

Order of Service 21/8/2022 Pentecost 11

Opening words:

'Be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day' (Luke 13 :16)

Gathering

Jenne

Wominjeka yearmann koondée biik Wurundjeri balluk.....Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people and Brunswick Uniting Church, in person & over the internet, for this service. My name is Jenne, your liturgist.

Let's stand and praise God in song as we welcome the Word and the Water of Baptism.

Gathering Song: You are holy (TiS 753)

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more

than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near;

blessed are you coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy. you are wholeness,

you are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!

SONG: [You are holy](#), by Per Gunnar Harling, © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress; © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jenne

O God, we come to worship You and light this candle to remind us of your Son, offering us liberation and freedom.

Acknowledgement of Country

Jenne

As we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri, let's celebrate the new name in the Woiwurrung language that our local Council has recently accepted Merri-Bek.

Please join me with the responses in this Acknowledgement of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of this land since time immemorial.

They have never ceded sovereignty.

We acknowledge that the First Peoples
had already encountered the Creator God
before the arrival of the colonizers;
***the Spirit was already in the land,
revealing God to the people
through law, custom and ceremony.***

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

Jenne

Today's service is a focus on the liberation God offers us through faith in Jesus and his example to heal, to push through limits, to stand tall to praise God and offer ourselves as a church, to embody the power of liberation to all. We will hear the story of Jesus healing the bent over woman and will be invited to make a commitment towards our Mission Appeal.

Now, as we enter a time of prayer, let's remain seated and sing

Song

Bless the Lord my Soul (Taize Community TiS 706) – three times through

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

SONG: [Bless the Lord](#), from the Taize community, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, WORD OF LIFE

Prayer Of Adoration

Jenne

In our gospel reading today Jesus sees a woman in a synagogue who is oppressed by an ailment which causes her to be bent over and ostracised by her society and her religious community. Jesus sets her free, and in her liberation, she stands up straight to praise God. This is how Jewish people have always prayed, standing before God. During our prayer of adoration today I invite you to echo the woman's liberation, beginning seated and then standing to say together parts of the Jewish Amidah, the central prayer of daily worship, known as the "standing prayer".

Let us pray.

O God, we are here to praise your liberating power known among us through Jesus Christ. When you heal & act, we are in awe. We can only respond by standing and praising, feeling the power in all parts of our lives: body, soul and mind. We praise you as we carry on the work that Jesus calls and empowers us to do in liberating all.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/dear-working-preacher/daughters-of-abraham>

Please stand to pray as our Jewish siblings have always done, as Jesus did.
I invite you to join in the responses on the screen.

You are forever mighty, eternal one.

You are the source of eternal life.

You give life to all; great is your power to redeem.

You cause the wind to blow, the rain to fall, the sun to shine, and the dew to descend.

You sustain life through love; in your compassion, you grant us eternal life.

You give life to all, supporting the fallen, healing the sick, freeing the captive, keeping faith with those who sleep in the dust.

Who is like you source of mighty acts?

Who resembles you Sovereign Author of life and death, causing deliverance to spring up?

Trusting you, we see life beyond death we trust in you who gives life to all.

Blessed are you Eternal One source of eternal life, who gives life to all.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Jenne

Let us pray our prayer of confession.

This time as we pray I invite you to open your hands in a gesture of open hearted humility before God. We confess, O God, we can become tied up in small things, the rules and procedures, focusing on the outcomes, even in the way we sometimes view and action your Word. These ways can be in our minds and personalities, families, work, and our Church community. We pray for forgiveness when people are in pain, weighed down and we could offer, through you, liberation, but we remain bound up and rigid & cannot see a new perspective. Forgive us for when we are frustrated when 'our' plans are interrupted when someone is calling for liberation.

<https://www.aplainaccount.org/post/luke-13-10-17-2>

Lift our shutters, our blind spots, set us free when we forget, it is Christ through us, who gives liberty and is due praise. When we are more loyal to the narrow interpretation than to your work.

https://ourrabbijesus.com/articles/logic_healing_sabbath/

Forgive us when we fail to live out the words of Gangulu woman, Dr Lilla Watson:

'If you have come to help me you are wasting your time.

If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together'

We pray for discernment & wisdom, O God, to see when we are able to act for someone's liberation and yet still walk within your holy Word and in Love. Amen.

Word of Grace

Jenne

Jenne: Gracious God, forgive us for these failures.

By your liberating Spirit transform our minds and hearts
so that we may do your will in love and praise.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

SONG: O Christ the Healer we have come (TIS638)

Let us prepare to hear the gospel, standing and singing together.

-
- 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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Gospel Reading – Luke 13:10-17

Mal

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

With the Children

Jenne and Ian

The woman in the synagogue is set free to praise God. We see this in her body as she moves from bent over to standing up straight. Standing up is how Jewish people praise God (like we did earlier). Go through postures of prayer and use them to pray the words of the song.

SONG: Breathe (Rosie O'Reilly) – multiple times through

*Breathe into us the spirit of peace;
breathe us into your world.*

SONG: Breathe, words and music © Rosie O'Reilly 2015-2020.
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Children go to SMP

Psalm 103

Clare

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all God's benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

Let us sing the opening verses of this psalm in prayer:

Bless the Lord my Soul (Taize Community TiS 706) – three times through

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Reflective Music at end of sermon

Breathe (Rosie O'Reilly) instrumental

Mission Appeal (including Offering)

Ian

One offering bowl by font, one on communion table.

Introduction

For the past few weeks we have been running a mission appeal which culminates now with an opportunity to make a pledge towards the work we do in this congregation to further God's mission of liberation in the world.

This month we have celebrated our missional priorities:

- our ministry and mission with children, youth and young adults, through our Sunday Morning Program, Youth Group and Student House.
- The Olive Way – our midweek community of Christian hospitality.
- Our arts ministries.
- The food co-op.
- Our public witness and action in the climate crisis, for people seeking refuge, the inclusion of people of all genders and sexualities, justice for first nations, and much more.

Shawn our Treasurer has spoken to us about the money we need to support all these good things, and in particular right now to resource our ministry with young people through the calling of a new pastor. Of course, it is not all about money. Our mission depends on the practical support of volunteers and the prayerful support of everyone. So, if you can't afford to contribute financially at this time, you are no less a part of God's mission in this place. But our faith IS also expressed in what we do with our money. We reflected together this month on some of the many subversive things Jesus says in the gospels about our relationship to money and our use of it in God's service.

And so, we now set aside a time of quiet prayer in which you are invited to complete the pledge form if you haven't already. After that I'll invite you to bring your pledge form together with any weekly offering to the table here or to the font in the gathering space. If you have nothing to give today, for example if you've already made a pledge or you give electronically, please still join the procession as a prayerful sign of our commitment to Christ's mission in the world. Dip a finger in the baptism font or the bowl of water here on the table recommitting to our baptismal calling into mission.

What are you able to contribute? What is God calling you to give?

Quiet Prayer Time

Music: Breathe (Rosie O'Reily) instrumental

Procession

Singing: Breathe (Rosie O'Reily) – multiple times through

*Breathe into us the spirit of peace;
breathe us into your world.*

SONG: Breathe, words and music © Rosie O'Reilly 2015-2020.

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Prayer of Dedication

Ian offers a spoken prayer and then all stand and sing:

For the life that you have given (TiS 744)

*For the life that you have given,
for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labour,
with these gifts that are your own;
here we offer, Lord, our praises;
heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you,
living what we pray and sing.*

SONG: For the life that you have given, by Carl Pickens Daw, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, words by permission Hope Publishing Co. USA; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502

Prayers of the People

Kirsty

Notices

Jenne

Sending Song: Freedom is coming (ATOK355)

1. *Freedom is coming, freedom is coming,
freedom is coming, oh yes I know.*

*Oh yes I know, oh yes I know,
oh yes I know, oh yes I know.*

2. *Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming,
Jesus is coming – oh yes I know.*

SONG: [Freedom is coming](#), South African, © The Iona Community, from [All together okay](#), Openbook Publishers, ;
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Blessing

an

You are released from your bondage.
Stand up straight, lift up your heads,
for the time of your liberation has come.
(cf Luke 13:12-13 & 21:28)

Go in peace to live in the freedom of Sabbath release.

May God bless you to
rest in the goodness of creation,
dance life with Christ,
and sing joy on the breath of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank You

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

Liturgist:
Jenne Perlstein

Acknowledgement of
Country:

Bible readers:
Mal Rowe
Clare Keogh

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson
Jenne Perlstein

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson

Prayers of the People:
Kirsty Bennett

Musicians:
Matthew Lees
(coordinator)
Jane Allardice
Helen Burnham
Alistair Hunter
Clementine Loynd
Rosie O'Reilly
Robert Sargent
Kate Scull

Postlude Song: [Freedom is coming](#), South African, © The Iona Community, from [All together okay](#) (355), Openbook Publishers; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Musicians: Helen Burnham,
Sheryll Coulson, Hannah
Denison, Ian Ferguson,
Jessica Kvensakul, Kate Scull,
Natalie Sims, Daniel Whelan,
Shawn Whelan

Images:
Ian Ferguson

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

Closing verse:

.....be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day Luke 13 :16