

# Order of Service 30/10/2022

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## Opening verse:

I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart (Hab. 2:1)

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Natalie

Let's stand as we welcome the word and the light, singing Gathered here in the mystery of this hour.

### **NCH742 Gathered here in the mystery of this hour (in unison)**

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*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.*

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

As we gather here, in this time set aside from other things,  
We acknowledge God the creator,  
Christ the redeemer,  
and the Spirit within, between and around us.

Let's join again in singing Gathered here in the mystery of this hour, this time in two parts, with the musicians leading us in a round

### **NCH742 Gathered here in the mystery of this hour (as a round)**

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*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.*

---

## 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, both to everyone who is here in our building, and to all of those who are watching from home, or elsewhere, online. My name is Natalie and will be leading worship today with Shawn, Elaine, Helen, Kate, Nicole, Christine, Jamie, Jim, Hugh and Ray.

Today we are really pleased to welcome Kirsten Parris, a member of our congregation, to bring us reflections on the word today while Ian, our minister, is on leave. This service will be a

quieter service than usual, with time and space for personal reflection, and songs with less words. If you'd feel more relaxed on the floor than in a seat, you are also welcome to come and sit down the front on a cushion.

Today we will continue hearing Luke's stories of tax collectors: this time we meet Zacchaeus, who Jesus dined with, and who gave away half of his possessions. And we'll listen to another reading of hope from the minor prophets: this time from the book of Habakkuk, who speaks of waiting for God's word while seeing the destruction around him.

## Song of praise with Prayers of Adoration and Confession

As we reflect on the goodness of God, let's continue to pray by singing an Alleluia. You may wish to close your eyes as you sing this chant, which only has one word.

As we sing, let's think of those things that help us to be, as the old hymn says, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

With **ATW460 Alleluia (Mxadana)**

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*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

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SONG: [Alleluia](#) by George Mxadana, from [All together whatever](#), Open Book Publishers, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Signs of God's faithfulness: Tall eucalypts, soft babies, strong footballers, croaking frogs, thunder-cracks, luminous mosses, rainbow arches.

Signs of Christ's compassion: Fish and bread, difficult questions, eating with strangers, words of wisdom, risky actions, the outcast welcomed.

Signs of the Spirit's presence: Pain eased, hearts on fire, wisdom gained, sorrow shared, warm friendship, courage felt, shared peace, unity.

Faithful God, compassionate Christ, present Spirit, we praise you.

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*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

---

Even in the midst of our praise, we know the signs of those things that separate us from you: war, extreme poverty, preventable disease, intergenerational trauma, decimation of the natural world, callousness, pride.

Faithful God, compassionate Christ, present Spirit,  
Where we have been the cause of suffering, forgive us.

Where we have turned away, forgive us.

Where we have failed to hope, forgive us.

Help us to watch for your light to come, help us to believe in and work for a better future.

Amen.

Siblings in Christ, We are not waiting in vain.

God shares our sorrow at the destruction and violence of the world,  
the Spirit hears our prayers, and Christ came to seek out and to save the lost.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

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*Alleluia, alleluia.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

---

## **Gospel Reading: [Luke 19:1-10](#)**

**Christine**

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **With the Children**

**Kirsten and Natalie**

The story of Zacchaeus – told dramatically

## **Song:**

**AoV2-070 Don't be afraid**

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*Don't be afraid.*  
*My love is stronger,*  
*My love is stronger than your fear.*  
*Don't be afraid.*  
*My love is stronger*  
*and I have promised,*  
*promised to be always near.*

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SONG: [Don't be afraid](#), © 1997 WRGR, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. Used with permission.  
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## **Hebrew Scriptures: [Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4](#)**

**Jamie**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?  
Or cry to you 'Violence!'  
and you will not save?  
Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch-post,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

## Reflection

Kirsten

Including optional stations

## Offering with Song

Let's now sing a song of commitment as we make to God an offering of our time, our talents, our energy and our money.

Let's remain seated for the first verse when you may wish to make an offering using your phone, and then I'll indicate to stand. While we are standing you are welcome to place your offerings in the bowls near the baptismal font at the entrance of the church which will then be brought forward.

Let's sing.

### **ATFG563 / NCYC'03 / The Red Book How long must we cry out?**

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*1. How long must we cry out,  
'til justice rolls down like a river?  
How long will this night last,  
And when will we all be together?*

*Teach me to do what is right,  
work in the darkness, trust in the light,  
and may love be the path I walk upon.*

*2. How long will these bombs fall,  
And bodies get twisted and broken?  
How long will these voices,  
Keep shouting loud insult and slogan?*

*3. How long will your creatures,  
Be trampled, degraded forever?  
How long, must we cry out,  
Till justice rolls down like a river?*

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SONG: [How long](#), © Robin Mann, from [All together for good](#), © 2001 Willow Publishing Pty Ltd,  
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## Offering Prayer

Listening God,

We offer our selves, and these gifts to you,

We pray that we, and all that we have to offer, will bring light in the darkness. Amen

## Prayers of the People

Jim

with **Taizé Wait for the Lord**

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*Wait for the Lord  
whose day is near,  
wait for the Lord,  
keep watch, take heart*

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SONG: [Wait for the Lord](#), © Ateliers et Presses do Taize, WORD OF LIFE

Loving God, breath of life, breath of humid winds

We pray for the World. We look forward to the end of the pandemic and the start of summer.  
May we reflect, and dream.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

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*Wait for the Lord  
whose day is near,  
wait for the Lord,  
keep watch, take heart*

---

We pray for the Church. We pray for Uniting Church congregations and other congregations rebuilding after floods. We pray for people trying to build a better world.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

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*Wait for the Lord  
whose day is near,  
wait for the Lord,  
keep watch, take heart*

---

We pray for those in need: may we all find strength, somehow. May our families support us.  
May we feel the energy to face the new. We pray with those watching at home: may they feel included. May we all feel warmth, again.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

---

*Wait for the Lord  
whose day is near,  
wait for the Lord,  
keep watch, take heart*

---

In the name of Christ, guiding us, renewing us.

Praise, Amen

## Notices

## Sending Song

As we prepare to go out - let's sing a song from Cameroon. During this song, we will wake ourselves up a bit from this time of reflection with some simple body percussion...

### Iona M&G Stand O Stand Firm

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*Stand, O stand firm;  
Stand, O stand firm;  
Stand, O stand firm  
And see what the Lord can do.*

*Cantor: O my sisters, stand very firm!*

*Stand, O stand firm;  
Stand, O stand firm;  
Stand, O stand firm  
And see what the Lord can do.*

*Cantor: (other verses ad lib)*

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SONG: [Stand firm](#), traditional from the Cameroons, from [Many & Great](#), Wild Goose Publications.

## Blessing and Sending

Natalie

Go now and live by faith.  
Patiently trust in God's vision of the future;  
be generous with your time and possessions,  
so that salvation may come to your house.

And may God give you grace and peace;  
May Christ Jesus make you worthy of your call;  
And may the Holy Spirit fulfil in you  
every good resolve and work of faith.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

(adapted from a Blessing by Nathan Nettleton, South Yarra Community Baptist Church)

## Postlude sequence - Thank you

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

Liturgist:  
Natalie Sims

Bible readers:  
Christine Hornby  
Jamie Thom

Reflection and  
Children's Time:  
Kirsten Parris  
Natalie Sims

Prayers of the People:  
Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:  
Shawn Whelan  
(co-ordinator)  
Helen Burnham  
Nicole Lowe  
Elaine Potter  
Kate Scull

Images:  
Kirsten Parris

Postlude Song:  
Wait for the Lord  
Musicians: Natalie Sims,  
Daniel Whelan,  
Shawn Whelan

Editing / Production  
Hugh Brown  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Jason Minator

**Closing verse:** Then Jesus said to him,

"Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham." (Luke 19:9)