

**Leura Uniting Church
Sunday 14 June 2020**

Out you go!

Gathering of the People of God

As we come to our time of worship you may like to prepare a space where you can be peaceful and focus on being accompanied into the holy presence of God.

You might like to light a candle. Be comfortable and warm wherever you are sitting.

I have included a YouTube links for the hymns. If you want to listen to the hymns or sing along with music, click on the link, or copy and paste it in your internet page.

Remember you are not alone. You are in God's presence and have those whom you love and are loved by in your heart.

While we are not coming together in the church for worship, we are still together in spirit as we participate in our Worship Service at home. So we are in a sense gathering together in spirit.

Call to Worship

Here we are, the people of God gathered from all over the mountains.

We have come to hear the good news.

And to learn more about being God's people.

We have come, for we are in need of God's goodness.

We have come looking for guidance and deliverance from what holds us back from living full and vital lives.

We come as strangers and friends, allies and outsiders, all drawn into the circle of God's compassion and kindness.

We have come because God longs to encounter us and enfold us in love.

We have come to worship God. Let us worship together

[Seasons of the Spirit]

Prayer of Adoration

God of grace, as we gather here to worship and learn, to sing and to pray, to build community and restore ourselves for service, be with us.

Encourage us to open our hearts and minds to encounter your goodness, and our souls to be buoyed by your loving presence.

Amen

[Seasons of the Spirit]

Song TIS 452 God of mercy, God of grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3PIRShdR8s>

1. God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of your face;
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill your church with light divine;
and your saving health extend
to the earth's remotest end.

2. Let the people praise you, Lord!
be by all that live adored;
let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Saviour king;
at your feet their tribute pay,
and your holy will obey.

3. Let the people praise you Lord!
earth shall then its fruits afford;
God to us his blessing give,
We to God devoted live;
All below, and all above,
One in joy and light and love

Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847
From Psalm 67
Public Domain

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we seek your forgiveness for those things that we have said and done and thought that have hurt you, each other and ourselves.

We ask your forgiveness for those things we have failed to say, forgotten to do and should have thought about, but did not.

Forgive us every act of kindness that was not done, every word of understanding that was not spoken and every offer of forgiveness we did not make.

Forgive us every time we have failed to show patience to those who were confused and love to those who were hurting and compassion to those at the point of breaking.

Forgive us every time we fail to name your name and to speak of the love of Christ when you gave us the opportunity.

Forgive us for every time we have walked by on the other side so we should not need to become involved in someone else's pain, or when we have closed our eyes to someone's despair and our ears to their cry for help.

Forgive us for crucifying Christ all over again.

Cleanse us, renew us and empower us to live Christlike lives.

Amen

[Rev David Clowes 500 Prayers for all Occasions.]

Assurance of Forgiveness:

God always looks to us with the eyes of compassion.

Here, in this moment we encounter the eternal mercy of God and our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

[Seasons of the Spirit]

Reading: Matthew 9:35 to 10:16

The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

The Twelve Apostles

10 Then Jesus¹⁰ summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;⁴ ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

The Mission of the Twelve

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers,⁹ cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Coming Persecutions

¹⁶ "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

This is the Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. [Luke 9:6 NIV]

When they returned, Jesus took them away for a debriefing. They withdrew to the village of Bethsaida.

I am sure the disciples were on a high when they returned, and were anxious to spend this special time alone with Jesus and tell him their news.

But this was not to happen as planned. We read:

But the crowds learned about it [where he was] and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. [Luke 9:11 NIV]

Now, moving forward about one year, everything began crashing down around them. Jesus had started talking about death and suffering, and Peter objected to this.

Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, and then the resurrection. Now these same disciples, minus Judas, were afraid for their lives hiding behind locked doors.

Jesus appeared to them, and many others, over a period of forty days.

At the end of Matthew's gospel, in the reading we had last week, we read:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the end of the age. [Matt 28:18-20 NIV]

These poor blokes. Firstly they were sent out to the closer towns and had success, but now they are being sent out to all the world!!

In our reading today, they were called apostles. Rev Bruce Prewer has written:

Apostle, apostolos, in NT Greek meant an emissary, a person sent out on a mission with the authority of the sender behind them. The disciples cannot stay at the point of being learners in the school of Christ. The times come when the disciples must become the practitioners. They become the ambassadors of Christ Jesus.

The first sending out was not a protracted one. It was a quick whip around the countryside in order to awaken people to the good news.

But this mission, is not just for the eleven, but to all believers, including you and me!

Again quoting Rev Bruce Prewer.

We today are the sent ones, the emissaries or apostles. It is not sufficient to be disciples, to be the learners. What we learn must be embodied in how we live each day.

All our lives we will remain disciples, learners in the school of Christ. That should keep us humble as we take up the more difficult commission: "Look, I send you out like sheep amongst wolves. So be as wise as serpents and as sincere as doves."

Jesus says to each of us "Out you go and continue my work here in Leura, Wentworth Falls, the Blue Mountains and the world".

Amen

Song TIS 161 Tell out my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ji4y9Q-K0>

1. Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercies sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for ever more!

Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-
Based on Luke 1:46-55
CCLI No. 300742

Notices:

Do be sure to check our latest church bulletin and tune in to Zoom church.

Offering

While we can't place our offerings in the offering bags, you are reminded that you can made your offering by Giving Direct, direct debit (see bank details in the Bulletin) or putting money aside for when we can physically meet together.

Offering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, accept and bless these gifts and all that we do in the name of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. May our lives impart the truth of the gospel and our witness point others to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

[Lectionary Generated Liturgy]

Prayers of the People

[Thanks to Dennis Christie]

Good morning families of God,

I recently read that the meaning of Prayer is to "Get hold of God," - not the answer – (which is for him to deliver)
The real privilege is that we can all develop a personal relationship with God, and speak to him with prayers and praises at any time

Our faith journey will produce a variety of "high" and "low" moments that we can share with God, so let us begin by giving thanks for the answered prayers we have received
Let us come together in Prayer

Thanks

Heavenly Father, -

We give you Thanks and Praise for all the things you do in our lives

Thank you for our safety and peace here in the Blue Mountains

We praise you for your creation, - and the beauty of this area

Help us to be a caring and compassionate people and use the opportunities around us , - to share your love

Our concerns

Dear Lord,

Where do we start ??

The changes in our lives arising from the pandemic, and social justice issues have turned communities into a strange new experience

We pray for a calm and tolerant approach for those who are now able to return to work

Help everyone accept and practice the restrictive numbers - when around other commuters and work colleagues

We pray for those who are still unable to resume working, and are suffering with financial pressures

Help them put their trust in you, - and send community "angels" into their lives to help them cope with the feeling of frustration and hopelessness that can ruin people, - and their ability to recover from the current situation

(I love the story of Job who had so much, - then lost it, - but stayed faithful to God, - who then restored blessings to his life)

Our Church family

Lord, - there are friends and family who are unwell

The movement restrictions, and quarantine procedures have made it difficult for visitations to those we would like to see

Be there with these dear people

Give them comfort, - give them hope, - and as your plan dictates – heal them

From our Bulletin, there are some people named, *(pray for them by name)*

In our hearts there are others whom we know, and wish to intercede on their behalf *(silence while people bring them to God)*

The future

Dear God,

As we move into a new week, help us to adjust to the ever changing lifestyle that is occurring because of the easing of restrictions and health regulations

Develop in us a desire to be obedient, and caring for Others, - even when they may not respect us as we would like

As the movement for social justice sweeps across our land, (and around the world), help us not to resort to violence and civil unrest to make our feelings known

We pray for all those who come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds

These people are God's children – (our brothers and sisters in Christ) and they do not deserve to be targets of emotive violence and abuse

There is only one race – the human race !

We pray for good governance from our elected Leaders – at Local, - State and Federal levels

Help all those with influence to change lives, - work to ensure a fair and sustainable balance of welfare - and work potential - is available to all

Guide our hearts and steer our actions as we go forward into your world

Let us close by saying together – the 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 this day our daily bread

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

Save us in the time of trial

And deliver us from evil

For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours

Now and forever

Amen

Song - TIS 595 O Jesus I have promised

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A>

1. O Jesus I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be forever near me,
my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2. Still let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
and tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
and murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
To chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

4. Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode 1816-1874-
Public Domain

Benediction

Travel lightly,
*Lest under the weight of status and possessions
We come to a standstill.*

Travel boldly,
*For we are apostles of a Christ
who has overcome the worst the world can give.*

Travel humbly,
*For as friends of Jesus no service is too menial
and no person is unworthy of help.*

Travel joyfully,
*For when the road is rough and the night dark
we shall never travel on our own.*

The love of God,
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all, now and forever.

Amen

[Rev Bruce Prewer]