

Order of Service – 21.01.24, Epiphany 3

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:

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." *Mark 1:17a*

Greeting and Call to Worship

Amelia

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, as we gather together to worship God, resting on seats that have supported and shaped communities before ours, let us remember the communities that may have gathered here before this circle of pews was imagined.

Perhaps Myrnong yams were grown here, or grass was slowly burnt and nurtured as food for grazing, feet and arms might have lifted in games or dancing, and those who came before were present in the Dreaming and are still present today.

Take some deep breaths and sense how your body feels to be resting on this ground, part of this community as we prepare to worship together.

Please stand for the Word and the light as we sing together.

Song of Praise – Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult, TIS 589

We usually stand during the songs.

*1 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying "Christian, follow me!"*

*2 As the first disciples heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.*

*3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying "Christian, love me more."*

*4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call;
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.*

SONG: [Jesus calls us](#), by Cecil Frances Alexander (1852)
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious; Public Domain.

Acknowledgement of Country

Amelia

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

Amelia

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

Good morning, my name is Amelia and I am the Liturgist leading worship today with our minister Cath and lay preacher Dan. Along with everyone leading and supporting worship today, I would like to welcome you all as we worship together in person and online.

This week we will explore Jesus' call to follow him and share the good news, and what that might mean for our community.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Amelia

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.

As part of the prayers this morning the musicians will sing a Taize chant, please join them if you would like to.

SONG: [Let all who are thirsty come](#) TIS 589 - *repeat x 3*

*Let all who are thirsty come.
Let all who wish receive
the water of life freely.
Amen, come Lord Jesus.
Amen, come Lord Jesus*

SONG: [Let all who are thirsty come](#), © Ateliers et Presses do Taize, WORD OF LIFE

Let us pray

Loving God, who offers us freedom,
In our actions you connect us to the living waters of creation
Forgive us for the ways we are not moving with that connection
and encourage us to listen for the ways that your living world needs our love.

Jesus, who calls us to follow,
Through our hands we can feel the spirit of our shared humanity
Forgive us for neglecting to acknowledge the dignity of each person.
Lead us to support justice and understanding for all people.

Holy Spirit, who calls us to love,
As we share with others you show us knowledge that is beyond our own experience.
Forgive us for closing our minds to new ways of being.
Remind us to turn towards others with interest and kindness.

Amen

Word of Grace

Believe the good news that comes from God: in Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

SONG: Let all who are thirsty come TIS 589 - *repeat x 3-4*

*Let all who are thirsty come.
Let all who wish receive
the water of life freely.
Amen, come Lord Jesus.
Amen, come Lord Jesus*

SONG: Let all who are thirsty come, © Ateliers et Presses do Taize, WORD OF LIFE

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).

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Matilda

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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

Early Word

Cath

In today's story we hear that Jesus proclaims the 'good news of God'. And it's so amazing that the disciples just up and leave what they are doing and follow Jesus. I can't help but wonder what good news could we hear that would make us change our life direction?

As we continue to make our way through Mark's gospel this year, we will gradually get a picture of what this good news is. And one of the key images is freedom from the things that bind us.

So imagine this net is a collection of things that constrain us like fear, pain, worry, insecurity - others?

We have lots of fish that have been caught, but today we are going to set them free, because the good news that Jesus offers us we do not have to be constrained by, his way of love will set us free.

On each of these fish I have written some words of good news, which we are going to be decorating up the back. During the offering we will be setting them free by handing them back out to you to take home and reflect on during the week.

Let's sing

Song – Lord, you have come to the seashore NCH173

*1. You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.*

*O Jesus you have looked into my eyes,
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat,
Now with you I will seek other seas*

*2. You know full well my possessions,
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working.*

*3. You need my hands, my exhaustion
Working love for the rest of the weary
A love that's willing to go on loving*

*4. You who have fished other waters
You, the longing of souls that are thirsting
As loving Friend you have come to call me*

SONG: [You have come down to the lakeshore](#), © 1979 Cesareo Gabarain, OCP Publications, from [New Century Hymnal](#), Pilgrim Press (June 1996), USA Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502.

Hebrew Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Meg

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days

more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Dan

Offering with Song

Amelia

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

It is now time for the offering, please remain seated during the start of the song while the offering bowls are being passed around. You are welcome to make an offering of money into the bowl or online using the link on the screen, or to make an offering in your heart of the gifts or commitments you have made to supporting the work of God.

SONG: Beauty for Brokenness TIS 690

*1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.*

*2. Shelter for fragile lives, cure for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.*

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

*3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.*

*4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.
God of the poor . . .*

*5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.
God of the poor . . .*

SONG: Beauty for brokenness, by Graham Kendrick, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious,
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Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer our gifts to you,
trusting that you will use them to make your presence known in the lives
of those who long for freedom; bringing hope, healing and the promise of new life.

Amen

Prayers of the People

Jenne

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 am Jenne with POP. We will have spoken prayer then time of silence for your own reflection. At the end of the prayer I will take the candle to the back Chapel so you may light a taper for your prayers at the end of the service. Let us pray.

We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom IncarnateThe time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.....

O God of many names..... In this life of complexity with the push and pull of many voices, desires, pressures, roles, responsibilities, grinding repetition, society's false images, wanting to belong, to be likedwhen it is 'too much, too much'.....help us to hear the call from you Jesus ,to be as 'fisher folk' called to the path of good news. Give us clear minds to re-pent, to re-turn, to rearrange our thinking, feelings and be transformed* and return to the real life of God through simple wisdom and compassion. In the quiet of Christ / Spirit /True Wisdom within, help us to move beyond ourselves, to hear the call to love, to return to the simplicity you offer and be human just human. This is good news.

Listen to that call in silence for a moment .

As we move out into community and as part of the church and other communities of spiritual light, prompt us to your call Jesus to 'drop it all', to pull out, pull away from our grind, roles and false selves. So that God you can guide us to be the fisherfolk, in covenant to be beside the bloodied, the wounded, the grief stricken just as we are all bloodied and wounded ourselves. In fishing for people, we heal ourselves, we find ourselves. Call us loudly and as we call others to be fully present in love and compassion especially those with mental health, aging, loneliness wounds. May we offer presence and model the good news.

Be in silence as we call God to heal and open hearts to the good news of re -turn and turn around.

The world we look at with despair. Yet God you call us to 'fish' as we are, all fisher folk together, called by the wise Christ, to serve and enable the turn around so war will cease. Please God please turn around Israel and Gaza's, Yemen's, Ukraine's powerful players. May all those who kill for land, for ideology having lost the core of simple faith, who act from fear yet manifest terror, control, greed, having to be right, having power over, hear the call and re-pent, re-turn. Help us to be the fishers of folk, calling & acting for a better way, embrace togetherness, letting go of the fear and control. We pray for those fishers of folk who serve in the floods and feel the impacts of climate change. May they know your love & see a re-turn in us as humans so that the Earth becomes Eden again.

Be in silence as we feel the good news penetrating hearts & minds of the powerful and see the re-turn.

In Jesus name we pray. 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

Amelia

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

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.

Sending Song

SONG: All will finish well TUNE IN

*1. You in all our worries you offer peace
You of the ages in this world where injustice reigns
You are in the midst of pain, you are the life
We long for your justice wait for the day
All will be mended in this world you're the cry of rage
(the) silence of the unmarked grave, you are the right*

*You're the start the voice inside the heart
Calling us to take the risk of life
You've been there from lonely to despair
In our tears for loss and love all will finish well*

*2. You break into history blessing the poor
You of the powerless in this world where the leaders lie
You're the truth that will surprise, you are the love
We downcast and dubious throw out our nets
Already doubting in this world we are lost alone
You're the word that brings us home, you are the north*

*You're the start the voice inside the heart
Calling us to take the risk of life
You've been there from lonely to despair
In our tears for loss and love all will finish well*

*You're the start the voice inside the heart
Calling us to take the risk of life
You're the name that sets us free from shame
In our tears for loss and love all will finish well one day.*

SONG: All will finish well, by David Brown, from Tune In, Brunswick UC, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE # 604502

Blessing and Sending

Cath

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

Go now into this coming week

Confident that the God who is love will surround you

Jesus whose way of truth will surprise you

And the Holy Spirit who is life will set you free

Amen

Thank yous

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

Liturgists:

Amelia Ware

Bible readers:

Matilda McClintock

Meg Orton

Early Word:

Cath James

(Minister of the Word –
CYAA)

Reflection:

Daniel Broadstock
(Lay Preacher)

Prayers of the People:

Jenne Perlstein

Musicians:

Matthew Lees

(co-ordinator)

Helen Burnham

Mikul Denison

Colin Hunter

Bronte Potter

Debra Langford

Images:

Lyn Anderson

Sebastian Pen Lambarri

(unsplash)

Postlude Song: All will

finish well, by David Brown,
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Musicians: Dave Brown,

Chris Lees

Editing / Production:

Jane Allardice

Michael Cameron

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

James Clough

Dave Miller

Closing verse:

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." *Mark 1:17a*