

Opening verse:

May they all be one (John 17:20)

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Ian

Gathered here (NCH742)

*Gathered here in the mystery of this hour.
Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.
Spirit draw near.*

SONG: [Gathered here](#), By Phil Porter ©1990 , from [New Century Hymnal](#), Pilgrim Press. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Bible carried in and Christ Candle lit.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ian

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

Ian

Sing praise to the Creator Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the renewer and transformer of life, who has been known in this land since time immemorial and is present today in life-giving ways.

Creator of this great land (Ross Langmead)

*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.*

*Descant: Creator we adore you.
Renewer, hear our praise.
Transformer you surprise us,
Be present in life-giving ways.*

*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, Great God.*

Welcome and Introduction

Ian

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Ian

Open our hearts in song as we enter into prayer...

Deep in our hearts (MV154 – 3 verses as below)

*Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.*

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Breathing meditation...

Word of Grace

This is the best of all:

when we are empty, God fills us;
when we are disheartened, God is compassionate;
when we are wounded, God brings healing;
when we confess our failure to love, God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,
our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading – John 17:20-23

Robert

Jesus said, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children – UCA 45th Anniversary Commemoration – Psalm 23 Ian

Children invited to play a birthday party game – pass the parcel – because it is the birthday of our church. Sing a very old song – a song from the bible – Psalm 23. Different tune for each verse representing the different traditions that make up our church.

Each layer of the parcel contains a tea light which is lit after each verse. The centre of the parcel contains a large candle which is lit for the unity of the whole church.

Each verse is sung twice, once by a soloist, then by the congregation. Pause between each verse for the lighting of a candle.

First verse sung to KILMARNOCH TIS247 the tune set in the Methodist Hymn Book.

*1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.*

Light a candle for the Methodist Tradition.

Second verse sung to WILTSHIRE TIS122 the tune set in the Presbyterian Hymn Book.

*2 My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for his own name's sake.*

Light a candle for the Presbyterian Tradition.

Third verse sung to CRIMOND TIS10 the tune set in the Congregational Hymn Book.

*3 Yea though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still*

Light a candle for the Congregational Tradition.

Fourth verse sung to BELMONT TIS514.

*4 My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.*

Light a candle for other Christian traditions, including those in Brunswick: Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Salvation Army, Orthodox.

Fifth verse sung to BROTHER JAMES'S AIR

*5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.*

Light final candle as a prayer for unity among all Christ's people.

Bible Reading – Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Christine

Sung Response: *O Lord, hear my prayer* (TIS741)

I cry aloud to God

I cry that God may hear me.

**In my time of distress I have turned to God;
With hands uplifted I have prayed all night,
But my soul refuses all comfort.**

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

Then I recall your deeds, O God!

I remember your wonders of old.

I recount all your works and ponder the things you have done.

O God, your ways are holy.

What god is as great as you!

You are the one who works wonders;

you have shown your strength among nations.

**By your arm you redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

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.

The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and churned in fear;
the seas trembled to their depths.

Clouds streamed water, the heavens rumbled;

your arrows bolted on every side.

The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind;

lightning lit up the world, the earth quaked and shuddered.

Your way was through the sea;

your path, through mighty waters;

your footprints could not be seen;

but by the hand of Moses and Aaron,

you led your people like a flock.

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.*

Reflection – responses to Psalm 77

Ian, Saide

Including:

A prayer from deep water

Photo 1

God of deep waters, crashing thunder, lightning.
We tremble before you and yet we are not afraid.
We open our hearts and pour out our deepest fears.

Photo 2

Who will save us from the destruction of our fragile earth?
Who will save us from war, famine, greed, hatred?
Who will save us from loneliness, despair, illness?
Who will save us from arrogance, pride, fear, ignorance?
Who will save us from closed borders, closed minds?
Who will save us from barriers to wholeness and acceptance?

Photo 3

We turn to you wonder working God, show us your way.
We turn to you Jesus, pour out your compassion.
We turn to you Holy Spirit, we seek your comfort.
We turn to you God. Your way, O God, is holy.
Amen

Saide Cameron

Offering with Song

Ian

Stand by me (Tom Kendzia)

*When the storms of life are raging,
Lord, stand by me.*

*When the current pulls me under,
Lord, stand by me.*

*When the rising waters toss me
like a ship upon the sea,
You who rule the wind and water,
Lord, stand by me.*

*Stand by me, stand my me.
Lift me up from the restless sea.
When I am lost, when love can't be found,
when no one cares, Lord, stand by me.*

*In the midst of persecution,
Lord, stand by me.
When my enemies surround me,
Lord, stand by me.
When the tyrant wields his terror
and the armies wage their might,
when the darkness overwhelms me,
Lord, stand by me.*

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Natalie

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled.

[sound (very loud!) = Storm Away, Brontology (play about 30 seconds then fade)]

God of the storm, the rain, and the waves, we bring our world to you, confident that you are strong enough to overturn injustice and to put an end to violence.

We pray for places at war, or under threat of war,

For those suffering the effects of natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, rising seas,

For world leaders, that they will work for safe lives for all communities,

For those seeking asylum, and all those who are unsafe in their home country,

For indigenous communities around the world, and all those whose land has been taken from them.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side.

[sound = Storm Away, Brontology (play next 30 seconds then fade)]

God of the storm, the rain, and the waves, we bring the church to you, confident that you are strong enough to heal divisions and difficulties and lead us in the way we should go.

We pray for our own community here,

For our sister churches in Brunswick,

For those in churches that face division within their congregations, or between congregations,

For the Ecumenical movement around the world and for peaceful interfaith dialogue

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

[sound = Storm Away, Brontology (play again from the beginning about 30 seconds then fade)]

God of the storm, the rain, and the waves, we bring to you those we love, confident that you are strong enough to drive away pain and bring healing in the most difficult of situations.

We pray for those who are unwell, and those who are caring for the sick,

For those who are lonely,

For those facing violence or disharmony at home,

For those who are grieving,

For those who do not know where to turn for help.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Lead us, God. May we be your hands in the world.

In your mercy, hear our prayer,

Amen

Notices

Ian: speak to our COVID policy. Keep masking through winter in support of vulnerable folk, because we sing and can't adequately maintain social distance, to see through the winter

scourge of illness (not just COVID) that is everywhere right now, and to help ease the pressure on hospital staff.

Sending Song

Hamba Nathi (MV45)

Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu

Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu

You are holy, you show us the way (4x)
You show us, you show us you show us the way (4x)

SONG: Hamba Nathi, from More Voices, United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:
Rev Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Bible readers:
Christine Hornby
Robert Sargent

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson
Steph Gesling

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
Saide Cameron

Prayers of the People:
Natalie Sims

Musicians:
Elaine Potter (co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Michael Cameron
Glenice Cook
Quilan Goff
Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Postlude Song:
Gathered Here (acapella)
Musicians: Shawn
Whelan, Daniel Whelan,
Natalie Sims,
Saide Cameron

Images:
Ian Ferguson
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Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Hugh Brown
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Dave Miller

Closing verse:

Your path was through mighty waters; but your footprints were unseen (Psalm 77:19)