

Order of Service – 14/02/2024, Epiphany 2

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.

Prelude Slides

Opening verse: The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10

Greeting and Call to Worship

Helen

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.

God calls us from busy lives, to set apart this time to be together,
to make a space for God to speak to us.

So quiet your mind and breathe with me.

Breathe through your mouth, and expand your lungs as you move your hands.

Breathe in the peace, and love of the God who calls us, searches us,
knows everything we try to hide and still loves us.

Now let us stand as we welcome the Word and the Light, and sing

Song

Helen

We usually stand during the songs.

AOV2 139 Gather us oh God

*Gather us, O God.
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God.
One in union now with you.
Send us out, O God.
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God.
One in union now with you.*

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Acknowledgement of Country

Helen

We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship

First Nations People have always felt that they are walking on Holy ground. So let us all send our own roots down into this sacred soil, God’s creation. And acknowledge the first 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.**

Song of Praise

Helen

TIS 477 Jesus Calls us Here to Meet Him

*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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Welcome and Introduction

Helen

People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.
Good morning everyone, I am Helen, your Liturgist for today and I welcome you, whether you are with us here at BUC, or watching online, on behalf of Peter Blair, our Preacher, and Olive Way Chaplain, and the 21 people on the roster who make the service and the Livestream possible. Today we are exploring the many ways God calls us. In 1 Samuel we hear how God

calls the boy Samuel, who knows nothing of God, calls him to the difficult life of a Prophet. And in the Gospel reading from John, we hear Jesus as he calls the Disciples to follow him. So how do we hear or recognize when God is calling us?

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Helen

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.

You are the God of amazing red sunrises, crashing blue waves
and olive green and purple mountains, multi coloured birds and amazing animals,
all the miracles of your creation, and yet we try to put you into the "Sunday Box."

Holy one, you are the Mother, Father, Jesus and Spirit,
who breaks the boundaries we try to set around you.

You are here in every moment of our past, present and future,
so we can't hide, and through our fear, we can say, as Samuel said,
"Speak Lord for your servants are listening."

Amen

Loving, listening God, we don't know where to start when we ask for forgiveness.

Our world is overwhelmed by war, disasters, and global warming.

We feel helpless in the face of the horrors inflicted
by Governments on their neighbors and their own people.

We feel powerless looking at the destruction of our natural world, your creation.

We ask for forgiveness Lord when we try to run away,

when we close our ears, eyes and mouths,

when we should be shouting, and fighting,

to right the wrongs we witness even in our own country.

Forgive us for our weakness, our brokenness,

our indifference to the suffering around us,

and inspire us with the fire of your imagination,

to do what we can, small or large.

"Speak Lord, for your servants are listening."

Amen

Word of Grace

Helen

"Speak Lord, for your servants are listening."

We surrender our brokenness to you and open our hearts
to the miracle of your healing grace, in the knowledge that,

In Christ, through Christ, and because of Christ,

Our sin is forgiven,

Thanks be to God

Amen

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 – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Joanne

During the reading please join in singing with the musicians when indicated.

Hush

*Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' my name;
Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' my name;
Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' my name;
O my Lord, o my Lord
What shall I do,
What shall I do.*

Ultimate Gospel Choir Book

1. The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli.
In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.
 2. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak
that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.
 3. The lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the Ark of God was.
 4. Then the Lord called Samuel.
-

Hush! Hush? ...

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

5. And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."
But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.
 6. Again the Lord called, "Samuel,"
-

7. Hush! Hush? ...

And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

8. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord:
The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.
 9. A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!"
-

10. Hush! Hush? ...

And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy.

11. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say,
"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
 12. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times,
"Samuel! Samuel!"
-

Hush! Hush? ...

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Early Word

Helen

This is one of my favourite Bible stories. Samuel is still a boy, and doesn't know God, but Eli does, and God can work wonders, in unexpected places and with people you don't expect to be doing God's work. God has chosen Samuel, has work for him. The Bible is full of the stories of people trying to hide from God. Noah, who ends up in the belly of the whale, when he tries to run away from God, even Jesus himself, in the Garden of Gethsemane. There is no place to hide from God, so perhaps we need to say, with Samuel, "Speak Lord, for your servants are listening."

Gospel Reading – John 1:43-51

Claire

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Peter

Offering with Song

Peter

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

Search me O God

*Search me O God
And know my anxious heart.
Behind me and before me,
You lay your hand upon me.*

*Where might I hide
To flee your tender touch?
No darkness or the ocean
Hides me from your devotion.*

Chorus

*You know my every need,
You know my thoughts, my joy, my crying,
God your wisdom ways
Surround me at my birth, my dying.*

*Woven by you
Deep in my mother's womb.
That moment of conception
You knew my life's direction.*

Chorus, then repeat verse 1.

Words: Leigh Newton based on Psalm 139; Music: Leigh Newton
based on Ludwig von Beethoven (La Pathetique) 31 Soreset Rd, Aldgate SA 5154 Aus.

Offering Prayer

Peter

Prayers of the People

Lyn

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.

I'm Lyn and sharing the prayers of the people with you today. After the prayers I will take the Christ candle to the chapel space. You are invited to light a taper for your own prayer after the service.

Loving God we come to you this morning with hearts and minds open to your presence. It is hard to comprehend that you are with us all the time and know what we are thinking and what we are going to say. Lord this is a very scary thought particularly when we know we can be wrong and say, think and do things which are definitely not what you would expect from us. Please forgive us for our mistakes.

Lord the world is so troubled now with wars and conflicts raging and more countries, including Australia, becoming involved all the time. Innocent civilians are dying and being persecuted simply because of living where they do. Politicians and people in power are simply using these people to try and achieve their own goals. Dear God we ask that you make the aggressors aware of their inhumanity and stop. We pray to for all who are suffering hunger due to drought, wars and civil unrest. Show us how we may be able to help.

Dear Lord please help us to keep our eyes and ears open to your calling. It is easy to simply ignore others around us when we could be actually listening and understanding what they may need. Maybe it is a listening ear, a smile of encouragement or some other simple gesture that could make their lives much better.

As it is almost time for Olive Way start up again we ask you to guide all who work with the Olive Way, particularly Peter and Ruth as they coordinate the best way possible to help those in our community who come as our guests. Be with the volunteers who give of their time and talents to make this activity of your church so important.

We continue to pray for our Joint Nominating Committee as they continue to work with Presbytery to find a new minister. Be with us as we care for each other in this time of waiting. We know Lord that you holding us in your arms and caring for us.

We pray for the victims of violence in our communities and ask that you will guide those who support them to provide the best care possible. We also pray for the perpetrators that they may get the help they need to see the error of their actions and become better people.

We also pray for all emergency services first responders. Give them the strength they need to provide the support and help needed for victims of incidents they attend.

We pray too for all the families affected by the severe weather events of recent weeks. Give them hope the courage to do their best in very difficult circumstances.

We bring these prayers before you dear God and ask you to go with us and guide us in the week to come.

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

Helen

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

The year is just starting and we are just beginning to get into the business of our busy Church. If you have any notices please form a line to my right, tell us your name and your information. You can of course access all the information on our Facebook page and on the Website.

Sending Song

Helen

Here I am Lord, TIS 658

*1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, If You lead me,
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

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Blessing and Sending

Helen

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

God gathers us together, to open our hearts, and listen for her voice.

Sends us out in Jesus name, embracing all we have received.

To walk with the Spirit, and help create a world of peace.

Amen

Blessing Song

Send us out O God, AoV 2.139

*Send us out, O God.
Body, spirit, soul and mind.
Gather us, O God.
One in union now with you.*

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Thank yous

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

Liturgist & Early Word:
Helen Burnham

Bible readers:
Claire Foley
Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Reflection:
Peter Blair
(Olive Way Pastor)

Prayers of the People:
Lyn Anderson

Musicians:
Courtney Rohde
(co-ordinator)
James Balsillie
Glenice Cook
Andrew Dickinson
Alistair Hunter
Nicole Lowe

Editing / Production:
Jane Allardice
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Christine Hornby
Alistair Hunter

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Musicians: Daniel Broadstock, Natalie Sims, Shawn Whelan

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Helen Burnham
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Closing verse:

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me.
John 1:43