

Opening verse:

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

Matthew 9:13

Gathering, Greeting

Good morning and welcome to worship. Let's settle into worship singing 'Lord Jesus Christ' as we welcome the Word and the Light.

SONG: Lover of all, TiS 737

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment.
Bring healing, bring peace.*

SONG: Lover of all, by John L. Bell, from *Together in Song*, Harper Collins *Religious*
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Call to Worship

Let's breathe together. Can you feel the call?
Can you feel the tugging on your heart?
Can you feel the sensation of whispering in your ears?
Can you hear Jesus calling you to follow?
Come let us worship God and be open to her surprising call.

Song of praise – O Sing to the Lord, ATE 216, vs 1,3,4

Let's sing together ...

1. *O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song (3 times)
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.*
3. *So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets...*
4. *O shout to our God who gives us the Spirit....*

SONG: O Sing to the Lord, Trad: Brazil, from *All Together Everybody*, Openbook Publishers
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Acknowledgement of Country

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

Welcome to worship this morning. Welcome to this space and to those of you joining on livestream now or later. I'm Saide leading worship with Ian, Kenna, Meg, Helen and the musicians led by Kate. Thank you to Sharmila, playing the piano with us for the first time. Today we will listen to and reflect on two surprising and unlikely calls – God's call to Abram and Jesus' call to Matthew.

Please stay on after worship for morning team, through this door and into the hall. It's always a lovely time of community.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Let us pray

The psalmist sings 'Praise the Lord with the lyre, sing to him a new song'

Creator God, today we too, offer our prayers of adoration
For the wonder of all that you have created in steadfast love
for the joy and challenge of following your call into the unknown
for your faithfulness, for your love of righteousness and justice
for all this, for the gift of life, we adore you.

In the gospel we read that Jesus says to Matthew 'Follow me'

Risen Christ, as your followers, we pray in adoration and amazement
You seek out the unloved, the outcast and lonely ones
You question the authority of those who speak without love
You remind us to be merciful, to offer healing and welcome
for all this, for your journey to the cross, we adore you.

On the great day of Pentecost, the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, as we reflect on Christ's call, we pray with open hearts
Fill us with a burning passion for justice and let our words be prophetic
Help us to worship with wide open doors and minds unclouded by despair
Guide us on the path set by Jesus and lead us to unexpected places.
For you are God's breath of love and the fire in our hearts, we adore you.

Creator God, Risen Christ, Holy Spirit, we confess the times
when we feel that we are not enough, not capable of following you,
when the darkness of the world is overwhelming and we stumble,
when people are not noticed, left behind, forgotten, discarded,
when we are unable to hold on to your loving and compassionate vision.
Forgive us and grant us life and heart and joy for the journey.
Amen

Word of Grace

Jesus invites us to learn what this means 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'.

As we learn this again and again and again

we can be confident that in his holy name our sin is forgiven.

Thanks to be God. Amen

Hebrew Scriptures – Genesis 12:1-9

Kenna

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot,

and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

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

With the Children

Ian

Two stories about being called.

With an invitation to place a pair of shoes alongside the Creation installation from last week.

Song – One more step, CS 144

1. *One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.

And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*
2. *Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.*
3. *As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way I know.*
4. *Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough.
I leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.*
5. *You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.*

SONG: [One more step](#), by Sydney Carter, © Stainer and Bell Ltd., from [Covenant Song Book](#),
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Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

Meg

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who

are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Offering with Song

Let’s offer the work of our hands and hearts, the money that we share for the work of God’s mission in the world. Please remain seated as we sing ... I will invite you to stand as the offering is brought forward.

TiS.477 Jesus calls us here to meet him, vs1-3

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1. *Jesus calls us here to meet him
As through word and song and prayer
We affirm God’s promised presence
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
Praise the Son who calls us friends;
Praise the Spirit whom among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.*

 2. *Jesus call us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness
Saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
Tell his tales that all may hear;
Tell the world that Christ in glory
Came to earth to meet us here.*

 3. *Jesus calls us to each other:
Found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language -
Such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
Join the hands of age and youth;
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth.*
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Offering Prayer

Jesus you call us to meet you, to care for each other, for all people.

Bless the gifts that we bring today, our money and our time,

our passion for justice and our commitment to wholeness and truth

that they may be used to reshape the world with your compassionate love. Amen

Prayers of the People

Helen

Good morning everyone.

I am Helen, and Linda and I are offering our prayers of the people today.

Linda *After the prayers I will take the Christ Candle to the chapel, and you are welcome to light a taper for your private prayers at the conclusion of the service.*

Helen *During the prayer we will join together, singing Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.*

Linda Let us pray

Surprising God, you have called us throughout history.

We pray that we in our turn, hear and answer that call.

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.

Trail wide the hem of your garment,

bring healing, bring peace.

Helen We pray for the world, for a our earth groaning with pain and suffering.

For those grieving the losses caused by war, in so many countries.

Loss of husbands, wives, children, family, homes, livestock.

For the devastation of floods in Ukraine,

the destruction of crops that feed hungry mouths around the world.

We pray for all, who hear your call to work for peace.

Linda We pray for the healing of our earth. That in the tumult of conflicting voices, governments and people work together to save the earth that sustains us.

We pray for all who hear your call to work for the healing of our earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.

Trail wide the hem of your garment,

bring healing, bring peace.

Helen We pray for all those who suffer from discrimination, of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age, colour, and poverty. Lover of all, you came to call the unloved and the outcast.

We pray for all who hear your call to work for a society, where everyone is valued.

Linda We pray for for your church and people throughout the world.

We pray for unity amongst all people of faith, that we work together

to bring your healing and peace in a world faced with so much conflict.

Helen We pray for our community here at BUC. For all who come here to work, worship or search for you. For those we love, and for those we find difficult.

Linda We pray for Ian as he follows your call to a new congregation, and for us, as we search for someone you are calling to us.

We pray for all who hear your call to come together in worship.

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.

Trail wide the hem of your garment,

bring healing, bring peace.

Helen Surprising God, help us to recognise when you call us. Recognise your surprising people, and the different things that you call us to. Recognise and value each others talents and tasks, whether large or small. For we all hold a place in your heart and a place in your plan. Your kingdom come.

*Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.
Trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.*

Helen and Linda Amen

Notices

It's time to share the news of our community. We always have a lot going on and we're getting better at offering shorter notices so let's keep up the good work today. Please check out details in the Olive Press online or by email and by checking in our Facebook page.

Sending Song – Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, TiS 569

We conclude our worship this morning singing 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer ...

- 1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
feed me now and evermore.*

- 2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
be thou still my strength and shield.*

- 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.*

SONG: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, by William Williams,
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, Collins PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all, send us out today to love the world into a shape where all people are welcomed and loved and free. Help us to bring peace, an end to division and healing for all harms.

And as we respond to God's call, following Jesus
May you always know the steadfast love of God enfolding you
the compassionate, life-changing love of Jesus inspiring you
and the sustaining breath of the Holy Spirit upholding you. Amen

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:

Saide Cameron

Bible readers:

Kenna Morrison

Meg Orton

Children's time

& Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:

Helen Burnham

Linda Fisher

Musicians:

Kate Scull

(co-ordinator)

Sharmila Blair

Michael Cameron

Andrew Dickinson

Quilan Goff

Colin Hunter

Melvin Tan

Postlude Song: Lover of

all, by John L. Bell, from

Together in Song, Harper

Collins *Religious*

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Musicians: Natalie Sims,

Daniel Whelan, Shawn

Whelan

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:

Hugh Brown

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Ian Ferguson

Marcelo Mendoz

Closing verse:

... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:3b