

# Order of Service – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Easter 6B

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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

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos,  
and darkness covered the face of the deep,  
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

## Greeting

**Saide**

*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. Welcome everyone. Please come and find a place to sit.

Christ is Risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

## Song – Creator of this great land

*We usually stand during the songs.*

*Let's stand and sing a doxology, a song of praise as we welcome the Word and the Light*

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*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.*

*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great God.*

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SONG: [Song of Praise](#), Written for the Commission for Mission  
by Ross Langmead for Synod worship, September 1996. Used with permission

## Call to Worship

**Saide**

*We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship*

Come let us worship the creator of this land and all the earth  
the one who renews our hope and transforms our world with love.

Come let us worship God with all that we are and all that we long to be.

## Song of Praise – Enemy of Apathy, TiS 418

*And now let's sing again of the movement of the spirit through the story of creation.*

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1. *She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,  
hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;  
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,  
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.*

2. *She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,  
lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;  
she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,  
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.*

3. *She dances in fire, startling her spectators,  
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;  
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,  
nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.*

4. *For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,  
gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;  
she is the key opening the Scriptures,  
enemy of apathy and heavenly love.*

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SONG: [Enemy of Apathy](#), by John L. Bell & Graham Maule, from [Enemy of Apathy](#), Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502, ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

## 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 this morning as we begin the Week of Action for Climate justice. Today we were going to be welcoming Safina Stewart to share the story of creation through her 'Seven Days of Creation painting. Safina is a proud Wuthati Country, Mabiliaug Island and Aboriginal Spiritual woman living on Bunarong Country. She is the Relationships & Storytelling Co-ordinator with Common Grace. However due to a family emergency Safina is not able to join us today but hopes to do so in the future. We welcome Mick Pope as our preacher. Mick is a member of our congregation, eco-theologian and meteorologist. Today he will reflect with us on the Sabbath as holy time, time to give rest to creation as we seek to reduce climate chaos. Cath James will preside over our celebration of Holy Communion.

Welcome to worship in this space and all who are joining us online now or later. I'm Saide and have the joyful privilege of leading worship with Mick, Cath, Kenna, Peter, Joanne and the musicians led by Alistair. Our thanks as always to all who support the work of worship behind the scenes in so many generous ways.

Our worship will conclude out in front of the hall on Sydney Road as we ring the bell together to sound the alarm for the climate crisis. Please be ready to move out either through this door behind me or the side door onto Sydney Road. We will sing 'Creator of the great land again' outside and ring the bell. The final blessing will be offered from there.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Saide

### with Genesis 1:1-2:3

*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.*

*Ahhh. Let's breathe in and out together. Feel your feet on the floor, you may like to take off your shoes and imagine the earth beneath you. Imagine the earth as it might have been hundreds upon thousands of years ago, free of the burden of the built environment, free of the weight of pollution and accumulated waste, free to be as God intended, a gift for all.*

*Peter and Kenna will offer the story of creation from Genesis 1:1-2:3 and I will offer our prayers of adoration and confession along the way. So let us listen and pray.*

### Genesis 1:1-5

**Peter** When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**Saide** God of the heavens and the earth  
you breathed your holy breath and said 'Let there be light'.  
Your light shines in the darkness,  
the darkness of destruction and despair and is not overcome.  
You breathe your holy breath.  
nourishing potential, showing us the wonders of your creation.  
We adore you.

### Genesis 1:6-19

**Kenna** And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

**Peter** And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

**Kenna** And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God

set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

**Saide** God of the day and night, the waters and land  
you breathed your holy breath and birthed abundance.  
Your Spirit dances in our souls  
opening our hearts to your Word, freeing us from apathy.  
You breathe your holy breath  
embracing the human and more than human world with love.  
We adore you.

### **Genesis 1:20-26**

**Peter** And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

**Kenna** And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Peter** Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

**Saide** God of all living things,  
you breathed your holy breath and saw that all was good.  
Your gifts are beyond our comprehension,  
sparking joy and delight, waking us from our fearful slumber.  
You breathe your holy breath,  
and call us to action, to nurture and care for all that is good.  
We adore you.

### **Genesis 1:27-31**

**Kenna** So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

**Peter** God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Saide** God of all creation forgive us.  
Forgive us for the many ways in which  
we fail to live in harmony with your good creation.  
Forgive us for our quiet apathy  
when your creation is in such desperate need.

Forgive us, inspire us to raise our voices  
to speak and act for the more than human world.  
Amen

## Word of Grace

Saide

### Genesis 2:1-3

**Kenna** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

**Saide** God created the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day God rested. Come then let us rest with God from all that troubles us, and know that in the name of Jesus, the risen 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).*

### Early Word

Saide

We've listened to the story of creation from Genesis together this morning. I wonder how often we allow ourselves to take a breath to appreciate the wonder of God's good gift, a sunset, a sunrise, the sound of bird song, the rumble of thunder, the sight and sound of a creek.

Often a moment will catch me by surprise. Ray & I have been going for long bike rides along the Merri Creek in preparation for our Top End (in and around Darwin) cycling holiday. Early on he said to me 'What do you think of the creek?' and I honestly had to answer that I hadn't even been looking. So now I do, and I hope that I will stop and look and appreciate the beauty of all that the small part of the Northern Territory that we'll be visiting has to offer.

So, I invite you to take a moment now and recall something beautiful or wonderful that you have experienced in creation and share it with whoever is sitting near you. Just a few moments.

### Song – Morning has broken, TiS 156

*Now let's stand and sing of the first morning ...*

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*1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing fresh from the word.*

*2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness where his feet pass.*

3. *Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.*

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## Reflection – Sabbath, Holy Time

Mick

### Offering with Song – Beauty for Brokenness, TiS 690

Saide

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

*Servers to collect the elements from the chapel space and follow the those collecting the offering to the table. Cath will take the offering and elements and place them on the table.*

From the abundance of all that we have been gifted we make our offerings in response to the Word spoken, heard and sung. We offer the gifts of our hands and hearts, our bodies and minds. And we offer our money for the work of God's mission in the world. You may offer your gifts in the bowls as they come round or using the details on the screen. Ongoing direct debit offerings are welcome and encouraged. Please remain seated as sing 'Beauty for Brokenness'. Cath will invite you to stand when the offering has been collected.

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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 . . .*

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## Offering Prayer

Cath

Creator God we give thanks for your good creation  
you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.  
Bless this bread and wine, as well as our offerings of time, gifts and money  
may it all be used to nourish your people in a hungry world.  
Amen

## 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.  
with refrain 'Let there be light'.*

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*God said "Let there be light";  
and there was light, and there was light!*

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SONG: [Let there be light](#), Words: Genesis 1:3. Music copyright © 2003 by Bruce Harding.  
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*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 you're welcome to light a taper for your own prayers at the end of the service.*

Let's still our minds and stay seated as we sing Let there be light.

Loving God,  
Thank you for all the blessings and joys in our life.  
And thank you for this time when we can bring to you the burdens on our hearts.  
Lord, we pray for everyone going through hard times  
For people grieving the loss of loved ones or broken relationships,  
For those who're in a time of transition and find the uncertainty challenging,  
For those who long for meaning in their lives and for a sense of connectedness.  
May your grace and light shine on us all.

Dear God, we acknowledge the despair and anger in our country  
at the toll of women hurt and killed by their current or past partners  
We pray for all women who feel unsafe in their homes and vulnerable  
as they go about their daily lives  
Lord, in your eyes, there is nothing so broken that it isn't fixable or redeemable  
And even in the darkest times and places, your love and light always prevail  
Thank you for all who support and advocate for vulnerable women.  
May the policy-makers, police, legal and social workers,  
and all men and women work together for solutions to keep women safe.  
May your grace and light shine on us all.

Eternal God, we pray for the Uniting Church,  
for Christians and for people of faith around the world  
May our love of God unite us in our love for our world  
and guide our actions and messages  
We pray for our Government and leaders around the world

For wisdom and compassion to illuminate their policies  
We pray particularly for those in conflict zones,  
For the people suffering in Ukraine and Gaza  
Open all our hearts, loving God  
That there may be peace on earth, and let it begin with each one of us.  
We offer to you all our prayers spoken and whispered in our hearts,  
In the name of Jesus, 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

Cath

Song – God bless to us our bread, MV 193

*As we prepare for our celebration of Holy Communion let's sing 'God bless to us our bread', a lovely simple Traditional Argentinian grace.*

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*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.*

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SONG: God bless to us our bread, Bishop Federico Pagura, Argentina, trans. Joh L Bell  
World Council of Churches Publication, Geneva. Used by permission.

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Servers: Cath, Catherine, Kenna, Semisi, Saide, Peter B

### 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

Comment re livestream

### 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*

### 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

**Saide**

*We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.*  
It's time to share the news of our community. The Olive Press, website and Facebook group are always good ways to share information and find out what is happening.

### Moving outside

**Saide**

We are going to move outside now ready to ring the bell. Please move out through the door behind me or the side door in the Gathering space. Please take your belongings with you. The welcomers will close the doors behind us.

## Sending Song – Creator of this great land

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*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.*

*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great God.*

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### Blessing and Sending

**Cath, Mick, Saide**

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

#### **Mick**

May the creator Spirit guide you in wisdom  
and teach you to walk respectfully and lightly on country,  
seeking justice for those who have walked here since time immemorial.

#### **Cath**

May Jesus nourish your spirits and warm your hearts,  
having fed on him by faith.

#### **Mick**

May God teach you how to truly rest,  
and make you agents of order in a world full of chaos.

#### **Saide**

Go now from this place, to share the love of God  
with all those you meet, be a light to the world,  
and work for justice and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Thank yous

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

#### Liturgist:

Saide Cameron

#### Bible readings:

Kenna Morrison

Peter Williams

#### Reflection:

Mick Pope

#### Prayers of the People:

Joanne van Ravenswaaij

#### Musicians:

Alistair Hunter

(co-ordinator)

Sharm Blair

Helen Burnham

Joel Hallinan

Kate Scull

Maggie Somerville

#### Images:

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Kate Scull

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Postlude Song: [Touch the earth lightly](#), from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins

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Musicians: Elaine Potter

#### Editing / Production:

Jane Allardice

Michael Cameron

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

Alistair Hunter

Lauren Reader

### Closing verse

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it  
God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.      Genesis 2:3