

Opening verse:

Psalm 30:11-12a You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship**Natalie**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you

Please stand as we welcome the word and the light.

Kirsty and Monica enter with the Bible (Kirsty) and Monica lights the candle.

Let us stand and sing together:

Song of praise: Praise with Joy the World's Creator, TiS 179

*1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory -
Power to rescue and release.*

*2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost,
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.*

*3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.*

*4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in community,
Calling Christians to embody
Oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.*

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Acknowledgement of Country

Natalie

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

Natalie

Welcome to worship this morning, both to those who are here in person, and those joining us online. For those who are here in person, to protect the vulnerable in our congregation, please continue wearing your masks through the service.

Today, as our minister Ian is away at Synod, we are very pleased to welcome a member of our congregation, Rev Dr Monica Melancthon, who is also Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Pilgrim Theological College at the University of Divinity. Monica thank you for bringing us your thoughts on today's passage, and for presiding over communion.

After worship, everyone is welcome to join us for morning tea, which is available in the hall after the service. Please join us through this door, so that we can get to know you better.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Natalie

Listening God, our loving creator,
You hear us when we cry for help and heal us,
You restore us to life, even when we have felt dull and empty.
You have turned our mourning into dancing, and clothed us, and all of creation with joy.

Christ the healer, God-on-earth,
You spoke out against injustice,
You challenge us to be your servants,
You call us to be at ease among strangers, and to spread your message among all people.

Holy spirit, God-among-us,
You move among us and within us,
You heal our wounds and drive our passions
You give us courage to step out in faith, and heal division in our communities.

Listening God, Christ the Healer, Holy Spirit
Hear us when we cry out to you,
Heal our broken world,
Forgive us when we choose comfort over action,
when we choose judgement and division rather than listening and understanding,
when we fail to lift up those who need our help and support.

Siblings in Christ, the Psalmist tells us that even when we have turned away and have done our worst, God's anger lasts only a moment. Listen and know that God's favour to us lasts for a lifetime. God turns our weeping into dancing, and clothes us with joy.

Through Christ, in Christ, and because of Christ,
Our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Having all been made one through our peace maker. Let us now share God's peace with one another.

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hebrew Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Kirsty

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Natalie

Telling the story of Naaman's overly complicated quest for healing

Steph will have activities for the children for during the service.

Song: Pure love, MV031

God's love reaches beyond the boundaries. *To be sung either as a call and response (so the kids can sing the response) or split the congregation into two halves.*

*Pure love,
pure truth,
pure justice,
God*

SONG: [Pure Love](#), Lyn Bauman and Linnea Good, from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-11

Lyn

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Monica Melanchthon

The Marginalized: Channels of God's Healing

Offering with Song: **Deeper River, AoV2-006**

Natalie

It's now time for our Offering. During the next song, please take time to think about your response, and what you can offer, whether it is time, talents or money. If you would like to make an offering by your banking app, please use the details on the screen now, and during the song. If you would like to make a physical offering, please place them in the bowls near the baptismal font during this song, and they will all be collected and brought forward at the end of this song.

*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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Offering Prayer

Loving God,
As we offer ourselves, our time and our resources to you,
We acknowledge that you are the source of all that we have,
We pray that all that we offer will be used to build hope, peace, and justice in the world.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Peter (recorded)

Our lord and our God we come to you in a time of deep stress,
Our world suffers from the pain of war,
Famine, drought, climate change, political and social unrest.
The days of easy peace seem to be in the past.

We can feel overwhelmed by the needs of those around us,
For the needs of our planet,
For the needs of those close to us,
And even our own needs.
Give us wisdom and discernment to know how to care for our planet,
For our loved ones,
And our selves.

We pray for those who are experiencing homelessness
In the cold winter on Melbourne streets,
And just outside our doors here in Brunswick.
We think of those who come to Olive Way for warmth,
For food,
For friendship,
For companionship,
We pray for that they may be held in compassion,
We pray that they they may find peace, welcome, and warmth in this place.
We give You thanks for the volunteers who come alongside them
In friendship and companionship,
We give You thanks for the support and generosity of this church community,
And we give You thanks for those who cook and prepare the meals.

We pray also for those seeking asylum,
We pray that they may be treated with dignity,
That they may be called by name, not by number,
They may be treated as humans in need of compassion, safety, and help.
May our government treat them as such.
And we give you thanks for the Welcome Centre that we share this space with.

In all these things, may we be not overwhelmed,
But rather, may we stand with courage,
Carried forward by prayer, compassion, and generosity
May we bring it all before You,
Knowing that You hear the cries of our hearts and our yearning for peace.

In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen

Holy Communion

Monica

Servers: Monica, Natalie, Maxine, Lyn, Claire F, Meg

Introduction and Invitation

- Standing in a circle around the space
- All welcome. Join circle even if not receiving.
- Hands crossed on chest if not receiving
- Remain in your seats if you wish
- All servers will hand sanitize
- Gluten free bread

Communion Song: At the table all are equal

*At the table, all are equal,
all approach the feast as guest.
None sit in the seat of honour:
at the table, none are best.*

*At the table, none go hungry,
none must steal or beg for bread;
all receive from God's abundance:
at the table, all are fed.*

*At the table, all are cherished,
all are sought at any cost,
none abandoned or forsaken,
at the table, none are lost.*

*At the table, none are finished,
none sit selfishly content;
all are called to love in service:
from the table, all are sent.,*

SONG: [At the table all are equal](#), Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: WILCOX; Benjamin Brody, b.1975; © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc., [from Protest of Praise](#)

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**

Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ: ***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts: We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and life-giving God,
you are Creator of all things,
and Lover of each one.

In Christ you share with us
the joy and pain of our humanity.

We give thanks that you make us one
with him through baptism
and call us to your ministry
of healing love in the world.

Therefore,
with the whole creation
we sing in thanks and praise:

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)*

*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)*

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who on the night of his betrayal took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:
***This is my body given for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.***

In the same way also he took the cup.
Again he gave thanks,
shared it with his disciples and said:
***This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of the living God,
love us into the unity of peace
through this bread and wine. For:

***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!***

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
all glory be to you,
Source of all Being,
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,
one God and Mother of all creation.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the bread
Christ is the bread of resurrection:
new life for all.

Christ is the cup of life:
who revives the faint-hearted.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution
Communion served in one circle

Post Communion Prayer

Monica

Let us pray:

Risen God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger; all who believe in you will not thirst. May the life and the power we receive from it be spent in your service, to do the work you have given us to do, to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

Natalie

Sending Song: Sent out in Jesus' name, **ATO 412**

Natalie

*Sent out in Jesus' name.
Our hands are ready now,
to make the world the place
in which the kingdom comes repeat*

*The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do
to set it really free
O help us to obey
and carry out your will. repeat*

SONG: [Sent out in Jesus' name](#), Traditional Cuban, from [All Together Okay](#), Openbook Publishers,
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Blessing and Sending

Go on your way, bringing good news to the world,
 Travel light, and receive the hospitality of strangers,
 Bring peace to all who welcome you.
 Bring healing and comfort to those who need it.
 And pray that God will bring others to work alongside you.

And may God's love fill you with abundance to share;
 May Sophia Christ give you insight and understanding;
 And may the Holy Spirit walk with you every day.
 Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:
 Natalie Sims

Bible readers:
 Lyn Anderson
 Kirsty Brown

Children's time:
 Natalie Sims

Reflection:
 Monica Melanchthon
 (Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
 Peter Blair
 (Olive Way Pastor)

Musicians:
 Alistair Hunter
 (co-ordinator)
 James Balsillie
 Steph Gesling
 Clare Keogh
 Courtney Rohde
 Maggie Somerville

Postlude Song: Sent out in
 Jesus' name, Traditional
 Cuban, from All Together
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 Musicians: Shawn
 Whelan, Natalie Sims,
 Jane Allardice

Images:
 Kirsty Bennett
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 Pawel Czerwinski on
 unsplash
 Greg Rosenke on unsplash
 Atik Sulianami on unsplash
 Zany Jadraque on
 unsplash

Editing / Production:
 Martin Brown
 Ray Cameron
 Saide Cameron
 Alistair Hunter
 Lauren Reader
 Shawn Whelan

Closing verse:

Psalm 30:2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.