

Order of Service – 05/03/23 Lent 2

Opening Verse:

Come to the Banquet, there's a place for you

Call to Worship

Kirsty

Please come and find a place.

I'd like to invite you to join me for a meal. Can you come? I do hope so.

It will be fairly informal: you can come as you are.

There is plenty of room, and it is going to be a great time of friendship and faith.

Why don't we make a start?

Let's stand and sing as we prepare to share a meal together.

Song of praise – Invitation

Kirsty

-
- 1. God has laid a feasting table
All her guests are gathered 'round
From the highways and the byways
All the lost have now been found.
When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?
When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?*
 - 2. At this table all are welcome
No-one need be left behind
God is greater than our difference
Christ can see where we are blind.
When we hear the invitation
Will we love all humankind? (repeat)*
 - 3. God is crying out for justice
Christ is weeping in the street
When will be the time for laughter?
When will all have food to eat?
When we hear the invitation
Will we make God's will complete? (repeat)*

SONG: Invitation, by Shawn Whelan, from Tune In, Brunswick Uniting Church Songbook,
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Acknowledgement of Country

This week as we moved from February to March we moved from the dry season of Biderap (when female common brown butterflies are flying and the tussock-grass is long and dry), to the season of the eel, Luk, when eels are fat and ready to harvest and the Manna gum is flowering. As we look forward to this change of season ...

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'll be leading worship with our Ministers Ian and Cath, and ... and the musicians, ... and the AC and live stream team.

Today is the second Sunday in Lent, a time when we reflect and prepare for Jesus' journey to the cross.

We'll be focussing on gathering around *this* table, a table where friends come together, to eat and to chat, to share and to remember, as we reflect on the Last Supper and celebrate Holy Communion.

We will also be celebrating the baptism of Samuel Rodger Whitty, and welcoming him to his place at the table in the family of God.

Prayers of Adoration & Confession

Kirsty

Generous God
You invite us to sit at the table with your Son,
A table of plenty, and a table of justice.
You feed us, and offer us a place with him.

Jesus, guest and host
You ask us to prepare a meal for you,
You sit with us, knowing us for who we truly are.
You offer us bread and wine, and your whole self.

Spirit who moves among us,
You come again and again, as we remember and repeat this meal,
Making the past present,
Connecting us with all those who have gone before us.

We adore you.

Forgive us, when we do not accept your invitation,
When we do not take up the seat at your table.
Forgive us, when we do not make a place for others to join us,
When make them feel on the outer.
Forgive us, when we do not live in your love,
When we do not create tables of justice and plenty.

Amen

Word of Grace

Kirsty

Siblings in Christ.
God invites us to the table, regardless of what we bring.
Jesus welcomes us, and serves us all.
And so we can say with confidence our sin is forgiven
Thanks be to God.

Baptism Bible Readings

Cath, Julie, Peter

Reader 1: God speaks through the prophet Isaiah saying:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
[Isaiah 43:1-2]

Reader 2: And in the letter to the Galatians, Paul writes:

As many of you who were baptised into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
[Galatians 3:27-28]

With the Children

Song – God welcomes all

- 1. God welcomes all,
Strangers and friends;
God's love is strong.
And it never ends.*
 - 2. Amen*
-

Words: John L. Bell. Music: South African traditional, transcribed by John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba.
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Service of Baptism: Samuel Rodger Whitty

Ian: Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs (Matthew 19:14). Truly I tell you ... whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5)

Presentation

Cath: Friends, the church council of this congregation has received a request for baptism from Steph and Matt for their son Samuel. This important decision has been prayerfully and carefully considered. Steph and Matt have met with Ian and myself to reflect and prepare. The council was delighted to approve these requests, and I am glad to welcome them here today and present them to you.

Cath introduces Samuel

It is with great joy that I'd like to say a few words about Samuel. Samuel Rodger Whitty was born on 14 November 2022. He came into the world in an assessment room at the Royal Women's Hospital in Parkville.

Samuel's middle name Rodger comes from his maternal line and was the name of his Great Grandfather and Great Great Grandfather, Rev Rodger Page who was a Methodist minister. Rev Rodger Page worked in Tonga over many years and relationships with Tonga continue in Samuel's family today.

The thing I have most noticed about Samuel is his amazing smile and you cannot help but want to smile back at him.

Introduction

Cath: Steph and Matt what do you ask of God's church for Samuel?

We ask that he be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

Cath: Samuel has been brought for baptism
so that he may be grafted into Christ
as a member of his body the Church,
to grow up into the faith of Jesus Christ
and become his faithful witness and servant.

Cath touches Sam's ears and mouth saying:

Samuel,
may the Lord open your ears to hear his word
and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

Meaning of Baptism

Ian: Baptism is Christ's gift.
It is the sign by which the Spirit of God
joins people to Jesus Christ
and incorporates them into his body, the Church.

In his own baptism in the Jordan by John,
Jesus identified himself with humanity
in its brokenness and sin;
that baptism was completed in his death and resurrection.

By God's grace,
baptism plunges us into the faith of Jesus Christ,
so that whatever is his may be called ours.
By water and the Spirit we are claimed as God's own
and set free from the power of sin and death.

Thus, claimed by God
we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit
that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ,
Share his ministry in the world and grow to maturity,
awaiting with hope the day of our Lord Jesus.

In baptism today, Samuel is assured of the love that God has for him.

Affirmation

Cath: The Uniting Church, in baptising children,
takes responsibility for their instruction
and nourishment in the faith.

Steph and Matt so that we may know
that you hold the Christian faith
and claim your membership
in Christ's Church, we ask you:

Do you turn from darkness to the Light of Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God,
trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour,
and in the Holy Spirit
as God's power and presence along the way?

I do.

Apostles Creed

Cath: (addresses whole congregation) Just as we acknowledged the ancient people of this land earlier, now we acknowledge the ancient people of our faith. The Apostle's Creed contains ancient words said at baptisms for millennia which give expression to some of the symbols of our faith. The Creed doesn't say it all, nor does it say it in words that all of us may be comfortable with. But in expressing ourselves in this way we unite with all Christians who have come before us, as we continue to find new words to say about God.

In unity with the whole Church,
let us affirm the faith
into which we are baptised.

Do you believe in God?

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Blessing the water and oil

Ian explains that the oil was made from the olives on our trees and the water is collected from our rainwater tank.

Joshua (and ?) pours water into the font, Ian hold oil.

Cath: Let us pray:

Dear God, send your Spirit like a dove
upon this water and oil
to bless it for the holy purpose
to which we put it.

May Samuel,
being buried with Christ in baptism,
rise with him to newness of life;
and being born anew of water
and the Holy Spirit
remain forever in the number
of your faithful children.

Through Jesus Christ our source of living water. Amen.

The Baptism

Cath holds Samuel

Samuel
for you Jesus Christ has come,
has lived, has suffered;
for you, he has endured the agony of Gethsemane
and the darkness of Calvary;
for you, he has uttered the cry,
“It is accomplished!”
For you, he has triumphed over death;
for you, he prays at God’s right hand.
All for you, little Child,
even before you were born.
In baptism, the word of the apostle is fulfilled:
“We love, because God first loved us.”

Cath pours water on Samuel’s head 3 times saying:

Samuel
I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Cath marks the sign of the cross on Samuel’s forehead with oil saying:

From his day forward the sign of the cross is upon you.

Samuel you are now received into the faith and family of Jesus Christ – the church in all the world.

Peace be with you Samuel.

Let’s bless him for the journey of life

All sing: ***The Aaronic Blessing – May God bless and keep you***

*May God bless and keep you,
may God’s face shine on you.
May God be kind to you,
and give you peace.*

Promises

Cath: Steph and Matt, Samuel belongs to God in Christ. From today he will have a home in the Christian community and there will always be a place for him here. I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness by making these solemn promises:

Will you encourage Samuel's growth
within the Christian community,
guiding him through participation
in the worship, nurture and fellowship
of the Church to a mature Christian faith?

With God's help I will.

Will you, by word and example,
teach Samuel the way of Christ
until the Spirit draws him
to make his own response in faith and love?

With God's help I will.

Cath addresses the godparents:

Emma and Luke will you support Steph and Matt as they live out these promises, and will you be there for Samuel to nurture and encourage him as he grows in the faith and learns the way of Christ?

With God's help we will.

Cath addresses the congregation:

Friends in Christ,
will you promise to maintain
the life of worship and teaching,
witness and service,
that Samuel, and all the children among you
may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the knowledge and love of God.

***With God's help,
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
and encouraging one another in service
until Christ comes.***

Prayer

Ian: Let us pray:
God of love, we have seen you
at work here today
in this Sacrament,
and have been touched by your renewing Spirit.
We praise you for all you have done for us.

Thank you for declaring your love
for Samuel today.
Guide and guard him all his days.
May your love hold him,

your truth direct him,
your joy delight him.

Bless Steph, Matt and Joshua
that Samuel may grow up
in a secure and happy home.
Give to them wisdom and courage,
laughter and peace, and the love that endures all things.
Amen

Presentation of Baptism Candle and Certificate

Cath: Samuel,
you belong to Christ the light of the world.
May you always walk as children of the light.

Recollection of baptism

Children sprinkle water

Cath: Sisters and brothers:
Always remember you are baptised,
and be thankful.

Song – It's a beautiful day

*Sun is shining on my back
Sun is shining on my back
Sun is shining on my back
It's a beautiful day today*

*Rain is falling softly now
Rain is falling softly now
Rain is falling softly now
It's a beautiful day today*

*I see a rainbow glowing
Glowing in the sky
Reminding me God loves me
God loves me all the time*

*Sun is shining on my back
Sun is shining on my back
Sun is shining on my back
It's a beautiful day today*

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The Gospel: Matthew 26:14-35

Julie, Peter

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus and The Passover with the Disciples

Voice 1: Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Voice 2: On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep

the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Voice 1: When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

Voice 2: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Voice 1: Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Voice 2: Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Voice 1&2: For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:
Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian, Blessing

Including Blessing reading Nick Cave’s Psalm (words not on screen)

Have mercy on me - Nick Cave

Have mercy on me, Lord, I have done wrong
A crystal piano plays dreadful in my spleen
A hatred and a desolater's song
Here and there and each part in between

I have eaten the children and rained fire upon the old
Dashed the newborns dead upon the rocks
Plagued the cities, thrown families into the cold
And turned backwards all the advancing clocks

I am the mist-maker moving through the throng
A cloud of carnage everywhere I roam
Crystal piano plays the desolater's song
Have mercy on me, Lord, and bring me home.

Offering

Ian

Come to the Banquet (Faye White) – verses 1-6

Come to the banquet there's a place for you.

1 *Though you maybe have no money;
Though you maybe feel unworthy;*

*In your strength and in your weakness;
You are welcome, come.*

- 2 *See you are an honoured guest;
From constant serving you may rest;
So sit you down, be fed and blessed,
For you are welcome, come.*
- 3 *Woman, wise one, mother, maiden,
See your plate with food is laden;
And your place is set and waiting;
You are welcome, come.*
- 4 *Worker, father, little boy,
Old man or youth without employ,
Come rest your worry, here is joy,
And you are welcome, come.*
- 5 *Whether you've been lost or faithful;
Whether you've been wise or wasteful;
Here's a place of rest and grace,
And you are welcome, come.*
- 6 *Here is one who runs to meet you;
Loving arms stretched out to greet you;
Do not let your fear defeat you.
You are welcome, come.*

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Prayers of the People

Natalie Sims

Holy Communion

Servers: Semisi, Max, Peter, Kirsty, Cath, Ian

Introduction and Invitation

- Follow path to cross to receive bread and juice, before or after go to table set by children – interact with it how?
- All servers will hand sanitise and keep masks on
- Gluten free bread

Communion Song

Come to the Banquet verses 7-8

-
- 7 *Willing hands have made this bread;
With yeast and salt and labour shared;
Let all the hungry ones be fed;
It's time for feasting, come.*
- 8 *Abundant wine, enough for all;
Our generous loving host has called;
The cup of blessing now is poured;
For sweet communion, come.*
-

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, the Bread of Life,

we thank you

for your Holy Spirit in her grace,

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, after supper,
he took the cup saying:

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

Come now, Holy Spirit of our 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.

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 forever. 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

Follow path to cross

Christ our Lord

*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*

SONG: Christ our Lord, by David Stephens, written for Good Friday 2016 at Brunswick UC
in response to: John 18:1-19:42 (Betrayed, Denied, Tried, Crucified, Pierced, Buried)
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The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Notices

Kirsty

Sending Song – An upper room did our Lord prepare, TiS 526

1 *An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there,
to celebrate their Risen Friend.*

- 2 *A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his Cross shall lift us up.*
- 3 *And after Supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete
sent out to serve, as he was sent.*
- 4 *No end there is! We depart in peace.
He loves beyond our uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
he will be there, as Lord and host.*

SONG: An upper room, by Frederick Pratt Green, Stainer & Bell, London, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious, Reproduced with permission under onelicense # 604502

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Reflective Song – Breathe

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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Thank yous

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

Liturgist:

Kirsty Bennett

Prayers of the People:

Natalie Sims

Postlude Song: Invitation

(Piano only)

Musician: Matthew Lees

Bible readers:

Julie McKinnon,

Peter McKinnon

Musicians:

Elaine Potter

(co-ordinator)

Helen Burnham

Daniel Broadstock

Michael Cameron

Quilan Goff

Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Shawn Whelan

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:

Hugh Brown

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Dave Miller

Lauren Reader

Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

(Minister of the Word)

Closing Verse:

Come to the Banquet, there's a place for you