching online.

This week we will bless the Interim leaders of our Children Youth and Young Adult programs for the roles they are undertaking.

And, led by the bible readings, we will think about where and how healing is needed for refugees and for our society. Please join us after the Service for morning tea and a chat in the hall.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

with Lord Jesus Christ lover of all (John Bell), **TiS 737**

During this prayer the musicians will offer a refrain which you are welcome to sing.

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

Living God, creator in all places and all times,
We are amazed at the changes that evolve,
how what was once ocean can be bound into stone.
As we work for the healing of the world and the life it holds,
Remind us that we were made in your image,
You are both three parts and one whole,
Let us seek to give an equal place to all the parts that make creation.

Jesus, the healer that accepted suffering for us
and showed us a new way to live.
As we work for the healing of society and our communities,
Remind us of your example of vulnerability and selflessness
as we endeavour to give new life to one another.

Holy Spirit, gentle being of grace and unbreakable thread of connection,
As we work to heal ourselves,
Help us to understand the things that make us feel worried or afraid
And remind us that there is no "other" upon whom we can push our fears,
for your existence is infinite, in all beings and all places.

Amen

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

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Believe the good news that comes from God: in Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: Lover of all, by John L. Bell, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

With the Children

Ian

Ian invites children forward to listen to reading

Epistle – Galatians 3:23-29

Jamie and Jacky

Jacky: 23 Lakini kabla ya kuja ile imani tulikuwa tumewekwa chini ya sheria, tumefungwa mpaka ije ile imani itakayofunuliwa.

24 Hivyo torati imekuwa kiongozi kutuleta kwa Kristo, ili tuhesabiwe haki kwa imani.

Jamie: Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

Jacky: 25 Lakini, iwapo imani imekuja, hatupo tena chini ya kiongozi.
26 Kwa kuwa ninyi nyote mmekuwa wana wa Mungu kwa njia ya imani katika Kristo Yesu.

Jamie: But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

Jacky: 27 Maana ninyi nyote mliobatizwa katika Kristo mmemvaa Kristo.
28 Hapana Myahudi wala Myunani. Hapana mtumwa wala huru. Hapana mtu mume wala mtu mke. Maana ninyi nyote mmekuwa mmoja katika Kristo Yesu.
29 Na kama ninyi ni wa Kristo, basi, mmekuwa uzao wa Ibrahimu, na warithi sawasawa na ahadi.

Jamie: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

With the Children

Jacky and Ian

Word for healing in swahili, or practices / music. We are all children of God
Introduce song in Swahili – Mungu ni Mwema – Know that God is good.

Mungu ni Mwema / Know that God is good MV104

*Mungu ni Mwema
Mungu ni Mwema
Mungu ni Mwema
ni Mwema, ni Mwema*

*Know that God is good
Know that God is good
Know that God is good
God is good, God is good*

SONG: [Mungu ni Mwema](#), from [One is the body](#), © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland.
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Blessing for CYA Interim Leaders

Ian

Presentation

Maxine: The Uniting Church in Australia says
that everyone is called to be faithful to Jesus' way.
The church encourages people to discover and develop
the gifts which God's Spirit has given to each of us.

This congregation through our Children Youth and Young Adult Committee and Church Council has discerned that Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave have gifts for working with children, youth and students and have called them to take up interim roles in this ministry in our congregation.

The Questions

Ian: Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave, we are very happy and thank God for calling you to minister with us here. We ask you these questions as a sign of the faith that informs your work here.

Do you know Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to this ministry?

I do.

Relying on God's grace, and with the support of this congregation and the Children, Youth & Young Adult and Student House committees will you faithfully carry out the responsibilities of your roles in the Brunswick Uniting Church?

With God's help & love, I will.

Maxine: (To the congregation) Will you accept Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave as the interim leaders of the Children, Youth & Young Adult ministry?

We will.

Will you encourage them in love and support them in their ministries, serving with them the one Lord Jesus Christ?

With God's help & love, we will.

(To the Interim Leaders) Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave, you have been called by God to minister together in this Congregation. Will you promise, in faith and obedience to Christ, to share this ministry, supporting one another in love, and inspiring God's people here in their common ministry for Christ?

With God's help & love, we will.

(To all present) May God give you strength to fulfil these promises; and the grace to minister together as Christ's people in this place.

Act of Commissioning

Steph, Matilda, Bridie, Dave kneel. All young people and committees gather round, lays on hands. Congregation reaches out a hand.

Ian: Let us pray in silence for Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave ...

By the Holy Spirit, O God,
give strength to your servants Steph, Matilda, Bridie and Dave
and set their hearts on fire with love for you.

Increase in them your gifts of grace:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and wonder in your presence,
the spirit of joy and delight in your service,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Blessing Song: May God's Sheltering Wings MV214

*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](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Gospel Reading – Luke 8:26-39

Tim

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"- for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying,

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Song: O Children of the Light / Ay Farzandane Nur (Anonymous Farsi)

Introduced by Reza, [watch](#) or 30:49

*Ay far-zan-da-ne nur, ger-de ham bi-ya-eid
Ba sha-di o so-rood, oo raa be sa-rae-id
Aan-dar ho-zo-re vey, das-tha ba-ra-fra-zid
Mon-gee ye a-la-am ra sho-kroo se-pas go-eid
Mon-gee ye a-laam ra sho-kroo se-pas go-eid*

*O Children of the light,
come let your voices raise
with gladness and with songs,
O sing God's highest praise
O Children of the light,
lift up your hands and praise
the saviour of the world
whose love will light our way
the saviour of the world
whose love will light our way*

SONG: Children of the Light / Ay Farzandane Nur, Music copyright Iranian Christians International 1983.
(Translation from ISHQ)

Offering with Song O Christ, the healer, TiS 638

Let's sing of Christ's healing as an offering to God, an offering of our hearts, a commitment of faith, an offering of money. There are bowls by the baptismal font or our bank account details are on the screen. We respond with our giving, the giving of our faith and all that flows from that. Let's stand and sing of Christ, the healer.

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1. *O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?*
 2. *From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamour to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.*
 3. *How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
unconscious pride resists or shelves.*
 4. *In conflicts that destroy our health
we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills:
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*
 5. *Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.*

SONG: [O Christ, the healer](#), by Frederick Pratt Green, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*.
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Offering Prayer

Receive and bless the gifts that we bring O God
The gifts of our heart, the gifts of our lives.
Bless us to use these gifts in your work of healing
Bless us in Jesus' name. Amen

Prayers of the People**Meredith**

Loving God, as we come to you in prayer today, we seek your healing presence for our wounded and tired world.

We acknowledge the wounds that we create for our mother earth as we extract, mine, consume and waste resources as if there were no end to their supply. We acknowledge the ongoing loss of biodiversity and habitat. We acknowledge too, the impact of climate change that is deepening the wounds to the earth and causing extreme weather events that see so many people and animals displaced and livelihoods destroyed.

We pray that we may draw from your healing presence to help stem these destructive wounds to our earth, to be part of a movement to regenerate and rewild your creation. We pray that our

new government will take serious action to reverse this damage, listening to the will of the people and the call of the earth for healing.

We acknowledge too, the ongoing destructive wounds of colonization and dispossession for our first nations people. Thank you for the indigenous wisdom that has been retained and is so needed to heal country. May we support and share in this healing work.

And especially today at the beginning of refugee week, we want to acknowledge the wounds that are inflicted on so many through war, persecution and displacement. We want to acknowledge the pain and suffering and sickness this creates across the world. In so many places, Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Ethiopia, Central Africa Republic, Myanmar, Ukraine, to mention just a few. People forced to flee in fear of their lives but with so few places of refuge and welcome to escape to.

We pray for peace-makers and healers to take leadership and gain traction to end war and to repair the hearts and minds of both the oppressors and the oppressed – seeking instead, justice, equality and wellbeing for everyone and every being. We pray for leaders who can help us all to understand how interconnected and interdependent we are and how we all suffer when we do not care for each other or value these connections.

Here at home, we pray for so many people who continue to seek asylum and still hold such uncertain futures. We pray for those still in detention, and for the many families whose failed visa applications mean they have lost access to work rights, centrelink, medicare, sometimes after living here up to 10 years and with young children, surviving only on charity. We pray that this new government will quickly reverse the cruel policies of the previous government, end temporary protection visas and provide everyone with permanency, to begin to heal their wounds and get on with their lives. We thank you for the images of hope and welcome we have witnessed for the Murugappan family returning to Biloela, and we pray that everyone else who is seeking asylum will know the same true sense of Australian welcome, in the very near future.

Here at Brunswick, continue to show us how to be a place of welcome, healing and hope for the many people we have grown to know and love who are also seeking asylum in our midst.

Loving God, we all carry wounds that need your healing, some far more evident and traumatic than others but we know that we all need your loving presence and healing in our lives to be the people you call us to be.

May we seek out your healing love daily, allow it to steep and grow in us, so we can share that love with each other, our families, our colleagues, our communities and those who challenge us – so that we can all be part of the healing and restoration of your creation.

Amen

Notices

Amelia

concluding with Food Co-op - thank you to Abi Benham-Bannon by Helen Rowe

[Watch](#) or 1:08:02

Sending Song: When I needed a neighbour, TIS629

- 1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*
- 2. I was hungry and thirsty, . . .*
- 3. I was cold, I was naked, . . .*

4. *When I needed a shelter, . . .*
5. *When I needed a healer, . . .*
6. *When they put me in prison, . . .*
7. *Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.*

SONG: [When I needed a neighbour](#), by Sydney Carter, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins;
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Blessing and Sending

Ian

Hear this, People of God, you shall love the Eternal One your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. So go now in peace to love as you have been loved.

Go with the blessing of God
Source of all life,
Word and Wisdom of all love,
and Spirit of all joy,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one God and mother of all creation.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Thank you

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

Liturgist:
Amelia Ware

Bible readers:
Tim Budge
Jacky Magessa
Jamie Thom

Children's time:
Jacky Magessa
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Meredith Budge

Musicians:
Natalie Sims (co-ordinator)
Andrew Dickinson
Alistair Hunter
Catherine Leslie
Maggie Somerville
Robert Sargent

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Alistair Hunter
Ben Hon
Owen Sun

Images:
Unsplash

Postlude Song: [As the deer pants](#) by Martin Nystrom, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins
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Musicians: James Balsillie, Alistair Hunter, Courtney Rohde

Closing verse:

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28