

# Order of Service – 20/8/2023, Pentecost 12

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## GATHERING

*Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time 'set apart' for the purpose of communal prayer.*

*During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.*

*A quiet retreat room is available for those who need it.*

*The worship area is wheelchair accessible.*

*There is a hearing aid loop.*

*There is a children's corner with books and activities.*

## Opening verse:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

## Greeting and Call to Worship

*The leader greets the people in God's name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.*

Please stand to sing as we welcome the word and the light.

**AoV2-085 / Iona (T1AU) / MV115 Behold behold I Make All Things New** (John Bell) as the candle is lit.

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*Behold, behold I make all things new,  
beginning with you  
and starting from today.  
Behold, behold I make all things new,  
my promise is true,  
for I am Christ the way.*

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SONG: [Behold, I make all things new](#), from [Come all you people](#), © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland.  
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## Gathering Song

**Natalie**

Come, let us worship God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
The Maker of all, who brought order out of chaos,  
Christ Jesus, who is our light even in the darkness,  
And the Holy Spirit who walks with us always.

Please remain standing as we sing a song of our call to be a place of welcome, where we can dream, and speak and work together for a better world. Let us sing together.

*We usually stand during the songs.*

**MV001 Let Us Build a House / All are welcome** (Marty Haugen) verses 1, 2 and 5

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*1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;  
All are welcome, all are welcome.  
All are welcome in this place.*

*2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and  
a symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome.  
All are welcome in this place.*

*5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome.  
All are welcome in this place.*

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

**Natalie**

*We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship*

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**

**Natalie**

*People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.*

Good morning, my name is Natalie, and I extend the welcome of our whole community here at Brunswick Uniting Church to you who are here in this space, and to those who are watching online. We're glad that you're with us and that we can worship together. Today we'll be hearing a story about Jesus being challenged by a woman outside of his community to change his mind about who was welcome, and in this time of seasonal change, and a change in our church community, we will read from Ecclesiastes about how there is a season for everything. After worship, please join us for morning tea in the hall so that we can get to know you better and provide a welcome to you.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Natalie

*We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.*

Let us pray together.

Creator God, as the seasons change

And the wattle and magnolia flowers bloom

We are reminded of the beauty of creation through all the changing seasons,  
the darkness of winter is always followed by the warmth and light of spring and summer,  
And that you bring joy even after the deepest of sorrows.

Christ Jesus, as we hear the story of the Canaanite woman,

And learn about your humanity and your humility,

We are reminded that even you needed to be challenged in your thinking,

That your mission became larger than you first imagined it,

And that you bring welcome and healing especially to those on the margins.

Holy Spirit, as we know your presence with us whenever we gather,

And see the changes you bring about in our world,

We are reminded that you are always beside us and among us,

That you work through others to challenge us too,

And that you strengthen us to do what is needed to build God's world of justice for all.

Creator, Christ and Spirit,

We come to you in humility, knowing that you love us.

We try to be your faithful disciples, but know we sometimes miss the mark.

We confess that we can be so focussed on our own idea of what is right and what needs to be done, that we fail to see your vision.

We have been stubborn and single-minded.

We have limited ourselves to what is easy and comfortable.

We have failed to extend your welcome to those who most need it.

In your mercy, forgive us. Forgive us and restore us. Help us to hear the voices that challenge us. Help us to respond and to serve you with a renewed sense of purpose. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, there is a time for everything. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance. God does not hold a grudge, but loves us with compassion, leaving the past behind, and bringing new life.

Hear the good news of grace through Christ, our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**AoV2-085 / Iona (T1AU) / MV115 Behold behold I Make All Things New** (John Bell)

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*Behold, behold I make all things new,  
beginning with you*

*and starting from today.*

*Behold, behold I make all things new,  
my promise is true,*

*for I am Christ the way.*

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## HEARING AND RESPONDING

*We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.*

*Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).*

### **Bible Reading 1: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11a, 14**

**Ray**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything to suit its time.

I know that whatever God does lasts for ever;

there is no adding to it, no taking away.

And God has done it all in such a way that everyone must feel awe at God's presence.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

### **With the Children**

**Cath, Natalie**

We are entering into a time in our church of endings. Ian's last service will be in two weeks. Many of us have already begun the process of marking that time. But it is also a time of new beginnings. Ian will begin again in another placement. We will begin again with another ministry team. It is the cycle of things, there has to be endings in order for new life to take place. But that doesn't mean that transition is easy, in fact change is often hard.

From the time we are born, we experience change, in fact massive change in our early years. We learn to sit, crawl, walk, talk, move objects, go to school. As parents we delight in each stage but there is also some grief as each stage passes.

I wonder in your life what might have been some significant beginnings and endings. Talk to the person next to you.

As a congregation how might we navigate this time of change – invitation to do a soundscape singing experiment ...

## Song:

**To everything (Turn! Turn! Turn!) (Pete Seeger) (see DropBox for sheet music)**

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*To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

*A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep  
To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

*A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together  
To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

*A time of love, a time of hate  
A time of war, a time of peace  
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing  
To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven*

*A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time for love, a time for hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late*

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SONG: [Turn! Turn! Turn!](#) Songwriters: Peter Seeger, lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

**Peter**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

**Ian**

## Offering with Song

Ian

*We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward.*

### **BUC Song Project When the carpenter's on / Drive us out of our safe little spaces**

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*When the carpenter's son  
Went to the Jordan, was baptised by John  
You came down  
In the form of a dove  
"This is my son" said a voice from above  
After you blessed him, you drove him and tested him  
Forty days wandering far from the town  
Would he seek power and fame? Would he just play the game?  
Trusting in your word he stared temptation down...*

*So drive us out of our safe little spaces  
Lead us to wisdom in wilderness places  
Burn like a flame in our stony cold hearts  
Blow through the walls of our fear that keep us apart  
Oh-oh, oh-oh*

*Then he spread the good news:  
God's reign approaching, for Gentiles and Jews:  
"Follow me"  
Both women and men;  
Children and sinners and outcasts his friends  
Your love flowed out from him, healing, forgiving sin  
Challenging rules that kept people apart  
Your holy fire drove him, clearing the Temple den  
Making a house for true prayer would need a new start*

*When Jesus had gone  
Died and then risen, then lifted beyond  
You came down  
Like a great rushing wind  
Set them afire, your church to begin  
Give us the words to say here in our world today  
Just like the twelve in Jerusalem then  
Advocate for us now, guide us and show us how  
Help us witness to Love, again and again*

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### **Offering Prayer**

Living God, receive and bless the gifts that we bring and our lives offered in your service  
Bless us to live into the transitions towards your eternal love  
the love that has begun in Jesus and is coming into being through our living  
Bless us and give us the faith and the strength to use the gifts that we have  
for the work of your reign in the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Geoff Thompson

*We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.*

God of every season, **be present in this season.**

God of love, we pray for the world you love so much more than we ever will; we pray for the communities and contexts devoid of love and broken by hate. We especially pray for the people of Ukraine, Niger, and all places hidden from us where war and strife reign, where people long for fear to change to hope.

For them, God of every season.... **be present in this season.**

God of truth, we pray for this nation with the open wound of its origins visible to all but still denied by many. We pray for truth telling and truth-tellers as we move to the referendum. May lies be exposed and honesty uplifted.

For First and Second Peoples at this this crucial time,

God of every season.... **be present in this season.**

God who builds community, we pray for the church throughout the world.

Keep us mindful of our common inheritance in the constant newness of the gospel.

We especially pray for Christians in Pakistan whose churches have been attacked this week.

We pray for the Uniting Church and all who lead it. As we explore new national and regional structures, leads us to more equitable distribution of our resources across the church, and to hearing voices in the church we find easy to ignore.

For all who follow Christ, God of every season, ... **be present in this season.**

God who is faithful, we pray for this community in our time of change.

Let us lay hold of your love anew; refresh us through the unsettling and restoring gospel of Jesus; help us to learn from him how to learn when we confront the unexpected.

We pray for those amongst us and others in our wider circles who face changes in their physical or mental health, for those who confront changes brought by the death of loved ones, changes as friends are made or lost, changes that come from unexpected challenges in study, employment or family life.

For all who face the challenge of newness or strangeness in their lives,

God of every season, **be present in this season.**

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## BEING SENT

*Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.*

## Notices

Natalie

*We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.*

## Sending Song

**TiS 728 Jesuchristo Reina reina ya!**

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*(Jesus Christ reigns!)*

*1. Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

*Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!*

*Jesucristo reina, reina, ya!  
Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen! Aleluya, amen!*

*(Jesus Christ heals)*

2. *Jesucristo sana, sana, ya!*

*(Jesus Christ loves.)*

3. *Jesucristo ama, ama, ya!*

*(Jesus Christ lives.)*

4. *Jesucristo vive, vive, ya!*

*(Jesus Christ saves.)*

5. *Jesucristo salva, salva, ya!*

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SONG: Jesucristo Reina Ya, Anon. (from Argentina),  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Blessing and Sending

*The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.*

Go to live in the time of transition, from the cross through the tomb to the garden.

Go in peace, to follow where Christ leads.

Go to love God and your neighbour as yourself.

And go with the blessing of God,  
the Source of all life,  
the Wisdom of all living,  
the Breath of all loving.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

## Thank yous

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

Liturgist:  
Natalie Sims

Prayers of the People:  
Geoff Thompson

from Together in Song,  
Harper Collins Religious,  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Bible readers:  
Ray Cameron  
Peter Williams

Musicians:  
Matthew Lees  
(co-ordinator)  
Daniel Broadstock

Musicians: Natalie Sims,  
Daniel Whelan,  
Shawn Whelan

Children's time:  
Cath James  
(Minister of the Word  
– CYYA)  
Natalie Sims

Michael Cameron  
Brad Coath  
Hudson Coath  
Quilan Goff  
Debra Langford  
Catherine Leslie

Images:  
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:  
Ian Ferguson  
(Minister of the Word)

Postlude Song: Jesucristo  
Reina Ya, Anon. (from  
Argentina),

Editing / Production:  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
James Clough  
Ian Ferguson  
Ian Mack  
Shawn Whelan

## Closing verse:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1