

Prelude Slides

Opening verse: Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill”

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Natalie

Please come into the worship space, and stand as we welcome the word and the light.

As children of the light, we come to worship
To praise God who created light in the darkness,
To learn from Christ, the light of the world, and
To be filled with the Spirit who brings a flame so that our lights may also shine.

As we gather, let us sing the Persian song Ay Farzandane Nur, “Children of Light” which calls us to sing to God with gladness.

Online Resource **O Children of the Light / Ay Farzandane Nur** (Anonymous Farsi)

*Ay far-zan-da-ne nur, ger-de ham bi-ya-eid
Ba sha-di o so-rood, oo raa be sa-rae-id*

*Aan-dar ho-zo-re vey, das-tha ba-ra-fra-zid
Mon-gee ye a-laam-ra sho-kroo se-pas go-eid
Mon-gee ye a-laam-ra sho-kroo se-pas go-eid*

*O Children of the light, come let your voices raise
With gladness and with songs, O sing God's highest praise*

*O Children of the light, lift up your hands and praise
The saviour of the world whose love will light our way
The saviour of the world whose love will light our way*

SONG: [Children of the Light / Ay Farzandane Nur](#),
Music copyright Iranian Christians International 1983. (Translation from ISHQ)

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

Good morning, my name is Natalie, and together with our minister Ian, and the whole congregation, I'm pleased to welcome you here to Brunswick Uniting Church, both here on Sydney Road, and online.

We are together, in many places, and different times, to worship, to pray, to sing, and to explore together God's presence in our lives, and the challenges the Spirit brings us as we strive to follow Christ.

This week, we will explore the famous readings in Matthew 5 about being salt and light for the world, and consider what Jesus meant when he said that he came to fulfill the Law and the words of the Prophets.

After worship, those of us who are here, are invited to join us in the hall to enjoy each others' company for tea, coffee and conversation. If you are viewing online, I encourage you to pick up the phone and call a friend for a chat after the service.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Natalie

Let's pray together.

Creator God, we take delight in your law, and the words of the prophets,
We know that you desire justice for all,
And that you see the hearts of all people.
You do not give special honour to the wealthy or the powerful,
But have the most love for those who are most in need.

Jesus, Christ who came to fulfil the law and all that the prophets foretold,
We know that you desire justice for all,
And that you see the hearts of all people.
You did not come as an earthly ruler,
But came to challenge a powerful empire with your compassion:

Spirit of God, who fills us with grace, mercy and righteousness
We know that you desire justice for all,
And that you see the hearts of all people.
You do not come to make us rich in money or prestige,
But give us steady hearts, so that we may shine light in the darkest of places.

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
We know that you delight in a world of equality and sufficiency.
And that we, as people, as a nation, and as a world, fall short of this.
We see the growing divide between rich and poor,
We watch as nations tear each other apart over access to land,
We have failed to repair the damage done by our violent national history.
While some have much, others struggle to make ends meet.
While some are healthy, others struggle with low life expectancy.
While some are honoured, others are left out.

God forgive us.

Forgive us for the parts we play in a world that is unfair.
Forgive us when we seek praise for what we have done,
but are blind to what we have not done.

God forgive us.

Help us to let go of our burdens and our sorrow.

Open our eyes, and lead us in a better way.

Give us courage, and show us what we can do to shine our light in places of darkness.

Amen

Siblings in Christ, God chooses to release the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke. God does not want us to be burdened, but, through the Spirit, empowers us to live lives of generosity, hospitality, and justice. Through Christ, in Christ, and because of Christ, our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

Christine

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Salt and Light

Ian

Ian referred us to the Bible reading where Jesus says you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world'. He said that we are like salt enhancing the flavour of God in the world. Ian asked 'Where are the places in our world that we like the light of God to shine in the world? Candles were lit for the places named. Salt was sprinkled into the bowl of water helping us to think about the flavour of God's love in the world.

Song

AoVK-40 / NCH524 This little light of mine (Traditional)

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- This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*
 - Won't let anyone blow it out,
I'm gonna let it shine...*
 - Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine...*
 - All around the world,
I'm gonna let it shine...*
-

SONG: This little light of mine, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back!
 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.
 Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
 they ask of me righteous judgements,
 they delight to draw near to God.
 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
 Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
 and oppress all your workers.
 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.
 Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.
 Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the Lord?
 Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
 For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ilan

Offering with Song

Ilan

TiS 473 Community of Christ (Shirley Murray)

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- 1 *Community of Christ,
 who make the Cross your own,
 live out your creed and risk your life*

*for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.*

- 2 *Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.*
- 3 *Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.*
- 4 *When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.*

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Offering Prayer Ian

Prayers of the People

Light of the world,
You have shined your presence into the hidden places of our hearts,
You have illuminated the hidden regions of our hearts,
You have filled us with new vision,
New sight.
Through your word you have enabled us to see what you see,
To care for the things that you care for,
For the people that you care for,
For the world that you love.
You have called us to be salt,
To preserve, to sustain, to protect.
May we be a people who care for those around us,
The poor,
The vulnerable,

Peter, read by Ruth

The stranger,
The asylum seeker,
Those struggling with addictions and mental illness
Help us to reach out in love, compassion, and advocate for them.

We pray for our planet,
that groans under the weight of neglect, exploitation, and devastation,
From greed, war, pollution, and indifference.
Spark in us a sense of hope that we can be part of the change that is needed
to protect and preserve the planet.
Let us not be overwhelmed by the need,
but act within our power to change,
and encourage others to change.

We pray also for Cath as she commences her new role with us,
We pray she would be salt and light for this community,
For the children and youth,
For the parents,
For the students.
We pray that Cath will feel supported and nourished by the team,
And the committees that work with her.
We pray that she will find sustainable rhythms for family, work, and life,
that are nourishing and fulfilling for her and her family.
We ask that today as she is ordained, she will know the strength of your spirit
sustaining and sending her,
But most importantly may she feel held in your love as
as she steps into this new phase of her life.
Bless Cath and her family.

For these things we pray in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Holy Communion

Ian

Servers

Ian, Natalie, Jessica, Ruth, Kenna, Joel

Introduction and Invitation

- One circle even if we are not receiving.
- Hands crossed on chest if you would prefer to leave your mask on and receive a blessing.
- Remain in your seats if you wish or are not able to stand
- All servers will hand sanitise
- Gluten free bread

Communion Song

MV193 God bless to us our bread (Traditional Argentinian)

*God bless to us our bread,
and give bread to all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed;
God bless to us our bread.*

Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ: ***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts: ***We lift our hearts to God.***

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love:
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father of goodness, Mother of kindness,
for creation in its wonder and mystery
We thank you

for Jesus your beloved Son,
who fulfills God's way among us,
We thank you

for the Holy Spirit your power and presence along the way,
We thank you

And with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea and sky,
we sing to you!

With all the saints before us and beside us,
with brothers and sisters,
east and west, north and south,
we sing to you!

And with our loved ones,
separate from us now,
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,
we sing the hymn of unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)*

*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)*

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who on the night of his betrayal took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

***This is my body given for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.***

In the same way also, he took the cup.
Again he gave thanks,
shared it with his disciples and said:

***This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of the living God,
love us into the unity of peace
through this bread and wine. For:

***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!***

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
all glory be to you,
Source of all Being,
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,
one God and Mother of all creation.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

Breaking of the bread

Christ is the bread of resurrection:
new life for all.

Christ is the cup of life:
who revives the faint-hearted.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution

Communion served in one circle

Music: musicians' choice

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all:

And also with you

Share the peace, return to your seats

Musician's choice during distribution

Notices

Natalie

Sending Song

Natalie

AoV2-004 You are a salt for the earth O People / Bring forth the kingdom (Marty Haugen)

- 1. You are a salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, Bring forth the City of God!*
 - 2. You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!*
 - 3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, Grow in the Kingdom of God!*
 - 4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God!*
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Blessing and Sending

Ian

Christ's people,
you are the light of the world.
go to shine the light of
love, justice and peace
for all to see.

Christ's people,
you are the salt of the earth.
Go to give the flavour of
freedom, faith and hope
to all your encounters this week.

Go with the blessing of God,
the Source of love's light,
the Child of the light,
and the radiant Spirit flame.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:

Natalie Sims

Bible readers:

Christine Hornby

Kenna Morrison

Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:

Peter Blair

read by Ruth Sandy

Musicians:

Alistair Hunter

(co-ordinator)

Daniel Broadstock

Mikul Denison

Joel Hallinan

Bronte Potter

Elaine Potter

Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Editing / Production:

Hugh Brown

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Alistair Hunter

Lauren Reader

Shawn Whelan

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: SONG:

You are salt for the earth, by

Marty Haugen, © 1986 GIA

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Musicians: Natalie Sims,

Maggie Somerville, Daniel

Whelan, Shawn Whelan

Closing verse:

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your parent in heaven.