

Order of Service 13/11/2022

Opening verse:

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17)

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Helen

Good morning everyone. People are still arriving but I ask you to find a seat because we are about to start the Service. Again we thank you for continuing to wear a mask, it does help to protect those of us who are vulnerable, and we invite you to join us after the service for morning tea and a chat, in the hall.

In a constantly changing and shifting world, God calls us together, whether we are here in the Church or watching online, to sing, to pray, to worship, to listen, and to learn.

So let's join together to sing a simple Taize song as we bring in the Word and the light.

Song- AOV 2: 109, In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord I will rejoice
Look to God do not be afraid
Lift up your voices the Lord is near
Lift up your voices the Lord is near*

SONG: [In the Lord I'll be ever thankful](#), from the Taize community WORD OF LIFE

Acknowledgement of Country

Helen

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.**

Song of Praise

Now let us join together to sing our Song of praise

All you works of God AoV1-19

*All you works of God,
Every mountain, star and tree,
Bless the One who shapes your beauty,
Who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace,
Ever ancient, ever new.
Raise your voices, all you works of God.*

*1. Sun and moon: Bless your Maker!
Stars of heaven: Chant your praise!
Showers and dew: Raise up your joyful song!*

*4. All the earth: Bless your Maker!
Hills and mountains: Chant your praise!
Green things that grow: Raise up your joyful song!*

*7. All who live: Bless your Maker!
Men and women: Chant your praise!
Servants of God: Raise up your joyful song!*

SONG: All you works of God, by Marty Haugen, from *As One Voice*, volume 1, Willow Connections, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Welcome and Introduction

Helen

Welcome everyone, I am Helen your Liturgist for today and it is lovely to see so many here after our Camp in Queenscliff yesterday. You will see a lot of me today because Ian has Covid and so his reflection will be on the screens. Today, in our reading, we go from one extreme to another. We hear in Isaiah 65: 17-25, about New Heavens and a New Earth, challenging us to find this “New Way” in a time of violence and unrest. In Luke 21: 5-19, we hear Jesus apocalyptic words of warning to his Disciples. We live in a fortunate time when many of the words in Isaiah 65 are part of our lives. But how do we find a balance, with war, pandemic, and climate change, and not give into denial or despair.

Prayers of Adoration

Helen

Let us bow together in Prayer and Praise.

Holy One, Mother and Father, Creator of the song and dance of life.
You sang our world into being,
so from the dust, the soil, the stone, the rocks, the mountains,
everything shouts a hymn of praise to God the Creator, the designer, the artist.
Alleluia

From the microscopic to the majesty of whales,
everything that has life, that crawls, flies, jumps, runs, swims and breathes,
everything shouts a hymn of praise
to God the Creator, the gardener, the scientist, the architect.
Alleluia

From our thoughts, our minds, our words, our actions, our waiting and our searching,
Composer of the Symphony of life, with the whole earth we join together to offer our praise.
To sing and to dance, to laugh and to cry,
to find a way to witness to your New Heaven and Earth,
by living your new creation now.
Alleluia Amen

Prayer of Confession

Helen

Now join me in singing our Prayer of Confession, Forgive us Now, written by Dave Brown, one of our members. As we sing let the words speak in our hearts and minds.

SONG: Forgive us now

*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 . . .

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

Word of Grace

Brothers, Sisters, people and children of God,
In all the challenges of life we know that God has given us a light, shining in the darkness,
and that through Christ our light, because of Christ, and in Christ, our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God

Amen

With the Children

Children invited forward to hear reading.

Today's Old Testament reading is from Isaiah 65. Isaiah was a Prophet. Do you know what that is? God sometimes said to someone like Isaiah "hey you, you need to tell my people something"

Being a Prophet was a tough job and Isaiah didn't always like doing it.
So let's listen to Kenna read the words Isaiah had to say to God's people.

This is God's dream/wish/vision for the world. In it, Jerusalem is a code word for the whole world. That means this is God's wish for the whole world.

Listen carefully, I am going to ask some questions after the reading.

From the Prophets – Isaiah 65:17-25

Kenna

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

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

With the Children

Helen

Helen explored the reading from Isaiah with the children

Song

Natalie

We are going to learn a song from South Africa, called Bamblela, Never Give up, and Natalie is going to talk about it first.

Song: Bamblela (Never give up)

*Bamblela bambelela, oh, bambelela, bambelela;
Bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, oh, bamba, bambelela!*

*Never give up, never give up, o, never give up, never give up,
Never, never, never, never, never, o, never, never give up!*

SONG: Bambela (Never give up), © original Xhosa: South Africa,
from the singing of JL Zwane Memorial Congregation, Guglethu, Capetown. For non-profit use only.

The Gospel – Luke 21:5-19

Lyn

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Helen

ATW 463, Goodness is Stronger than Evil

*Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours
through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours
through him who loved us.*

SONG: [Goodness is stronger than evil](#) © 1995 Desmond Tutu, from [All together whatever](#),
Open Book Publishers, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Offering Prayer

We long for the time
when the meek shall inherit the earth
and all who hunger and thirst after justice
shall be satisfied,
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,
now is always the time
when more good can be done
and we can make a difference.

**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts
and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

(Source: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona)

Prayers of the People

Natalie

Let us pray,

God, as we wait for a new heaven and a new earth,
May we trust in you as we pray for our world, our church, and our community.

We pray for the world and all living creatures,
We pray for communities where infant mortality is high due to disease, famine or poverty,
We pray for communities where children lose their parents due to war, disease, and famine,
and for those who have lost their elders because of short life expectancies,
We pray for those whose homes have been destroyed by flooding,
both here in Australia and overseas,
And for those whose communities have been devastated by war and greed.
For world leaders, that they will work for safe lives for all communities,
For those seeking asylum, and all those who are unsafe in their home country,
For indigenous communities around the world,
and all those whose land and culture has been taken from them.
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church, as we all look towards a new future
We pray for our own community here, particularly Ian and Peter as they recover from COVID,
and for all who lead us as a community.
For the other churches in Brunswick,
For healing of the increasing divide between
conservative and progressive churches within many denominations.
We pray for the Uniting Church in Australia,
and for the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.
For the Ecumenical movement around the world and for peaceful interfaith dialogue,
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those we love and those within our communities,
We pray for those who are unwell, and those who care for the sick,
For those who are lonely, and those who cannot find time to themselves.
For those facing rental distress, or having trouble finding a safe place to live,
For those who are underpaid or lacking meaningful work,
For those who weep, and cry in sadness.
Give us hands to help and ears to hear.
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we know that you answer us before we call,
And hear us while we are still speaking.
In your mercy, hear our prayer.
Amen.

Notices

Helen

It's time to share the news of our very busy community, so if you have something to share, please come and line up to my right, and keep it as short as you can. Of course you can always find out what is happening by going to our Web site or the Facebook page.

Sending Song

Making things New, Tune In

*The desert will spring to life
A path will be made in the wild
- even now as you look I am making things new*

*The lion shall lie with the lamb
The day shall extinguish the night
- even now as you sleep I am making things new*

*Take hold of the hope that I give
Trust in me
Reach out for the love you can live
Eternally*

*The river of life shall flow down
The mountains shall break forth in joy
- even now as you speak I am making things new*

*The barren give birth, the lame walk
The deaf and the blind hear and see
- even now as you pray I am making things new*

Chorus x2

SONG: Making things new, by Sheree Anderson, from Tune In, Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission

Blessing and Sending

Helen

Take hold of hope,
Trust in God,
Reach out in love,
And go in peace.

May God bless you to live as a new creation in Christ,
from the Source of Life,
through the Child of Love,
by the Spirit of Joy.

Amen.

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:
Helen Burnham

Prayers of the People:
Natalie Sims

Bible readers:
Lyn Anderson
Kenna Morrison

Musicians:
Courtney Rohde
(co-ordinator)
James Balsillie
Michael Cameron
Quilan Goff
Elaine Potter
Maggie Somerville

Children's time:
Helen Burnham
Natalie Sims

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson

Images: Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: Making things new, by Sheree Anderson, from Tune In, Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission
Musicians: James Balsillie, Alistair Hunter, Courtney Rohde

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Mal Rowe

Closing verse

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17)