

Order of Service – 30.04.2023, Easter 4

Opening verse:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Amelia

Good morning

Please stand for the Word and the light as we sing together, attuning our hearts to the voice of God in creation.

Gathering Song

Amelia

BUC For all beings without speech / The Solid Speech of God (Julie Perrin, Shawn Whelan)

*For all beings without speech
For plants that sing their silent song
For wilderness in wordless prayer
The spaciousness for which we long.*

*Who will speak for wild ones now?
And love the more-than-human-world
Earth calls in tumult and in peace
Alive in us like leaves unfurled.*

*Can we hear the voice of God
That solid speech of all that is
In rock and water, flowing air
In warmth of fire, a Spirit Place.*

SONG: The solid speech of God. Words by Julie Perrin, music by Shawn Whelan. © 2013. Used with permission.

Acknowledgement of Country

Amelia

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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

Amelia

Good morning, my name is Amelia and I am the Liturgist for today. Along with Ian, Kirsty, Clare, Matilda, the musicians and everyone leading and supporting worship today, I would like to welcome you all as we worship together in person and online.

Welcoming Ceremony, reflective service

Please stay to say hello after worship, or join us for morning tea in the hall. Our community enjoys the opportunity to share with others and to learn more about those we don't know so well yet and we hope that you will feel welcome.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Amelia

Sing together as a prayer of adoration then I will lead us in confession.

ATW 422 / NCYC'99 And you sun and moon and stars (Canticle of Daniel) (Don Stewart)

1. *And you sun and moon and stars - Oh bless the Lord*
And all you showers of rain - Oh bless the Lord
And all you breezes and winds - Oh bless the Lord
And you fire and rain - Oh bless the Lord

Refrain: *To God be highest glory and praise forever more*

2. *And you dew and frosts and snow - Oh bless the Lord*
And you night time and day - Oh bless the Lord
And you darkness and light - Oh bless the Lord
And you lightning and clouds - Oh bless the Lord **Refrain**
 3. *And you mountains and hills - Oh bless the Lord*
And you all plants of the earth - Oh bless the Lord
And you fountains and springs - Oh bless the Lord
And you rivers and seas - Oh bless the Lord **Refrain**
 4. *Let all the earth bless the Lord (repeat to fade)*
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SONG: [Canticle of Daniel](#), Words and Music: Don Stewart © 1980, from [It all depends](#), NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Prayer of confession

Amen

Word of Grace

Amelia

Believe the Good News that comes from God: In Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 10:1-10

Clare

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

Thanks be to God

With the Children

Ian

Welcoming Ceremony

Ian

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes:

Welcome one another,

just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Let us glorify God now by welcoming those who have come to be part of our community in recent times.

Welcomees come forward

Introductions

Each person being welcomed (very briefly):

1. Introduce yourself by name.
2. Where have you come from?
3. Why have you decided to make BUC your spiritual home at this time?

Questions

To those who are being welcomed:

“Do you name the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation as your community of faith?”

I do.

“Do you commit to actively participating as the Spirit calls you within this community?”

I do.

To the congregation:

“Do you joyfully receive these people as fellow travellers along the way of discipleship?”

We do

“Do you commit to maintaining the life of faith together with them as a community of Jesus Christ?”

We do.

Blessing Song

AoV1-130 They'll know we are Christians/We are one in the Spirit

1. *We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored.*

*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

2. *We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land.*

3. *We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride.*

4. *All praise to the Father,
From who all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit,
Who makes us one.*

SONG: [They'll know we are Christians](#), © 1996 F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission, from [As One Voice vol 1](#), Willow Connection, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Bible Reading – Acts 2:42-47

Gwen

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reflection

Ian

Reflection and Response Time

Kirsty, Ian, Amelia

Congregation is invited to move among 3 stations

Online Resource Psalm 23: You are my shepherd (Bernadette Farrell) – sung with cantor verses as people move – 5-10 minutes.

*You are my shepherd. I shall want nothing.
Green are the pastures where you give me rest.*

Text and music © 2014, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Prayers for the vulnerability in others: people, places. Sharing what you care about - the concerns of your heart

Station 1 Offering bowls and font – offering and commitment to the way of communion with God and all creatures

Acts 2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need

A station where we ask:

'What can we give?'

'What commitment can we make?'

Invite people to make a gift of money (or place the give directly card) in the offering bowl and/or place a leaf in the font to represent the commitment they make

Communion Table – Thanksgiving for the gifts of God in creation

Acts 2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common.

A station where we give thanks for all the environment gives us, and ask ourselves:

'How can we live in harmony with the environment?'

'What commitments do we need to make?'
'How can we make net zero a reality?'

Invite people to write a response

Candles in chapel space – Prayers for the vulnerability in others, people, places, creation itself

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

A station where we pray for vulnerable people and places as we ask:

'Who is in need?'
'Which places are in need?'
'What creatures are in need?'

Invite people to write light a taper

Prayers of the People with Offering Prayer

Kirsty, Ian, Amelia

Ian from Font

Risen Jesus,
You call us to seek justice and well-being for all creation.
We offer these gifts so that they may be shared with anyone who is in need,
As we strive to live out your vision of community.

Kirsty from Lectern

Creating God,
You call us to live in harmony with our natural environment.
We offer these commitments in thanksgiving for all the environment gives us:
the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land to grow the food we eat.

Amelia from Chapel Space

Spirit of life,
You call us to live in harmony with our natural environment, and to seek justice and well-being for all creation.
We hold these vulnerable people and the planet before you.
Knowing that when someone or somewhere suffers, we all do.

Kirsty from Lectern

Let us join together in communion praying the prayer Jesus taught his people to say.

***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.***

Sending Song

Tune In Community (Dave Brown)

1. *Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
Care for the earth and sea, we need to keep them free,
So we care for the earth and sea
Care for the ones we meet, love is the face we see,
When we care for the ones we meet*
 2. *Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity
Sharing our joy and pain, praying and keeping faith
By sharing our joy and pain
Singing a song of rights, imaging God in life,
By singing a song of rights.*
 3. *Part of a family, interconnected, this is community
Welcoming strangers, visiting neighbours, this gives us dignity*
- CODA**
*Talk to the lonely, bind up the broken, this makes community
A glass of water shared with the thirsty, this makes for dignity
This makes for dignity, this is community*
-

SONG: [Community](#), by David Brown, © 2004, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC,
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Blessing and Sending

Ian

This Aboriginal blessing can be used as a prayer, blessing or benediction.

If you are using please acknowledge Brooke Prentis as the author/writer.

This prayer was used as a Benediction at the 2020 #ChangeTheHeart Prayer Services.

May the God of all wonder
who set the stars in the sky,
bless you with relentless unsettledness –
that drives you to seek truth.

May the God of all justice
who gave motion to the rivers,
bless you with righteous anger –
that drives you to seek freedom for all.

May the God of all love
who placed laughter in the kookaburra,
bless you with the friendship –
that looks like the love where
one lays down their life for another.

May the God of all comfort
who determined the height of the mountains,
bless you with tears from
shared pain and mourning –
that shows you hope.

Go in truth, justice, love, and hope –
in the name of the Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,
the unity which calls us into community.
Amen

Thank you's

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

Liturgist:
Amelia Ware

Bible readers:
Gwen Arnold
Clare Keogh

Children's time:
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Kirsty Bennett

Musicians:
Alistair Hunter
(co-ordinator)
Daniel Broadstock
Helen Burnham
Colin Hunter
Clementine Loynd
Elaine Potter
Bronte Potter

Flowers:
Helen Burnham

Postlude Song: Where were
you?, Shawn Whelan, Used
with permission

Musicians: Shawn Whelan,
Natalie Sims

Images: unsplash

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Alistair Hunter
Jamie Thom

Closing verse:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." *Acts 2:42*