

Order of Service – 26/02/23 Lent 1

Opening verse

what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.” Matthew 26:13

Gathering

Jenne

Wominjeka yearmann koondee biik Wurundjeri balluk.....Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people and Brunswick Uniting Church, in person & over the internet, for this service. My name is Jenne, your liturgist.

Let's stand and praise God in song as we welcome the Word and the Oil of Anointing.

Gathering Song

NCH104 We hail you God's anointed (James Montgomery)

*We hail, you God's anointed, the long-awaited One!
Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break, oppression, to set the captives free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*You shall come down, like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains, shall peace, the Herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

*The wise shall bow before you and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore you, and praise all people sing;
To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows be said,
Your realm is still increasing, with you, O Christ, as head.*

*O'er every foe, victorious, you on your throne, shall rest;
From age to age, more glorious, all blessing, and all blessed:
The tide of time shall never your covenant remove;
Your name shall stand forever, your changeless name of Love.*

Words by James Montgomery (1821, alt.). From The New Century Hymnal 1995. Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.

Blessing the Oil

Jenne

O God, we come to worship You and
bless this oil as a sign of your Son and his anointer,
Anoint us with grace in remembrance of her.

Acknowledgement of Country

Jenne

Please join me with the response at the end of this Acknowledgement of country.

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

Jenne

Today's service is a focus on the remembrance of Her anointing Christ.

Prayer Of Adoration

Jenne

Let us pray.

Anointed One, Lady Wisdom sourced from the Creator.

You are the universal soul coexisting with God,
living manifested through Jesus anointed sovereign.

We want to dwell in you & be present.

Anoint us now so we can be in the realm of the sacred.

We come to you in reverence, with our whole being and heart.

Like a child – humbly, simply, seeking your anointing oil to feed our soul.

You are the She who feeds us intelligently with wisdom,
flow & embrace, forgiving & consoling, You the arts & dreams.

You are not guilt, rather transformation and evolution.

You are the Source of all new life.

Like the woman at Bethany, may her act of love

forever be remembered, wherever the good news is preached.

In Christ's Name Amen

Prayer of Confession

Jenne

Let us pray our prayer of confession, beginning in song.

SONG Hear our sorrow Mothering God (Rosie O'Reilly)

*Hear our sorrow, mothering God;
Hear our sorrow, mothering God.
Hear our sorrow, mothering God,
Enfold us in your love.*

Words and music: Rosie O'Reilly © 2020. Used with permission.

Oh Anointed One, we come with our hearts heavy, busy in thought,
judging others, serving you with self-righteousness piousness & pride
but ignoring where we need to honour You.

Heal us, where we do not honour and anoint those who serve,
nor give ourselves the compassion and anointing we ourselves need.

Give us strength to see where we overlook praise, beauty,
joyous life and recognition, rather acting like Jesus

'She has done a beautiful thing to me'

May we anoint ourselves, others and You with your gifts of nature,
the honouring of the wise and humble ones amongst us.

We ask to remember & anoint Her as we walk in your path.

May we anoint with unreserved love and devotion & bring good news.

We ask in Jesus name.

Amen.

*Hear our sorrow, mothering God;
Hear our sorrow, mothering God.
Hear our sorrow, mothering God,
Enfold us in your love.*

Word of Grace

Jenne

Gracious God, this is the best of all:
when we are empty, God fills us;
when we are disheartened,
God is compassionate; when we are wounded, God brings healing;
when we take responsibility, and commit to heal our human mistakes,
By your liberating and gracious anointing oil, we are transformed
so that we may do your will in love and praise.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we are restored & God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen

Song

Let us prepare to hear the gospel, standing and singing together of the life of simplicity and freedom to which we are called during Lent.

SONG Tis the Gift to be simple

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

Gospel Reading – Matthew 26:1-13

Chris H

The Anointing at Bethany

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the courtyard of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

The Anointing at Bethany

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

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

With the Children

Cath

SONG Tis the Gift to be simple

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures

Chris H

Psalm 23:5-6

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Isaiah 61:1-2

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

Psalm 45:7

you love righteousness and hate wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

Reflection In Remembrance of Her

Ian

Response Time

Ian

During Lent this year we are using a series of contemporary psalms written by Nick Cave to aid our reflection and response.

Today Blessing is going to read a psalm which might evoke the experience of her for us – the unnamed woman who anoints Christ for his burial with passion, love and devotion.

After Blessing has read the psalm to us, you are invited to come forward if you are able into a prayerful walk along this symbolic path to the cross. There is a bowl of scented oil here. You may choose to anoint yourself with the sign of the cross on your forehead or back of hand, a reminder of her love and a recommitment to our journey with Christ this Lent.

As we walk the musicians will lead us in a reflective song.

Blessing reads Nick Cave's Psalm

I come alone, and to you – Nick Cave

Blessing

*I come alone and to you, Lord, in sorrow
Thirsty for your refuge, I cannot breathe
I kneel among your stars and in the morrow
I have nothing more to offer but to leave*

*Deep calls to deep, the silver waters flow
Winding through the gardens damp with dew
Deep calls to deep, I have nowhere left to go
But to you, Lord, breathless, but to you*

Congregation walks the Lenten path, past the anointing oil.

SONG **His life for coin / Christ our Lord** (David Stephens)

*Anointed with oil,
Sign of his end
Anointed with oil,
Christ our Lord.*

*His life for coin
Betrayed by a kiss
His life for coin
Christ our Lord*

*Denied by him
Trusted friend
Denied by him
Christ our Lord*

*Are you the king?
The son of god
Are you the king?
Christ our Lord*

*You carry such weight
On your back
You carry such weight
Christ our Lord*

*He died for us
Broken and pierced
He died for us
Christ our Lord*

*He is our King
Glory to His name
He is our King
Christ our Lord*

Blessing repeats Nick Caves Psalm to conclude?

*I come alone and to you, Lord, in sorrow
Thirsty for your refuge, I cannot breathe
I kneel among your stars and in the morrow
I have nothing more to offer but to leave*

*Deep calls to deep, the silver waters flow
Winding through the gardens damp with dew
Deep calls to deep, I have nowhere left to go
But to you, Lord, breathless, but to you*

Offering

Jenne

Responding to God's love, to Jesus' gift of peace, and to the unnamed woman's gift of love and devotion, we offer our gifts to support the work of the church and to lift up those in need. We do this through the offering of our money, the time we devote to the committees and programs of our congregation and the wider church and all the many ways we seek to follow Jesus in our living and loving. We offer our gifts of money in the bowls which will be passed around or through direct debit (see the details on the screen).

Prayer of Dedication

Jenne

Please join me in the response at the end of this dedication.

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

Clare

We come before you, yearning for wisdom. Anoint us with Your grace.

The school year has well and truly begun. Now Lent arrives, to remind us not to be so swept up in our lives that we forget to pause and reflect on the deeper thoughts in our hearts. Reflect, and then be moved to act. For in Your grace, there is always more that can be done, if we pause long enough to see it.

We pray this week for those in our community starting on new journeys this Lenten season, including our new Children and Youth Minister, Cath James. May their steps be light on the path you anoint for them.

We also pray for those in our community and the world whose paths in life have been sharply diverted from where they thought they would go. In particular, in the global catastrophes that have dominated our news headlines recently – the earthwork in Syria and Turkiye, with over fifty thousand dead, and many other left homeless; the war in Ukraine, with its first anniversary on Friday last; and the ongoing tensions in Iran. May all receive the help and support they need to find their path once more. A path of peace and justice.

Finally, we pray for the natural world. Impacts of our changing climate are all around us both here and overseas, with extreme weather events being more intense and more unpredictable

than before. Grant our leaders the wisdom to make true decision that will help preserve and heal our world so all can enjoy it, not just the few.

We ask these things in the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen

Notices

Jenne

Sending Song

In the shape of a Cross

*O Spirit God to you we pray
For the healing of the nations
Within this space extend your grace
For the healing of our neighbours.*

- 1. Love enter our shattered world of tears
Soothing the pain of all our loss
Breaking the locks on all our fears
Forging the truth inside our years
In the shape of a cross.*
 - 2. Love enter our marvellous refrain
Silently saving what was lost
Lighting the spark of hope and faith
Bring your forgiveness to our day
In the shape of a cross.*
 - 3. Love enter our lives at darkest hour
Be with us as we count the cost
Wanting to follow where you lead
Painting the picture of your power
In the shape of a cross.
In the shape of a cross.
In the shape of a cross.*
-

SONG: [The shape of the Cross](#), © David Brown, 4/2004,
from [Tune In](#), Brunswick Uniting Church Songbook, Used with permission

Blessing

Ian

Each week during Lent this year, being a more contemplative and introspective time, we will conclude our worship with reflective music.

Song: [Breathe](#) (Rosie O'Reilly)

*Breathe into us the spirit of peace;
breathe us into your world.*

SONG: Breathe, words and music © Rosie O'Reilly 2015-2020.
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After a number of times through, Ian speaks this blessing over the top of the music then the singing continues.

Jesus said,
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because God has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Go in the blessed name of the anointed one
to continue his Spirit work.

Go with the blessing of God,
Source, Wisdom and Breath of Love.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Breathe into us the spirit of peace;
breathe us into your world.*

Thank you

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

Liturgist:
Jenne Perlstein

Bible readers:
Christine Hornby

Nick Cave Psalm
Blessing Mokgohloa

Children's time:
Cath James
(CYA Minister)

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Clare Keogh
offered by Jenne Perlstein

Musicians:
Alistair Hunter
(co-ordinator)
Anthony Hinds
Matthew Lees
Nicole Lowe
Clementine Loynd
Rosie O'Reilly
Bronte Potter

Images:
Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Alistair Hunter
Marcelo Mendoza

Postlude Song: Peace, Salaam, Shalom © 2001
Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow. Moving Forward Music BMI
www.pathumphries.com.
Musicians: Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims, Steph Gesling & Josh Whitty, Dave Miller, Maxine, Clementine & Harriet Loynd, Jess and Anya Kvensakul, Kate Scull, Elaine Potter, Glenice Cook, Ian Ferguson

Closing verse:

what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." Matthew 26:13