Order of Service – 20/9/26, Season of Creation 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 sensory friendly space 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 – Luke 10:27

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."

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 please come and find a place among or around the pews wherever you are most comfortable and be comfortable also wherever you are joining us online. As we move through the Season of Creation we are bringing a symbol of the Earth forward as we prepare to worship.

Song – Song of Praise, Ross Langmead — Saide

We usually stand during the songs.

Let's stand to welcome the Word and the Light singing Ross Langmead's Song of Praise, a doxology written for the opening of Synod 30 years ago. We are singing this song each week for the Season of Creation

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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.

Descant: Creator we adore you.
Renewer, hear our praise.
Transformer you surprise us,
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.

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

Come, feel your feet on the floor, as we worship the God of all Creation.

Come, feel your heart beating, as we worship the One who renews all things.
Come, feel Spirit's living presence, as we worship God together.

Acknowledgement of Country — Saide, Rosalind

We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship

As part of our acknowledgement each week in Season of Creation we are asking someone to reflect on what they are noticing as a way of deepening our connection with place.

This week Rosalind has offered three photos and these are her words.

1. Last week I spotted a familiar thistledown on my morning walk. It's the seedhead of the dandelion flower. Each seed is attached to a delicate white top which gets blown away by the wind.
2. Shortly after, I spotted the bright yellow dandelion flower itself, lying over the footpath
3. Once I got home, and expanded the photo on my laptop, I realised it had a small fly with enormous eyes on it.
   The more you explore the natural world, the more rewarding it becomes.

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. Those contributing are acknowledged and / or introduced and an invitation is issued to morning tea after the service.
The themes of the service are laid out.

Welcome to worship this morning here in this space and wherever you are joining us online. And a very big special welcome to Vilma who is turning 99 on Wednesday. Happy Birthday – more about this later.

Today for the third Sunday in the Season of Creation we are departing from the lectionary with Mick Pope and the parable of the Good Samaritan. He will explore what this parable offers as we seek to love our neighbour in a time of ecological crisis. Mick is a member of the congregation, one of our Elders, a regular preacher and an ecotheologian, writer and public speaker.

I'm Saide, your liturgist today which simply means I had the joy of creating this liturgy and offering it with the many people rostered to lead and support worship.

This week's letter from Myrashel's '22 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet' collection is Tsadde. The meaning offered for this 18th letter is '*A true believer is righteous and strives to be true. They love justice and fairness, are straight and fully honest with their conscience and obey the commandments'*.

Tomorrow is the International Day of Peace. This year's theme is **Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day**, honouring the 'everyday architects of peace'—people driving local action, laying the groundwork for stability, and building a lasting peace from the ground up. This theme will shape our Prayers of the People.

As we worship God together this morning please be comfortable, move if you need to, there are a variety of spaces behind the pews, sit or stand during the songs, make use of the fidget available in the Gathering Space if that is helpful to you.

Please stay on after worship for morning tea through this door and into the hall.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession — Saide

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.

Loving God of all creation,
in this time of deep and growing crisis
we turn to you, we turn to you,
for you are the source
of all that is good and beautiful and true.
You are in the land, in the skies, in the waters,
in all that lives and breathes and moves.
We adore you, we adore you, we adore you,
you are life and love and meaning.

Jesus, teacher and lover of all,
in our longing for peace and healing,
we turn to you, we turn to you,
for you are the One who shows us the way,
in parables, in commandments and with your life.
You are with the one left lying on the road
and with the one who stops to offer care.
We adore you, we adore you, we adore you,
you offer hope and grace and mercy.

Holy Spirit, transformer of all life,
when despair and grief weigh us down
we turn to you, we turn to you,
for you breathe words of life
into the darkness that feels overwhelming.
You are the joy in unexpected moments
and the wonder in hearts renewed.
We adore you, we adore you, we adore you,
you are the channel of peace and new life.
Amen

Holy-One, Holy-Three, our hearts are heavy
with the weight of damage done to your creation,
our home, this planet, your gift to all,
and with the harm done to vulnerable people
whose homes and lands are in peril,
through the actions of others who do not care.
We confess this brokenness, this wrong
and seek to be people who speak and act with love
loving you, loving ourselves, loving our neighbour.
Amen

Word of Grace — Saide

Responding to a question, offering a parable, Jesus tells the 'expert in the law'
to go and be a neighbour, to show mercy. And we also are called to do the same.

This we can do because in the name of Jesus, lover of all our sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God**

Song – Make me a channel of your peace, TiS 607

Soon we will engage in that beautiful ritual of sharing Christ's peace but before we do let's remain seated and sing of what it can mean to be a channel of peace as part of our response to the International Day of Peace. Based on an anonymous prayer this version was written by Sebastian Temple who was born in South Africa and later moved to London becoming a prolific song writer.

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1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy. Refrain

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

SONG: Channel of peace, by Johann Sebastian Templehoff, Oregon Catholic Press, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502.

Passing the Peace — Saide

Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains ours hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of peace. Passing the Peace is part of the Communion liturgy (first Sunday of the month). On other Sundays we may choose to share the peace in response to the Word of Grace or Prayers of the People

May the peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you
Please share this peace with those around you and with the people joining us online if you feel comfortable to do so. Tomorrow you may like to light a candle and pray for peace.

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 – Luke 10:25-37, p844 — Sammy

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit
eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He
answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with
all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him,
“You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied,
“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who
stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going
down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite,
when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while
traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to
him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own
animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii,
gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you
whatever more you spend.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man
who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus
said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

Early Word — Saide

Who likes reading and/or listening to stories? What do you like about them? Sammy has just read a story from the Bible and in it Jesus is answering a question with a story. Jesus told a lot of stories, we call these stories parables. Parable is such an interesting word like a lot of words in our language. Jesus told these parables as a way of teaching people something. In this story he is responding to a question ‘Who is my neighbour’. I’m going to read a version of the parable from a book that I borrowed from my grandchildren. The book is called ‘Stories Jesus told’ and the story is called ‘The Good Stranger’. I wonder what we will learn.

Song – Kneels at the feet of his friends, TiS 640

‘Kneels at the feet of his friends’ was written by Tom Colvin during his period of missionary service in Ghana, 1959-64, and set to an indigenous love-song melody collected at Chereponi in northern Ghana. Let’s stand and sing together as you are able.

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1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet:
master who acts as a slave to them.

Yesu, yesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.

2. Neighbours are wealthy and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near us and far away.

3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.

4. Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

SONG: Kneels at the feet of his friends, by Thomas Stevenson Colvin & people of Ghana, Hope Publishing Co., from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502, ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

Hebrew Scriptures – Leviticus 19:33-39, p94 — Lyn

33 "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. 34 The alien who
resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as
yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

35 "You shall not cheat in measuring length, weight, or quantity. 36 You shall have honest
balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the Lord your God who
brought you out of the land of Egypt. 37 You shall keep all my statutes and all my ordinances
and observe them: I am the Lord."

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

Preaching of the Word — Mick

Sacred Pause

Offering with Song – Our God who weeps, Tune In — Saide

We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward. Note – the welcomers will come forward to collect the bowls; 'I give by Direct Debit' cards will be on the pews

As Jesus' disciples we are called to be active participants in God's mission. We do this with words of love and in actions taken. We do this also with our gifts of money. You are welcome to place a gift of money or an 'I give directly' card in the bowls as they come around. Account details are on the screen if that is helpful.

We will remain seated as the offering is collected and then we will stand to pray. Let's sing 'Our God who weeps'. This song is part of our Tune In collection and was written by Kate Scull who will soon be offering the Mission Spot. The song arose for Kate from exploring the question 'How does God respond to suffering?'.

See our God with the tear-streaked face
With words that heal
And arms that embrace,
See him now with his nail-scarred hands
Your Kingdom come, Lord, The Promised Land.

1. When people plead in far-off lands
And no-one heeds their out-stretched hands
Yet in the poor we shall find you,
Help us work in the world for you
Fill us now with your love anew.

2. They lock up the weak behind barbed-wire fence
And too few speak in their defence
Yet in the prisoner we find you,

Help us work in the world with you
Fill us now with your love anew.

3. When death has taken those held dear
When faith is shaken, despair draws near,
May those who mourn find strength in you.
Let us weep for the world with you
Fill us now with your love anew.

SONG: Our God who weeps, by Kate Scull, © 2006, from Tune In, Brunswick UC. Reproduced with permission

Offering Prayer — Saide

Loving God, with your tear-streaked face sung into our hearts,
we offer these gifts of money and all else that we offer
so that we may truly be neighbours to those in need
here in this community and throughout the world.
Amen

Mission Spot — James

Visit the Season of Creation – Love our Neighbour page.

Prayers of the People – Peace, Salaam, Shalom — Jim

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.

Acknowledging International Day of Peace with sung response

We pray for the World. May wise leaders hear about International Day of Peace.
May their hearts be open to it. May their souls be open to it.
May *our* hearts be open. May *our* souls be open.
We pray for ordinary people in Ukraine, Sudan, the Middle-East and everywhere there is war.
We pray for the everyday architects of peace working to build lasting peace.
May there be peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.

We pray for the Church. May church leaders welcome friendly ecumenism.
May their hearts be open. May their souls be open.
We pray for those who work for church agencies:
may their faith, passion and life-stance be affirmed.
We pray for people whose passion for peace calls them into action.
May they love the Lord their God with all their hearts and all their souls as they seek peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.

We pray for those in need: may we all rebuild, this Spring.
May our friendship and family groups draw closer. May those online feel included.
May our hearts be open. May our souls be open.
May we be architects of peace in our words and through our actions.
We pray for those who work for government and non-government welfare agencies:
may their faith, passion and life-stance be affirmed.
May we all love the community and our neighbours
in all places with all our hearts and all our souls.
In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom,
Peace salaam, shalom.

In the name of Christ, breath of life.
Praise, Amen

SONG: Peace, Salaam, Shalom © 2001 Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow. Moving Forward Music BMI
www.pathumphries.com.

Happy Birthday Vilma — Saide

We are going to do something very special now. As I mentioned earlier Vilma Collard is turning 99 on Wednesday. Vilma joins us online for worship every week. We're going to use a second camera now so that Vilma can see everyone as we sing Happy Birthday. If you do not wish your face to be seen please put your hands in front of your face and offer a gesture of peace, prayer, love or joy. Let's sing.

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.
Last week we had a bonanza Notices session with so much happening. Please line up to my right, offer your name and be as brief as you can in sharing your news, especially if it is a repeat from previous weeks. Church Council news is offered first, followed by committees and groups and then personal news.

…

Last week Naomi was part of the music team for the first time which I forgot to acknowledge so thank you Naomi. I am creating the October-November roster this week. If you are interested in being involved in our rosters, please come and see me after worship either here or out at morning tea.

Next week Cath will be our preacher.

Sending Song – Colourful Creator, TiS 190

Our final song 'Colourful Creator' was written by Ruth Duck in 1993. Ruth was an internationally renowned hymnwriter and died in 2024. This song centres around the insight that God is creative and inspires creativity. May we all be creative in our response to the call to love our neighbour in these challenging times.

1. Colourful Creator, God of mystery,
thank you for the artist teaching us to see
glimpses of the meaning of the commonplace,
visions of the holy in each human face.

2. Harmony of ages, God of listening ear,
thank you for composers tuning us to hear
echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing,
sounds of love and longing from the deepest spring.

3. Author of our journey, God of near and far,
praise for tale and drama telling who we are,
stripping to the essence struggles of our day,
times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

4. God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,
may we be creators by the Spirit stirred,
open to your presence in our joy and strife,
vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

SONG: Colourful Creator, by Ruth C. Duck, Hope Publishing Co, USA, from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, Reproduced with permission ONE LICENCE # 604502

Sending / Words of Mission — Saide

The leader sends people out into the world to live out our faith.

Go now into the world as agents of peace.
Reconciling with God, each other, ourselves
and the whole creation;
our common home

Blessing — Mick

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

And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity of love:
God, creator of this great land
Jesus, renewer of all people
Spirit, transformer of all life
Be with you now and always. Amen

Closing verse – Luke 10:27

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."

Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to…

Liturgist & Early Word:
Saide Cameron

Acknowledgement of Country:
Rosalin Smallwood

Bible readers:
Lyn Anderson
Sammy Dixon

Preacher:
Mick Pope

Prayers of the People:
Jim Kilpatrick

Mission Spot:
James Clough

Musicians:
Natalie Sims (co-ordinator)
Helen Burnham
Alistair Hunter
Deb Langford
Catherine Leslie
Kate Scull
Shawn Whelan

Images:
Myrashel

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Christine Hornby
Alistair Hunter
Fiona MacDowall

Postlude Song:
Peace, Salaam, Shalom
Musicians: Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims, Steph Gesling and Josh Whitty, Dave Miller, Maxine, Clementine and Harriet Loynd, Jess and Anya Kvansakul, Kate Scull, Elaine Potter, Glenice Cook, Ian Ferguson