

# Order of Service – 3 March 2024, Lent 3B

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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

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,  
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Cor 1:25)

## 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.*

*We gather together to gain strength for the journey of life. Friends, family can think we are foolish, but how lucky are we that something within us searches and yearns for what other people see as foolishness. So let's close our eyes, and turn off the outside world. Breathe in the peace of God, breathe in God's love, and as Peter said last Sunday, make space for the Spirit to move in our lives, and make space for the wonder of worship. Our faith may be like the proverbial mustard seed, but the foolishness of God can work tiny miracles or magnificent wonders. Now let's sing of the wonders of God's creation as we bring in the Word and the Light. Let's stand and sing*

## Song All You Works of God, V1,4,6,7, AOV 1-019

*We usually stand during the songs.*

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Refrain

All you works of God,  
Every mountain, star and tree,  
Bless the One who shapes your beauty,  
Who has caused you all to be  
One great song of love and grace,  
Ever ancient, ever new.  
Raise your voices, all you works of God.

1. Sun and moon: Bless your Maker!  
Stars of heaven: Chant your praise!  
Showers and dew: Raise up your joyful song!

4. All the earth: Bless your Maker!  
Hills and mountains: Chant your praise!  
Green things that grow: Raise up your joyful song!

6. Flying birds: Bless your Maker!  
Beasts and cattle: Chant your praise!  
Children at play: Raise up your joyful song!

7. All who live: Bless your Maker!  
Raise your voices: Chant your praise!  
Servants of God: Raise up your joyful song!  
Refrain

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SONG: [All you works of God](#), by Marty Haugen, from [As One Voice](#), volume 1, Willow Connections,  
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## Acknowledgement of Country

Helen

*We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship  
Now let's acknowledged the first people of this 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

Helen

*People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.*  
Good morning everyone, my name is Helen and I am your Liturgist for today's service. So with Cath, who will bring us the Reflection, and with all the people on the roster for today's service, we welcome you to Brunswick Uniting. You may be regular friends, or just trying us out, but please join us in the hall, for morning tea, and let's get to know each other. And if you are joining us online, take the time to reflect with a cuppa at home. Our first reading today is John 2:13–22, exploring the difficult story of Jesus' anger when God's house is used as a marketplace. The second reading is 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Here Paul speaks of God's foolishness being wiser than our wisdom. So, what is our Wisdom and what is God's foolishness?

## 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.*

*Now let's remind ourselves who it is we worship as we join together in our prayers of Adoration and Confession. Let us pray*

Father we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you  
How we love you.  
Let us sing to the Father a new song,  
for the world is full of the wonder and whimsy of God's design.  
For our God is doing marvelous things.

Mother we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you.  
How we love you.

Let us sing to our mother a new song,  
for God offers peace and comfort,  
and God's mercy and faithfulness is everlasting.

Jesus we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you.  
How we love you.  
Let us sing to Jesus a new song,  
with thanks for the foolishness of God  
in sending us Jesus to live and die, a life with us.

Spirit we adore you,  
Lay our lives before you.  
How we love you.  
Let us sing a new song to the Spirit who walks with us.  
Who leads us when we go astray, picks us up when we stumble,  
and brings us back to God.

Father, Mother, Jesus Spirit,  
We adore you.  
Lay our lives before you.  
How we love you.

Here we confess our wisdom, pride, and our vanity,  
We can send people into space to live,  
We can create artificial intelligence,  
We can transplant human organs to save lives,  
We use in vitro fertilization to create babies,  
And we confess our arrogance, foolishness.  
We invented the atomic bomb.  
We wage war in aggression or retaliation,  
We exploit and discriminate out of fear and greed  
We continue to plunder the earth,  
For our pride, our boastfulness and our inflated ego at our cleverness.  
For our failure to see and feel you at work in the world.  
For all these things both great and small, we cry  
Forgive us, Mother, Father, Jesus, Spirit.  
Amen

## Word of Grace

Helen

So here is God's foolishness, but it is far greater than our wisdom.  
God sent us his only Son, Jesus, who weeps and laughs with us on life's journey,  
And through the Risen Christ, we are confident to say,  
In Christ, through 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 – John 2:13-22**

**Kirsty**

*With dramatization*

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

*pause*

Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

*pause*

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## **Early Word**

**Cath**

**The Lenten Cloth:** Move from the baptism bowl to collection of 'marketplace things' from the reading.

Last week we remembered our baptism and this week we see worldly values clash with Christian values. We are in the messy middle of life and faith. And this is where parents often are in the task of bringing up children in the faith and where kids are in navigating school – in the messy middle of competing values. So today we are going to honour the parents who turn to God by choosing to bring their children up in the way of Christ as well as blessing our children as they navigate kinder, school and study.

In an ecosystem all parts are reliant on one another to function effectively and the same can be said of a congregation. When parents and children and older people in a congregation can work together, but also find their particular place in the eco-system we are more resilient and healthy.

## **Blessing of parents and children**

*Invite the parents and children out to talk about what the stages of their schooling they are at.*

### ***To the parents:***

**Leader:** Recognising the partnership between this congregation and you in the Christian education of your children, will you undertake to teach your

children by example, ensure they have opportunity to participate in Christian community and grow into disciples of Jesus Christ?

**Parents Respond: With God's help, we will**

**To the congregation:**

**Leader:** Will you listen to, respect and be open to learning from the children in our congregation, will you be diligent in prayer, and model by example the way of Jesus?

**Congregation respond: With God's help, we will**

**To the children and young people**

**Leader:** Will you listen to, respect and be open to learning from people in this congregation about God and Jesus' way of life?

**Young people respond: With God's help, we will**

**Prayer of blessing**

God of joy and hope.

We pray for our congregation, for the wisdom of the old and the young. May we open our eyes to see and our ears to hear to support one another to grow up in love and faith.

Bless these parents and sustain them as they raise their children to live in your ways.

And bless these children as they continue to grow, nurture them in life and faith.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing Song: May the Feet of God Go with You, TiS 779**

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*May the feet of God walk with you,  
and her hand hold you tight.*

*May the eye of God rest on you,  
and his ear hear your cry.*

*May the smile of God be for you,  
and her breath give you life.*

*May the Child of God grow in you,  
and his love bring you home.*

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SONG: [May the feet of God](#), by Aubrey Podlich, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

## **Epistle – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

**Christine H**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

Cath

God's Wisdom and Anger

### Offering with Song: I am a child of God, MV 157

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

*Let's remain seated as we take up the offering and stand as it is brought forward. There are many ways we can contribute to God's work here at Brunswick. You can join the weekly roster, be part of the Olive Way, Olive Arts, food co-op, and of course you can use our online account or direct debit to help support the work we do. The information is on the screen.*

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*I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.  
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.*

*I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.*

*I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,  
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.*

*I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.*

*I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.*

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SONG: I Am a Child of God words and music by Cheryl and Bruce Harding, ©2002 Cheryl and Bruce Harding

### Offering Prayer

Helen

Lord we offer our money to do your will,  
We offer our eyes to see the need,  
our hands to do your work,  
our mouths to speak your word.  
Till your kingdom come, Amen

### Prayers of the People

Ray

*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 offer our prayers for the world, the church and the community secure in the knowledge that God's foolishness is greater than our wisdom. Let us pray

God our maker we pray for the world, for your creation, for all living things.

Where violence and evil destroys the lives of innocent people  
may your foolishness break through, setting people free.

Where rampant destruction seeks to overcome all that is good

may your foolishness prevail and love guide the actions of leaders.

We give thanks for the many who work for justice and peace.

Jesus, over-turner of tables we pray for the church, your body in the world.  
Where the needs of the vulnerable go unmet and their voices unheard  
may your anger wake up the church and help us to see, listen and act.  
Where the church becomes lost under the weight of uncertainty and despair  
may your passion burn in our hearts and send us out to follow you into world.  
We give thanks for church leaders speaking of your love in the market place.

Holy Spirit, in your life-sustaining breath we pray for our community.  
Where people are sad, lonely, hungry, unwell in body and soul  
may we offer a place of welcome, where love and friendship can be found.  
Where there is silence, fear, uncertainty and doubt  
may we work with you to give birth again and again to love and joy.  
We give thanks for the many communities in this place sharing the Good News.

Amen

## 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

### Song –In the Singing in the Silence, ELW466

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*In the singing, in the silence,  
in the hands, expectant, open,  
In the blessing, in the breaking,  
in the Presence at this table,*

*Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace,  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.*

*In the question, in the answer,  
in the moment of acceptance,  
In the heart's cry, in the healing,  
in the circle of Your people,*

*Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace,  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.*

*Repeat first verse and chorus*

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SONG: [In the singing](#), by Shirley Murray, from [Faith forever singing](#),  
New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE # 604502

Servers: Cath, Helen B, Helen R, Amelia, Kenna, Saide

#### Invitation

This is an open table to which all are invited.  
Bread is gluten free, non alcoholic



Please join the circle even if you don't wish to receive communion and receive a blessing instead

### 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.***

Holy and life-giving God,  
you are Creator of all things,  
and Lover of each one.

In Christ you share with us  
the joy and pain of our humanity.  
We give thanks that through him,  
life rises from despair  
and all things are made new.

Therefore,  
with the whole creation  
we sing in thanks and praise:

*Holy, holy, holy* (TIS764)

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*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.)*

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As we gather at this table,  
we remember that on the night before Jesus died  
he had supper with his friends.  
He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks as we are doing now  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying:

***Take, eat***

***This is my body given for you.***

***Whenever you eat it, remember me.***



Then he took a cup and after giving thanks,  
passed it to his friends saying:

***Drink. This cup is the promise of God  
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,

***Enliven this bread***

Awaken this body

***Pour us out for each other***

Transfigure our minds,

***Ignite your church***

Nourish the life of the earth

***Make us while many, united***

Make us though broken, whole

***Make us, despite death, alive.***

Let us now pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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

The body of Christ

***Thanks be to God for the bread of life.***

The blood of Christ

***Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing***

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, come for all is prepared.

Distribution-

Music: *musicians' choice* – possibly 'In the Silence' instrumental

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

***And also with you.***

*Exchange a sign of peace as you return to your seats*

## 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.*

### **Sending Song: Take this Space, Dave Brown**

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*Gracious God forgiving love, great redeemer of all time  
With the gift of trusting faith, you have called us to create  
So we celebrate this life, we rejoice in being here  
In the company of saints and the beauty that is near*

*Take these hands and take this space  
Fill it up and press it down  
With your overflowing grace*

*Let the light dance all around, sound the trumpet, beat the drum  
In this place of song and art, help us welcome all who come  
May this living circle be your compassion and your care  
In the good news of your church and the journey that we share*

*Take this space and take these hands  
Bless them as we go to serve  
The people of this land*

*When you whisper help us hear, in this world stretched taut and thin  
Midst this heritage of hope grant us room to let you in  
Be the comfort in our grief, be the voice of love anew.  
Be the path that leads us on, healing Spirit strong and true.*

*Take these hands and take this space  
Fill it up and press it down  
With your overflowing grace  
Take this space and take these hands  
Bless them as we go to serve  
The people of this land*

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SONG: Take this Space, Words: D Brown, J McKinnon, M Lees, Nov 2010 (slightly modified 3/3/24).  
Used with permission. Written for the reopening of the Brunswick Uniting Church

### **Blessing and Sending**

**Cath**

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

Go forth into the foolish ways of God,  
May you walk in the path of wisdom  
with the light of Christ before you  
and the Spirit as a guiding light on your path  
Amen

## Thank yous

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

### Liturgist:

Helen Burnham

### Bible readers:

Kirsty Brown

Christine Hornby

### Early Word & Reflection:

Cath James

(Minister of the Word –  
CYAA & Worship)

### Prayers of the People:

Ray Cameron

written by Saide Cameron

### Musicians:

Matthew Lees  
(co-ordinator)

Brad Coath

Hudson Coath

Colin Hunter

Debra Langford

Elaine Potter

SONG: Gathered here, By  
Phil Porter ©1990, from  
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### Musicians: Shawn

Whelan, Daniel Whelan,  
Natalie Sims, Saide  
Cameron

### Images:

Helen Burnham

Michael Cameron

BUC Library

### Editing / Production:

Martin Brown

Michael Cameron

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Marcelo Mendoza

Lauren Reader

## Closing verse:

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Cor 1:25)