

Order of Service – 03/09/2023, Pentecost 14

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:

God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. Exodus 3:14a

Greeting

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.

Good morning and welcome to worship. Please find a space in the worship space. Let's stand to sing in Swahili and English Mungu ni Mwema – Know that God is good as we welcome the word and the light.

Song – Mungu ni Mwema, Iona

*Mungu ni Mwema
Mungu ni Mwema
Mungu ni Mwema
ni Mwema
ni Mwema*

*Know that God is good
Know that God is good
Know that God is good
God is good
God is good*

SONG: [Mungu ni Mwema](#), from [One is the body](#), © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland.
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Call to Worship

Saide

Know that God is good.

God calls to Moses from the burning bush
proclaiming deliverance from suffering.

Jesus speaks to his disciples of the suffering to come
of saving, losing and finding.

Come then let us worship the God who is good

The God who call us and saves us.

Song of Praise – Canticle of Daniel, NCYC 99.7

We usually stand during the songs.

Let's continue standing to sing out our praise ...

*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)

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Saide

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

Saide

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

Welcome to worship today, a very significant day for our congregation as we celebrate Ian's ten years and seven months of ministry with us. Today we will hear God's call to Moses in his encounter with the burning bush and through Jesus' words to his disciples. We will celebrate the good news of God's presence with us and all that this means to us personally and communally as we prepare to move into a time of transition.

I'm Saide and I am leading worship today with Ian, Cath, Hugh, Lyn, Clare and the musicians coordinated by Natalie and wonderfully supported by the AV team. Welcome to Narelle and Linley from Presbytery who will help us farewell Ian at the end of the service.

So welcome to worship, here in this space and to all who are joining us online now or later. We will sing, pray, lament, rejoice and celebrate Holy Communion.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Saide

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.

For now let's move into a time of prayer.

Like Moses before the burning bush, we are on sacred ground. Breathe deep, loosen your shoulders, feel your feet on the ground and connect with the earth beneath the floor, close your eyes if that is comfortable for you, open your hands and breathe again through your chest and into your belly. Let us pray to the God who calls us.

Living God we encounter you in unexpected ways.
We hear you calling to us from the burning bush.
We feel you in the gentle breeze and the raging winds.
We see you in the sun bright sky and rain laden clouds.
You are the source of all life and love and joy.

Jesus, Son of God, you call us to follow you, to take our cross.
We hear your words about suffering and know them to be true.
We feel your love pouring out to heal the whole world.
We see you risen from the tomb, saying our names.
You walk before us, showing the way of love and compassion.

Holy Spirit, breath of life, you sustain us in our living.
We hear you whispering in our hearts, setting them ablaze.
We feel you urging us on, out into the world to love and be loved.
We see you in the faces of family, friends and strangers.
You groan deep within us in prayer for the whole world.
Amen

And now as we offer our confessions notice your bodies again, what feels different? Take a breath now and resettle in your seats, feel your feet again, fold your hands or place them on your hearts. Let us pray to the God who listens.

Living God our hearts are heavy today for we must say goodbye.
Hold us in our grieving as we celebrate all that we have shared.
Jesus, Son of God our hearts are full today as we remember.
Hold us in our joy in the journey that we have travelled.
Holy Spirit, breath of life, our hearts are overwhelmed today.
Hold us in the wonder of everything that we have done and learnt.
Amen

Word of Grace

Speaking to his disciples Jesus said '*For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.* Matthew 16:25

Let's open our hearts to the wonder and joy of God's abundant grace renewed and ready to follow Jesus, confident that in his Holy Name our sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God**

Let's stand now and sing again to the God who is good. Jacky will assist us with the correct pronunciation.

*Mungu ni Mwema
Mungu ni Mwema*

*Mungu ni Mwema
ni Mwema
ni Mwema*

*Know that God is good
Know that God is good
Know that God is good
God is good
God is good*

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).

Hebrew Scriptures – Exodus 3:1-15

Hugh

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:21-28

Lyn

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Cath

As part of our worship today, we gather to honour the particular ministry that Ian has offered to this congregation.

But one person can't do ministry on their own, it's always in the context of another person or a community. In baptism we are all called into ministry. So today we also want to honour the ministry of this congregation, those called into various types of leadership, those who minister through care, through food, through listening, through music. Children also minister to us in bringing their ways of seeing, their learning, their playfulness.

So I invite you into this time of reaffirming your baptism.

Today we remember that, from the time of our baptism, the sign of the cross has been upon us.

I invite you now to join me
in tracing the sign of the cross upon your forehead,
saying: I belong to Christ. Amen.

I belong to Christ. Amen.

As is our tradition, we will invite the kids to sprinkle you with the water from the font.

Come, Lord Jesus, refresh the lives of all your faithful people.

Always remember you are baptised, and be thankful.

Children sprinkle water on congregation

Song – God's Mercy, Tune In

*Like the sun upon my skin
I can smile and soak it in
And my wounds begin to heal
That's God's mercy*

*Like a fragrance in the air
Scent to lighten my despair
Loving kindness always there
That's God's mercy.*

*When I'm feeling lost from all that's good
When I'm failing all the good I would
When I fear that all I ever could become lies wasted
When I can't reach out, accept, forgive
When it's hard to change the way I live
When my need for care, for love, to give, are all frustrated*

*Like a flower opening wide
Glow of love that spreads inside
Humble gift to breach my pride
That's God's mercy*

*Loving gaze upon my soul
Seeing all complete and whole
Healing vision to console
That's God's mercy*

When I'm feeling . . .

*Gentle breath upon my heart
Warm embrace that takes my part
Place of strength from where I start
That's God's mercy
For me,
For me,
For me.*

SONG: God's mercy, by Sheree Anderson, from Tune In, Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song – Where were you?

Ian

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

*“Where were you when the universe sprang to life?
Where were you when I made the day and the night?
Where were you when the morning stars sang, to all the heavens' delight?”*

*“Have you walked into the springs of the sea?
Have you dwelled where the gates of death are revealed?
Have your minds yet comprehended the breadth of all that I see?”*

***O God, you breathe through all time and space.
O God, we know you here in this place.
Help us learn to sit in silence, to open up to your grace.
Oohh...***

*“Do you know the mountain goat in the wild?
Do you know the way she nurtures her child?
Do you know the way I treasure the earth that you have defiled?”*

*“O behold the birds of air that I feed.
O behold the deadly toll of your greed.
O behold the sparrow falling, and all that you never heed.”*

*O God, your beauty all round us shines.
O God, we’re breaking your good design.
Help us learn a humble spirit, before we run out of time.*

*O God, we pray you make us anew
O God, our damage help us undo
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you
Help us hear your call to change as we tend creation with you*

Where were you, © Shawn Whelan 2021. Written on the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River), Wurundjeri country, August 2021, watching Salvatore the seal at play – after studying Job 38-39 with theologians Graeme Garrett, Jan Morgan and the Brunswick Uniting Church Eco-theology group. Contact me for permission to use this song (readily given for non-commercial purposes, but the song itself is still evolving).

Offering Prayer

Saide

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 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.

My name is Clare, and I will be reading the Prayers of the People this morning. After the prayers, I will take the candle to the chapel space, where you may offer your own prayers during the last song or after the service.

God of the in-between spaces. Today, we pray as a community, on the cusp of a big change. We celebrate Ian’s ministry with us, and know that while he takes a well-deserved rest for a few months, we will enter into a time of discernment and transition, awaiting our next minister. Transition processes can be difficult, and sometimes bring up thoughts and emotions we did not expect. Be with us in this time of change.

We call to mind the great changes happening across the world. Extreme weather events are now a feature of the news; the herald and consequence of our rapidly changing climate. The news also tells us of the many ongoing societal upheavals in parts of the world. We pray for the people whose lives have been and will be changed by the struggles for climate justice and democratic freedom.

Closer to home, we reflect on the time of transition and discernment Australia as a whole is currently in. The Voice to Parliament referendum date has been set. In the coming six weeks, there will be a lot of noise to sort through. Many of it will be bitter and divisive, with some using the disguise of debate to further their own agendas, attempting to push us apart at a time when we should be united. As we discern the call of our hearts, give us the grace to speak our truth with courage and kindness.

Finally, we pray for our church community, Brunswick Uniting Church. Help us to look out for and support one another in this time. We pray especially for Cath and Peter, and Jan and Annie, in ministry; the Pastoral Care teams; and the many other groups that contribute to BUC. We also pray for the Joint Nominating Committee, as we continue the discernment process for finding a new minister.

God, you see all that we are. In this time of transition, be with us and all of our messy human emotions as we let go of the old and make space for the new. Help us to cherish the memories and sit in the uncertainty of change, both individually and as a community. Be with us in this time of change.

BEING FED

We are invited to Christ's table to reunite ourselves with him and one another in the sharing of bread and wine. We honour God for all that God is, and give thanks for all that God has done in the work of creation and salvation. We serve gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Holy Communion

Ian

Servers: Ian, Cath, Saide, Dan, Rosie (and Clare?)

Communion Song

God bless to us our bread, MV 193

*God bless to us our bread,
and give bread to all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed;
God bless to us our bread.*

SONG: [God bless to us our bread](#), from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Invitation

This is an open table to which all are welcome.

We will gather in a circle around the church and the servers will come to you. If you do not wish to take communion for any reason this morning, please do still join the circle and simply place your hands on your chest to receive a blessing.

The bread is gluten free and the wine non-alcoholic.

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 Christ, the bread of life
we thank you

for your Holy Spirit who joins us in our struggles,
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

Receive this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,
with thanksgiving.

Music: *musicians' choice*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Exchange a sign of peace

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

Saide

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

We have many opportunities to meet, gather and share time together. If you have news to share please come out the front, say your name and offer your news as briefly as you can pointing us to where we can find more details – our website, newsletters and Facebook group.

Sending Song – O For A Thousand Tongues, TiS210

- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise, (x 2)
the glories of our God and King,
the triumphs of his grace! (x 3)*
- 2. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
such music in the sinner's ears
is life, and health, and peace.*

- 4. He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.*

- 6. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.*

SONG: *O for a thousand a tongues*, by Charles Wesley,
from *Together in Song*, Harper Collins *Religious*; PUBLIC DOMAIN

Conclusion of Placement

Narelle/Linley

Introduction

Presbytery Minister:

Since the church lives by the power of the Word,
it is assured that God has never failed to provide a witness to that Word.
On 10th February 2013, the Presbytery of Port Philip West
inducted Ian Ferguson as a minister of the Word among you.
We witnessed your promises to take part in the public worship of God,
to contribute to the work of God,
and to make a Christian witness in the community by word and action.

The Presbytery believes that Ian's ministry now lies in another place,
and has confirmed his call to the Glen Waverly congregation.
The time has come to mark the end of Ian's particular responsibilities in this congregation,
and to send him with God's blessing to this new ministry.

Mutual Confession

Minister:

God of grace,
if I have ever betrayed my calling
and left the people without the Word,
forgive me.
If I have failed to offer in faith the gifts of ministry
which you have given me to share with others,
forgive me.
If I have not recognised and affirmed
the gifts of ministry in others,
forgive me.
If there are other things
which stand between me and this congregation
which would prevent us
from truly offering to each other your peace,
forgive me and reconcile me to yourself
and to the people of God in this place,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The members of the congregation:

**Gracious God,
if we have refused to receive the word
and the gifts of ministry
which you have offered to us in Ian,
forgive us.
If we have asked of our minister
more than our due
and have failed to take our place alongside this ministry
as the Body of Christ in all its fullness,
forgive us.
If there are things which still stand between us and Ian
which prevent us passing the peace in spirit and in truth,
forgive us and reconcile us in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Word Of Grace

Presbytery minister:

All that is past is now gathered into the grace of God.
We are never other than frail human beings.
We all fall short of the glory of God.
The miracle is that we are forgiven
and that in some special moments,
God is indeed seen in us.

Thanks be to God!

Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon from her book [In This Hour - Liturgies For Pausing](#) (Desbooks 2001)

Release of Pastoral Ties

The minister says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you called me to minister with you,
and charged me to preach the Word, preside at the sacraments
and to oversee the pastoral life of the congregation.
You will call another minister in my place and I must lay down the tasks you committed to me.
I, therefore, hand this pastoral list to you with the names of the people for whom I have cared,
and ask you to continue to care for these people, and in due time, to share it with my successor.

The secretary of the church council receives the list.

Ministry Team members stand with Ian

The presbytery representative says:

Ian, you have worked closely with Cath and Peter as a team in your respective ministries, supporting one another in love so inspiring God's people in their common ministry for Christ. We now formally dissolve this ministry team and commend you all to God as you form new ministry relationships. I invite you to exchange a sign of peace with one another to mark this change.

Cath, Peter, and Ian exchange a sign of peace.

And now, on behalf of the Presbytery of Port Philip West, we thank you for your ministry of God's grace in this congregation.

We release you from this ministry, and commend you to the pastoral care of the Presbytery of Port Philip East
As you take up a new placement at Glen Waverley
we will pray for God's blessing on your continuing ministry.

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The Uniting Church in Australia. 1999

Blessing and Sending

Cath

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

And now,
may the blessing of the Holy Trinity of love
be upon you:
the fire of the Spirit to ignite you,
the love of God to encircle you,
and the wisdom of Christ to enliven you,
this day and evermore.

Amen.

For you deep stillness, NCYC 99.22

*For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.*

*From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.*

*In the name of Christ. (repeat)
(Last time, last line 3 times)*

SONG: [For you, deep stillness](#), by Julie Perrin, from [It all depends](#), NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Thank yous

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

Liturgist:

Saide Cameron

Bible readers:

Lyn Anderson

Hugh Brown

Reaffirmation of Baptism:

Cath James

(Minister of the Word –
CYA)

Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:

Clare Keogh

Musicians:

Natalie Sims

(co-ordinator)

Helen Burnham

Michael Cameron

Quilan Goff

Catherine Leslie

Maggie Somerville

Melvin Tan

Shawn Whelan

Postlude Song: O for a

thousand a tongues, by

Charles Wesley, from

Together in Song, Harper

Collins Religious; PUBLIC

DOMAIN

Musicians: Saide

Cameron, Ian Ferguson,

Jessica Kvensakul, Elaine

Potter, Natalie Sims,

Shawn Whelan

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

James Clough

Ian Ferguson

Lauren Reader

Jamie Thom

Closing verse:

For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:25