

Order of Service 15/1/23 Epiphany 2

Opening verse:

'...let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.'
Psalm 40:11b

Gathering

Kirsty

Please stand and sing as we welcome the Word and the Light.

Song

Come all you people

*Come all you people, Come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, Come and praise your Saviour,
Come all you people, Come and praise the Spirit
Come now and worship the Lord.*

*Uya-i mo-se, tina-ma-te Mwa-ri
Uya-i mo-se, tina-ma-te Mwa-ri
Uya-i mo-se, tina-ma-te Mwa-ri
Uya-i mo-se zvi-no*

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Call to Worship

Kirsty

God comes to us today:
The One who John testified is the Son of God,
The One who baptises with the Holy Spirit.
We are called to come,
to come and follow.
Let us stand and sing:

Song Kirsty

Will you come and follow me / The Summons, Iona (HSNW)

*1. Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

4. *Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

5. *Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

SONG: [The Summons](#) from [Heaven Shall Not Wait](#) Words by John Bell © 1987 Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE 604502

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 worship this morning. My name is Kirsty and I am your liturgist for this morning and will be leading with worship with Saide, Elaine and the musicians, Meredith, Samesi, Tim and the assistance of our AV and online team while our minister Ian is on leave.

Today we are going to focus on the reading from John and reflect on the faithfulness of God and the call to us to follow Jesus, the Messiah. The reflection will be a time of guided prayer and interaction, but more on that later.

We are called to follow, and we do so in the certain knowledge that the steadfast love of God never ceases. Please remain seated while we sing to begin our prayers of adoration and confession.

Song Kirsty

The Steadfast love of God never ceases *All Together Again 153*

*The steadfast love of our God never ceases,
Her mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God,
Great is your faithfulness.*

SONG: [The steadfast love of the Lord](#), by Edith McNeill, from [All together again](#), Lutheran Publishing House, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Lord our God,
Whose wondrous deeds are more numerous than can be counted,
You hear our cry and make our steps secure,
Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Are always with us.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Who baptises with the Holy Spirit,
You are the Messiah, the Son of God.
And you invite us to come, to see where you are,
and remain with you.

Spirit, descending from heaven like a dove,
You appeared to John,
And you come amongst us,
The presence of the living God and
The giver of life.

Forgive us when we lose confidence in your faithfulness,
When we do not live in your steadfast love.

Forgive us when we do not follow you,
When we do not accept your invitation to come.

Forgive us when we do not see your presence among us,
When we do not look to you.

Amen.

Song Kirsty

The Steadfast love of God never ceases All Together Again 153

*The steadfast love of our God never ceases,
Her mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God,
Great is your faithfulness.*

Word of Grace

God is faithful and God's love never ceases
And so we can say with confidence
'Our sin is forgiven'
Thanks be to God.

Bible Reading Psalm 40:1-11

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

Meredith

Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.
Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'

I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord.
I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

Do not, O Lord, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe for ever.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word.

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Saide

What does steadfast love look like, what does it feel like? The psalmist sings of God's steadfast love and asks that this steadfast love and faithfulness keep them safe forever. For a couple of minutes talk to your neighbours in groups for 2,3 or 4 about your experience of steadfast love. If you are joining online and you have someone with you talk together about this or give someone a call after worship to have a chat. I'll invite you to offer some thoughts when we come back together. ... So does anyone have any thoughts or experiences they would like to share?

Song Kirsty

The Steadfast love of God never ceases All Together Again 153

*The steadfast love of our God never ceases,
Her mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning.
Great is your faithfulness, O God,
Great is your faithfulness.*

Bible Reading John 1:29-42

Lyn

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word.

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Saide

with SONG: [O Lord hear my prayer, TiS 715](#)

- O Lord, hear my prayer,*
- O Lord, hear my prayer:*
When I call, answer me.
- O Lord, hear my prayer,*
- O Lord, hear my prayer,*
Come and listen to me.

SONG: [O Lord, hear my prayer](#), by Jacques Berthier,
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, WORD OF LIFE

Offering with Song

Kirsty

Now is an opportunity for us to continue our commitment to witnessing and giving thanks through our offering. It may be an offering of money (in the bowls in the chapel space or by bank transfer) or it may be with our time, our energy, our skills and our love.

Let us make our offering as we stand and sing.

AoV2-031 O God, you search me and you know me

- 1. O God, you search me and you know me.*
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2. You know my resting and my rising.*
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

3. *Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have know its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.*

4. *Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.*

5. *For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonders of who I am I praise you:
Safe in your hands all creation is made new.*

SONG: [O God , you search me](#), © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, from [As One Voice](#), vol 2, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd.
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Jesus as you come to us
We offer these gifts to you
And give thanks for your faithfulness and love.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Meredith

My name is Tim Budge and I am leading Prayers of the People this morning. At the conclusion of the prayer, I will take the candle to the back of the church and after the service, you are welcome to light your own taper and add your prayer for yourself and others.

As we start this prayer, you are invited to let stillness enfold you, to be awake to a sense of calm, to a slower pace of breathing, to an awareness of your own presence in this church and in this world. Let's pray:

At the start of this New Year, Dear God, we are reminded of your great and steadfast love for all creation. Love is in the DNA of the universe; abundance and grace are within all patterns of life and growth. And as the poet wrote "The world is charged with the grandeur of God".

Remind us of this love, grace and grandeur we pray. May we share the same wild love for the world that we see in you and your son Jesus. May we be alive to the holiness of all places and all creatures. May we be attuned to your presence in all people, including those we would rather ignore, shut-out or criticise. Help us to respond with grace in times of uncertainty and threat. Help to see how your grace reaches into our lives, moment by moment, day by day and may that grace flow through us to others.

Open our hearts and lives we pray: to the stranger; to the outsider; to the possibility of new beginnings. When we would like to retreat and to hide behind our own masks and insecurities; may we be inspired again by Jesus to take new steps to live out the kingdom of God in our lives. For those of us who are too secure, may we trust instead in a sense of call to step out. May we hear again that holy offer and message to us that invites us to keep changing, keep growing, keep following the way of the cross.

We pray that this will be a year where we are reminded again and again of your call on our lives. Remind us too that this call comes to us as beings on this planet, as a community, and as individuals. Help us to find the time and courage to listen to that call and to respond. What are you saying to us in 2023?

Help us we pray, to be people of love, in our neighbourhoods, our homes and in the world. Help us in particular to notice and respond to those around us who are hurting, experiencing grief and loss or going through a time of trial. Dear God, hold them close to you we pray. Help us we pray to be peacemakers and to speak out for peace even in the face of oppression,

violence and a global security system that scorns any desire or preference for peace. May we hear and support those who speak up for peace and reconciliation both in Australia and across the globe. As a species, help us to move beyond our addiction to war before it destroys all life. May we find peaceful means to respond to oppression, persecution and hatred. May all political leaders be women and men who honestly seek peace, who want to turn swords into plowshares.

Loving God, we are grateful that you know us so well; that you see our failures, false steps and uncertainties, yet your love is always there and never changes. Walk with us into this year we pray, remind us of your call on our lives, especially when we stumble and lose heart. Help us, in this community to support each other in listening and responding to this call and help us to abide in your love, grace and grandeur we pray.
And we gather all this in Jesus name, Amen.

Notices

Kirsty

Sending Song

Kirsty

Tune in / Online Resource [Jesus is waiting](#)

*1. We are the dream that's longing always to be free
we are the story not complete
we look for healing from paralysis of fear
we are the ones who know defeat, we are the ones who know defeat
but Jesus is waiting, Jesus is listening, Jesus is present, Jesus creating*

*2. We are the lame who look for ways to walk anew
we are the blind who cannot see
we are the friends who watch the sick from on the roof
we want to interrupt the scene, we want to interrupt the scene
while Jesus is working, Jesus is healing, Jesus forgiving, Jesus is leading*

*3. Come be our liberator, bless and make us free
come be the light upon the shore
come be the freedom for the prison of our time
come now and open up the door, come now and open up the door
and Jesus is knocking, Jesus is saving, Jesus is working, Jesus is waiting
Jesus is knocking, Jesus is waiting, Jesus is healing, Jesus creating*

SONG: Jesus is waiting, by Dave Brown, from Tune In, Brunswick UC Songbook,
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Blessing and Sending

Kirsty

God calls us to come and follow Jesus,
Seeking new ways of being and living
As we create a world of justice and peace.

Go from this place knowing
God's steadfast love will surround us
Jesus will walk with us
And the Holy Spirit will be our guide.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you's

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

Liturgist:
Kirsty Bennett

Bible readers:
Lyn Anderson
Meredith Budge

Children's time
& Reflection:
Saide Cameron

Prayers of the People:
Tim Budge

Musicians:
Shawn Whelan
(coordinator)
Daniel Broadstock
Michael Cameron
Bronte Potter
Elaine Potter
Joanne van Ravenswaaij

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

Postlude Song: Come all
you people, from Come all
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Musicians: Natalie Sims,
Shawn Whelan

Images:
Ray Cameron
(Camino de Santiago
2016)

Closing verse:

'...They came and saw where he was staying and remained with him...'
John 1:39b