

Opening verse:

Peace shall be a pathway for your feet. Psalm 85:13

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Julie

Thankyou for your presence, both in this place and on the screen. Please take your seats now as we begin. Thanks also for wearing masks as an acknowledgement of the virus. After worship you are invited to join us for coffee and morning tea in the hall behind me. Let's begin by singing:

Song: Gather us, O God (AOV2-139)

*Gather us, O God.
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God.
One in union now with you.*

Gather us, O God, © 1991 Monica Brown & Emmaus Productions. Used with permission; from As One Voice 2, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502,

Acknowledgement of Country

Julie

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

Julie

Welcome to BUC, my name is Julie Perrin I will be your liturgist today and along with our minister Ian, Lucy and Meredith and Tim, Elaine and the musicians.

Today we will hear the parable of The Rich Farmer, a story told with humour and a bluntness there is no getting away from. We also meet

There are also reflections on Psalm 85 from the Worshipping with the Psalms invitation.

You will see and hear a number of visual, written and spoken contributions woven in through the service.

Our Opening Prayer, a Prayer of Adoration, comes to us in the hymn we are about to sing.

The words were written by a Canadian writer, Sylvia Dunstan, who was mentored by Miriam Therese Winter. In this hymn are the paradoxes we meet in Jesus and the parables in the psalms.

Song – Prayer of Adoration

You Who are both Lamb and Shepherd, by Sylvia Dunstan (VU210) – Tune PICARDY TIS 497

*You, who are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, who are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and swordbringer
Of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*Clothed in light upon the mountain,
Stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory,
Beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.*

*You, who walk each day beside us,
Sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
Have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.*

*Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
You, who are our death and our life.*

Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1984 copyright © 1991 G.I.A. Publications Inc.
Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Prayer of Lament and Confession

Image on Screen: *The Lagoon* by Mike Rigby

Saide Cameron's Words in response to Psalm 85:

**'Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.'**

Why do we trample the earth?

Why are we at war?

Why do we name people as 'other'?

Why are people starving, crippled by disease and despair?

Why are we not listening to the earth?

Why do we close our ears to the wisdom of First peoples?

Why do we fail to cherish the stories of marginalised people?

Why are we not listening to Your voice in the world?

Mike's words in response to Psalm 85 (they go with his image *The Lagoon*):

Skies reflected and light refracted.
Glimmers revealing deep waters
holding a complex ecosystem in balance,
unfathomable to our minds.

Yet we have seen our past actions and are now feeling the future...
oh how will looming change transform the places (and people) we hold so dear?

Awaken and restore us oh God.
May we come to know a deep love
and respect of life around us,
coming to really know you more and more
and find the steps we need to take"

Word of Grace

Julie

We have wronged creation, the Creator, ourselves and our fellow humans,
These sins are both heavy and huge and sometimes small and invisible to us.

But we are invited to live as a people carried by the grace of God
Jesus who preached a way that's narrow,
Has a love that reaches wide.

The author of that love invites us to live as forgiven people.

Thanks be to God.

Bible Reading – Luke 12:13-21

Meredith

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Julie

Story Book: The Rich Farmer

There is a secret hiding in this story. I wonder if anyone will guess it.

I heard this story a lot of times before I saw the secret.

It's something we take for granted.

I've got a clue in here that we might open up after we've heard the story

And I can hear if you have guessed the secret.

*** READ ALOUD *** - a Images of Pages on Screen

Does anyone know *why* this farmer was able to become rich?

Was it because he built bigger barns?

Was it because he planted corn and carrots and cabbages?

Was it because he worked very hard and did a lot of overtime?

No. He was rich because his soil was rich.

A gift from God, Creator and Earthmaker.

Song: God is love (a round)

*God is love and love is giving,
God gives me the life I have.
The life I have leads me to singing.
Sing that God is love.*

SONG: God is love (a round), © Ross Langmead, 1981, from On the Road,
Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502

Psalm Response:

Ray

Ray Cameron is going to bring us the next response to the psalm based on the words:
'Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet'.

Some years ago Ray walked the Camino through Spain and his responses are drawn from that experience but you may also notice, serendipitously, some echoes of the Gospel we have just heard.

1. The journey before us amidst the picked harvest – I felt a deep appreciation for the richness of the area and for the people who cared for the land
2. The Cathedral – I arrived at Santiago de Compostela feeling a sense of arrival at the destination but not having an overwhelming sense of awe in this space. Humans have set up this holy place but it didn't evoke awe in the way that the countryside did
3. God's cathedral – For this this was the end. This is Finisterre, a place of quiet reflection, a place of God's majesty and beauty.

Psalm 85

Lucy

Sung Refrain: Peace, Salam, Shalom

SONG: Peace, Salaam, Shalom © 2001 Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow.
Moving Forward Music BMI www.pathumphries.com.

You have been gracious to your land, O ETERNAL ONE,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
You have withdrawn all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

*Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.*

Restore us then, O God our Saviour let your anger depart from us.
Will you be displeased with us forever?
will you prolong your anger from age to age?
Will you not give us life again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your mercy, O ETERNAL ONE, and grant us your salvation.

*Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,*

*Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.*

I will listen, O ETERNAL ONE my God, to what you are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.
Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

*Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.*

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
O ETERNAL ONE, you will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

*Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.*

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

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Ian

Let's sing about that. Let's sing about it and as we do I invite you to make an offering. There are offering bowls up the back there near the font or you could make a transfer to the account on the screen. We make an offering in worship because what we do with our money really matters to Jesus. Let's sing.

Seek ye first TIS745

- 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you, allelu, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*
 - 2. Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find,
Knock and it shall be opened unto you, allelu, alleluia.*
 - 3. We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God, allelu, alleluia.*
-

SONG: Seek ye first, by Karen Lafferty, by permission Maranatha Music, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Offering Prayer

Ian

Receive and bless the gifts that we bring Gracious God
May they be used for the growth of the commonwealth of love
In our place, in our time. Amen

Psalm Response: Ann, Leanne and Zia

Ian Introduce:

Our next response to psalm 85 comes from Bev, Ann, Leanne and Zia, artists from our Olive Arts Collective which meets here on Wednesday mornings. The first image you will see is Bev's "With Open Arms". Ann, Leanne and Zia have been inspired by Bev's image while responding to psalm 85. Ann will speak to us as we look at the images.

1 Bev Evans – image "With Open Arms"

**O GOD, you will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

In the final part of the psalm a new voice enters offering a wish for the future.
What does it mean for *peace to be a pathway for my feet?*
Where do I see peace as a pathway?

2 Ann Soo – The Listening Heart

I see it in the love and life that is The Olive Way. I am inspired by the image created by Bev Evans 'With Open Arms' stories from The Olive Way.

3 Ann Soo – second painting

Peace that is walked and lived through the challenges of being human in these times.

4 Leanne Salau – collage "Let's Walk to Freedom Together"

Peace that is an intentional outreaching of hands of common humanity and united in God's love.

5 Zia Tokhi – painting "Offerings of Peace and Love"

Peace in accepting hands and forming links to a wider circle of compassion and care.
Living God's Kingdom.

Mission Appeal Slot

James

Psalm Response: Lesbia Centeno.

Image on screen: Winter tree, black and white fading slowly into colour.

Winter, time to dwell with a coat of light.

In winter, the cold, the rain and short days and long nights are the protagonists of the season.

In addition, in winter many of the trees are bare.

In winter, also, the landscape changes colour.

In winter it is difficult to see the sun shine.

Fortunately, in the city of Melbourne the sun has shone for everyone.

This reminds us that our path through life is to be happy, no matter if the days are grey or cold.

At any time of the year we can find a warm place that shelters us, we just have to look for it or create it.

Prayers of the People

Tim

My name is Tim and I will be leading Prayers of the People this morning. At the conclusion of the prayers, I will take the candle to the chapel space at the back of the church, and you are welcome to light a taper and make your own prayers after the service. Let us pray.

Today we pray for those building bigger barns - who are already so blessed, and we also pray for those who have nothing.

When we think about all the possessions in our lives, perhaps we too store up treasures for ourselves but are not rich toward God.

May we guard against greed and have the courage to examine our plans and schemes in the light of your kingdom.

We pray too for those who do not have enough to feed themselves or their families, whose crops have failed, whose farms or oceans are empty or fenced off and who tonight will go hungry.

May we as a community, a country and a global society learn to share and care more for those in need.

We pray for those who mourn and for those who are rejoicing.

Let us stop in silence to remember those we know who need comfort, grace, support or a listening ear.

PAUSE.

Be with them we pray dear God and may they sense your presence.

For friends who have had good news, who are experiencing new opportunities, life, love and joy, thank you dear God, may they share in a banquet of grace and hope.

We pray for our friends and for our enemies.

It's easier to pray for our friends we know,

but help us to take up your challenge to do good to those who seem to want to harm us.

We think of times when we have felt personally slighted or ignored.

Help us not to be so thin skinned.

We know we feel uncertain about war and global aggression and it seems that retribution and retaliation are the only possible responses.

Help us to learn about and practise creative non-violence.

We think about disagreements and differences in our society which get amplified and when people different to us seem less worthy or less important than we are.

Help us to be peacemakers, reconcilers,

to break down walls that divide, rather than hiding behind those walls or just accepting the status quo.

In our efforts to follow you on the path of love, we pray that you will

give us empathy so that we won't turn away from a hurting world, even if it costs us.

May we live with gratitude for all you give us. Help us to listen to what you ask of us.

Help us to remember earthly Jesus – who shared our humanity and human frailties and may we never lose sight of cosmic Christ – who reminds us

that creation is the body of God, the first testament, a gift of abundance from the ground of our being.

In your name, AMEN

Notices

Julie

Acknowledgement of contributors: Ray Cameron, Saide Cameron, Lesbia Centero, Bev Evans, Michael Rigby, Ann Soo, Leanne Salau, Zia Tokhi

1. *Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*
2. *Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*
3. *Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.*

SONG: [Love divine](#) by Charles Wesley, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins; PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Peace shall be a pathway for your feet, says the psalmist
Friends, go in that peace to seek first the kingdom of God,
the commonwealth of love.
And may the God of love uphold you,
The Christ of Wisdom be your guide
And the Spirit of compassion lead you into all life.
Glory be to the one God, Mother of all Creation,
in the name of Christ Amen

Song: Send us out, O God (AOV2-139)

*Send us out, O God.
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God.
One in union now with you.*

[Gather us, O God](#), © 1991 Monica Brown & Emmaus Productions. Used with permission; from [As One Voice 2](#), Willow Connection Pty. Ltd. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502,

Thank yous

Thank you for joining us and thank you to

Liturgist:
Julie Perrin

Bible readers:
Meredith Budge
Lucy Hardman

Children's time:
Julie Perrin

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Tim Budge

Psalm Responses:

Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Lesbia Centero
Bev Evans
Michael Rigby
Ann Soo
Leanne Salau
Zia Tokhi

Musicians:

Elaine Potter (co-ordinator)
Jane Allardice
Andrew Dickinson
Joel Hallinan
Clare Keogh
Bronte Potter

Postlude Song: Peace,
Salaam Shalom, © 2001
Pat Humphries and Sandy
Opatow. Moving Forward
Music BMI
www.pathumphries.com.
Musicians: Shawn Whelan,
Natalie Sims, Steph Gesling
& Josh Whitty, Dave Miller,
Maxine, Clementine & Harriet
Loynd, Jess and Anya
Kvansakul, Kate Scull, Elaine
Potter, Glenice Cook, Ian
Ferguson

Editing / Production:
Martin Brown
Michael Cameron
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Ben Hon

Closing verse:

Peace shall be a pathway for your feet. Psalm 85:13