

# Order of Service – 23/10/2022 Pentecost 20

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## Opening verse:

'...for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted'  
Luke 18:14b

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Kirsty

Let us worship God.

Let us come in humility

Let us gather in confidence

Knowing that God welcomes us all.

Let us stand and sing as we welcome the Bible and light the Christ candle.

## Gathering Song: Gather us in, TiS 474

Kirsty

*1. Here in this place new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2. We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry,  
We are the old who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,  
Gather us in the proud and the strong,  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.*

*4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own,  
Gather us in all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

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SONG: Gather us in by Marty Haugen, © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious WORD OF LIFE

## Acknowledgement of Country

Kirsty

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

Kirsty

Welcome to everyone who is here in our church on Sydney Road or watching the livestream. My name is Kirsty and will be leading worship today with James and all the musicians, Kirsty Brown and Meredith Budge.

We are pleased to welcome Carlynne to preach today while Ian has a Sunday off. Carlynne is a Minister of the Word in the UCA, chaplain at Melbourne University and former member of BUC. Thank you to Steph who will lead children's time and our AV team Hugh, Martin and Dave who make sure we can all see and hear today's service.

Today we will hear of Luke's story of the proud pharisee and the humble contrite tax collector, and we will reflect on shame and failure and what it means to be exalted.

We will also listen to a reading from the book of Joel, which offers us hope as it speaks to us of abundance after drought, and the coming of the Spirit with prophecies, dreams and visions. While the references in Joel to abundant rain may be confronting at this time, in this context, they are words of hope.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Kirsty

Creating God

You offer a vision of good times after hardship  
Of a future that is full of hope  
When crops will grow, and produce will be plentiful.

*Forgive us when we are overwhelmed by the present  
When we find it hard to dream  
And see a future that is hopeful and full of life.*

Jesus who speaks to the Pharisees and the tax collectors  
You challenge us to be humble  
To see ourselves as only we can  
And embrace our weakness.

*Forgive us when we get caught up in the world of status  
When we value some people's work, some people's ethics,  
And some people's position above others.*

Spirit of the Living God,  
You pour out your spirit upon us all  
Promising that we will dream dreams  
And see visions.

*Forgive us when do not feel your Spirit moving among us,  
When we hesitate and are worn down by the things that are happening all around us  
And do not live out your promise.*

Amen.

## Word of Grace

Siblings in Christ,  
God sees us as we are,  
And Jesus teaches us that God welcomes us when we come in humility.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Song: Come as you are, TiS 693**

**Kirsty**

1. *'Come as you are: that's how I want you.  
Come as you are; feel quite at home,  
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.  
Come as you are: why stand alone?'*
2. *'No need to fear, love sets no limits;  
no need to fear, love never ends;  
don't run away shamed and disheartened,  
rest in my love, trust me again.'*
3. *'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'd love you the less?'*
4. *'Come as you are; that's how I love you;  
come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;  
all will be well, just come as you are.'*

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SONG: Come as you are, by Deirdre Browne 1936– Words and music by permission Spectrum Publications, Melbourne. From Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 18:9-14**

**Meredith**

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

**Thanks be to God**

## **With the Children**

**Steph**

## **Song: Forgive us now, Tune In**

**Kirsty**

1. *Forgive us now O God of love  
for all the pain that we have sown  
for all the broken hearts we've left  
and all the words we've left unsaid  
forgive us gracious God of life*
2. *Forgive us now O mother love  
For all the idols we have built  
For all the time we've worshipped there*

*In company of dark despair  
Forgive us mother of all hope*

*as we forgive may we be healed  
as we reach out may you be near  
and take our hand to comfort bring  
so we can face the start again*

*3. Forgive us now O holy one  
for crimes committed in your name  
for all the holy wars we wage  
for all the children we enslave  
forgive us now O holy one.*

*4. Forgive us now O Jesus Christ  
for all the pride before the fall  
for all the times our heart was cold  
for all the monologues we've told  
forgive us Jesus of new life.*

*as we forgive . . .*

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SONG: [Forgive us now](#), by David Brown. ©2006, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC, Used with permission

## Hebrew Scriptures – Joel 2:23-32

Kirsty

O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the Lord your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.  
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.

Then afterwards  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount

Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

***Thanks be to God***

## Reflection

Carlynnne

## Music

Reflective music to follow sermon (no words)

## Offering with Song: **We give our thanks, MV 187**

Kirsty

Let us make an offering of our time, our talents, our energy and our money to God.  
Please remain seated as we sing.

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*Re ya mo leboga,  
Re ya mo leboga,  
Re ya mo leboga,  
modimo wa rona*

*1. We give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God.*

*2. We give our hands to you (x3)  
because you reached for us.*

*3. We give our feet to you (x3)  
because you walk with us.*

*4. We give our eyes to you, (x3)  
because you looked for us.*

*5. We give our hearts to you, (x3)  
because you first loved us.*

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SONG: [We give our thanks](#), 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music,  
from [More Voices](#), published by United Church Publishing house and Wood Lake Publishing 2007,  
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*Please stand:*

God of the Pharisees and the tax collectors,  
Of the lost and forsaken  
We give of our thanks to you  
And offer you these gifts for your work in the world. Amen

## Prayers of the People

Meredith

## Notices

Kirsty

1. *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Mother and Father, thy child let me be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*
3. *Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight  
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
4. *Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,  
thou my inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only first in my heart;  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*
5. *Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

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SONG: Be thou my vision, Gaelic poem 8th cent.,  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious* PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Blessing and Sending

Carlynnne

### Thank you's

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

Liturgist:

Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:

Kirsty Brown

Meredith Budge

Children's time:

Stephanie Gesling

Reflection:

Carlynnne Nunn

(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:

Meredith Budge

Images:

Ray & Saide Cameron's  
garden

Musicians:

James Balsillie

(co-ordinator)

Daniel Broadstock

Michael Cameron

Quilan Goff

Courtney Rohde

Bronte Potter

Maggie Somerville

Editing / Production

Hugh Brown

Martin Brown

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Dave Miller

Postlude Song: We give our  
thanks / Reamo

leboga SONG: We give our  
thanks, 1986 World Council  
of Churches and the Asian  
Institute for Liturgy and  
Music, from More Voices,  
published by United Church  
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Lake Publishing 2007,  
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Musicians: Alistair Hunter,  
James Balsillie, Courtney  
Rohde

### Closing verse:

'...for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted'  
Luke 18:14b