

# Order of Service – 18th February, Lent 1B

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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 children's corner with books and activities.*

## Opening verse:

Mark 1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

## Greeting and Call to Worship

**Natalie**

*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.*

Come, under the rainbow, to be reminded of God's love,

Come, as the sun shines through the clouds, to learn from Christ Jesus,

Come, open your hearts to the Spirit, living and working among us.

Let us worship together, beginning by singing Siyahamba,  
as a reminder that we are always in the light of God.

## Song

*We usually stand during the songs.*

**TiS 666 We are marching in the light of God / Siyahamba**

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*We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God*

*We are marching, marching, marching, Ooo,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching, marching, marching, Ooo,  
we are marching in the light of God.*

*Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.  
Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.  
Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.  
Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.*

*Siya hamb'e hamb'e Siya hamb'e, Ooo  
Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.  
Siya hamb'e hamb'e Siya hamb'e, Ooo  
Siya hamb'e ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos.*

*We are living in the love of God ....*

*We are moving in the power of God ...*

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SONG: [We are marching in the light of God](#), South African, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*,  
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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.*

Welcome to Brunswick Uniting church, both online and here in our worship space on Sydney Road. My name is Natalie, and with a team of many others, I will be helping lead worship today. We welcome today Reverend Judy Rigby, who will share a reflection with us. Thank you for joining us Judy. Today is the first Sunday of Lent, a time of reflection and prayer, when we open ourselves to God's presence. We will hear the story of God's covenant to Noah after the flood, and witness Jesus' call, like ours, into the wilderness. After the service, please join us for morning tea in the hall. We'd love to get to know you better.

## **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.*

Our prayers today are from Psalm 25. Let us pray together

To you, O God, I lift up my soul, trusting in you and in your protection.  
When I feel vulnerable,  
    When I feel alone,  
I know that you hold me, and will keep me from harm.

Christ in the wilderness,  
Make me know your ways; teach me your paths  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Spirit who drives us to follow,  
You are full of goodness, and teach us the way,  
When we are humble, you lead us towards what is right,  
Along paths of faithfulness.

Protecting God, Christ in the wilderness, Driving Spirit,  
We hear your call to speak up,  
to try new approaches,  
to walk with those who need us,  
to spend time in silence and prayer,  
But we stray from the path that you call us to walk.

Remember your mercy to all people,  
Remember your steadfast love, from the beginning of time.

## **Worldmaking.net O Tender God, Have Mercy**

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*O tender God, have mercy,  
for you are for us.  
O living Christ, have mercy,  
for you will heal us.  
O tender God, have mercy,  
for you are for us,  
for you are for us.*

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SONG: [O Tender God](#), ©2004 This Here Music (ASCAP) [www.thisheremusic.com](http://www.thisheremusic.com) [www.worldmaking.net](http://www.worldmaking.net)  
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## **Word of Grace**

**Natalie**

Sisters and brothers,  
God does not hold on to our past, and neither should we.  
Since the beginning of time, God has been full of mercy,  
Stepping forward with a rainbow of promise to Noah,  
Sending Christ into the world,  
Sending the Spirit in creation and at Pentecost, to renew us and strengthen us for the journey.  
Through Christ, in Christ, and because of Christ, our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

## **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 1:9-15**

**Mal**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

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."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## Early Word

Cath

Tearing and turning

## Song

**Online Resource Open my heart** (Ana Hernández):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlN5GMkSsA>

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*Open my heart, open my heart.  
Open my heart, open my heart.*

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SONG: [Open my heart](#), by Ana Hernández

## Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 9:8-17

Meg

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

Judy

## Offering with Song

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

**Online Resource I Lay Open (Psalm 25)** (Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan)

[https://www.musicthatmakescommunity.org/richardbrux/i\\_lay\\_open\\_psalms\\_25](https://www.musicthatmakescommunity.org/richardbrux/i_lay_open_psalms_25)

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*I lay open my whole life to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
I lay open my whole life to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
Oh-oh, Oh-oh-oh  
I lay open my whole life to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
I lay open my whole life to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
Oh-oh, Oh-oh-oh*

*We lay open our lives to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
We lay open our lives to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
Oh-oh, Oh-oh-oh  
We lay open our lives to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
We lay open our lives to you, trusting you, O Holy One  
Oh-oh, Oh-oh-oh*

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SONG: [I lay open](#), Richard Bruxvoort Colligan ©2015 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP) All rights reserved.  
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and Worldmaking.net. Contact: Richard@worldmaking.net

## Offering Prayer

Judy

Generous, compassionate God, freely we have received;  
freely we give.

Along with the psalmist, we give our lives to you  
And offer you these, our tithes and offerings.

As we begin the Lenten journey,  
bless and transform all that we offer:  
our faltering steps,  
our brokenness,  
our hope, our risking, our hearts,  
that your covenant may be written on our hearts  
and we may be a blessed and transformed covenant people.  
In the name of Christ,

## Prayers of the People

Joanne

*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.*

We'll be entering now into a time of communal prayer. Afterwards, the Christ Candle will be moved to the Chapel space at the back of the church, and as is our custom here, you're welcome to light a taper for your own prayers at the end of the service.

Let's begin by taking a moment to quieten our minds, and as we listen to the music, allow ourselves to become more aware of God's presence.

*{Instrumental " O LORD HEAR MY PRAYER"}*.

Eternal God,

Sometimes we can get so caught up in our heads and our busy schedules that we take for granted your gifts and the many blessings in our lives

And in our rush to get to the next moment,

we often miss seeing the beauty of our world

and we fail to see or respond to the needs of those around us

Give us your grace to slow down

to be more attentive to beauty of your creation

And help us to be more present with the people who come into our lives

Dear God, thank you for all your blessings in our life

Lord, hear us.

*{Come and listen to me}*

Loving God, we lift up to You all those who are unwell.

We pray for those with a terminal illness

For those who struggle with chronic fatigue or pain.

For those weighed down by anxiety, depression or grief.  
For those who find losing their independence and growing old to be hard and lonely.  
For those feeling overwhelmed in situations or relationships that drain their energy  
Bless all who're struggling, and bless their loved ones and their helpers.  
And dear God, we're prone to forgetting, so remind us often to lean on your strength and grace  
Lord hear us.

*{Come and listen to me}*

Lord, we lift up to you the issues that persist to this day for our First Peoples  
The vast inequality in health, education and job opportunities  
The pain still felt by the stolen generations and their families  
The hurt of last year's referendum.  
We lift up to you the leaders, community workers, and policy makers who work for healing and representation.

Give us all the courage to be transformed by your unconditional love  
So we can *become* the change we want to see,  
In a country where our First Peoples are honoured, reconciled and represented.  
Lord hear us.

*{Come and listen to me}*

Loving God, we pray for our Government and the leaders around the world  
May they be guided by love and be courageous in making policies and decisions  
We pray for the vulnerable and needy,  
For those experiencing war and persecution  
We pray that asylum seekers around the world will find safe haven  
We lift up to you courageous dissidents opposing repressive regimes, particularly Dr Yang in China

May he return safely to Australia.

And we feel for Alexei Navalny's family – may his courageous life and death inspire and bring about change in Russia

Lord hear us.

*{Come and listen to me}*

Lord, we're quick to feel the sting of discrimination when we suffer it  
But slower to see when we discriminate against others  
We don't always notice that we can be at different times both disadvantaged and privileged,  
That we can be the liberal in one area of our life and the raging fundamentalist in another,  
That we can be the victim and the perpetrator.  
Give us the grace to recognize facets of all of these roles in ourselves.  
And help us to love ourselves and others as you so unconditionally love and forgive us.  
Thank you that your grace and love are given to us so freely, abundantly and beautifully as the rainbow that follows a storm

Remind us to see beyond our immediate needs to those of our world.

We offer to you all our prayers spoken and whispered in our hearts,

In the name of Jesus, Lord hear our prayers. Amen.

*{Instrumental " O LORD HEAR MY PRAYER "}*.

## 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.*

*We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.  
Invitation to a quiet end of the service and to leave space for prayer*

**Sending Song****When the Carpenter's Son / Drive us out BUC Song Project**

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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*

*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*

*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*

*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  
(Repeat)*

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SONG: [Drive us out](#), © Shawn Whelan 2015, used with permission

## Blessing and Sending

**Judy**

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

## Thank yous

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

Liturgist:  
Natalie Sims

Prayers of the People:  
Joanne van Ravenswaaij

Postlude Song: Kyrie  
Eleison (Guarini), from  
More Voices, United  
Church of Canada,  
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LICENCE # 604502  
Musicians: Natalie Sims,  
Daniel Whelan, Shawn  
Whelan

Bible readers:  
Mal Rowe

Musicians:  
Helen Burnham  
(co-ordinator)  
Joel Hallinan  
Anthony Hinds  
Alistair Hunter  
Colin Hunter  
Leigh Johnston  
Bronte Potter

Early Word:  
Cath James  
(Minister of the Word –  
CYA)

Reflection:  
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(Minister of the Word)

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Dave Miller

## Closing verse:

Genesis 9:16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."