



10th August, 2020
9.50 for 10am
Pentecost 10

We acknowledge the traditional caretakers of the land in which we live. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connections to this land and we thank them for the care they have shown the earth over thousands of years.

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.

Please note that the words printed here may not match those on the YouTube video.

Louise Mattay has recorded the music which we will use on Sunday
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.

Welcome and Introduction: Announcements

Coming Together To Worship

Call to Worship

Call to Worship

L: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers,
as well as the doubters:

**P: here, the worriers and wanderers
can call on God by name.**

L: Here, in this time, we can remember
all the ways God has graced us:

**P: here, in these moments, we are reminded
that God is with us, always!**

L: Here are gathered those daring enough
to step out of comfort into the unknown:

**P: here, in this faith space, we will find the courage
to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.**

Hymn of Praise 125 The God of Abram praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvTgzJ2nZGo>

The God Of Abraham Praise

Verse 1

The God of Abraham praise
Who reigns enthroned above
Ancient of everlasting Days
And God of love
The Lord, the Great I AM
By earth and heaven confessed!
We bow and bless the sacred name
For ever blessed.

Verse 3

The God of Abraham praise
Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide us all our happy days
In all our ways
He calls us each a His friend
He calls himself our God
And He shall save me to the end
Through Jesu's blood

Verse 8

He keeps His own secure
He guards them by His side
Arrays in garment white and pure
His spotless Bride
With streams of sacred bliss
Beneath serener skies
With all the fruits of Paradise
He still supplies

Verse 10

The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing
And 'holy, holy, holy,' cry
'Almighty King'
Who was and is the same
And evermore shall be
The Lord, our Father, Great I AM
Eternally.

Verse 12

The whole triumphant host
Gives thanks to God on high
'Hail, Father, Son and Spirit blessed!'
They ever cry
Hail Abraham's God and ours
With heaven our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are yours

And endless praise

CCLI Song # 2688219

Thomas Olivers

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Prayer of Praise and Thanks

To the one true and living God,
we can only bring our songs of glory and praise.
Through you, the light of creation
dispelled the shadows of chaos;
from you came the imaginative Word,
shaping the mountains that touch the sky,
scooping out the hollows for the seas;
by you the Spirit of beginnings breathed,
giving life to people created in your image.
In love, you embraced us as your own,
giving us the freedom to make our own choices.

Prayer of Confession and Absolution

L: Too often when life threatens us, we trust the world to save us, finding it easy to believe the empty promises of seduction and doubt. But our God offers us forgiveness and healing, if we will but trust and follow. Let us begin, by confessing our sins together,

Unison Prayer of Confession

ALL: It seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey, God of Promises. But when the winds of change begin to blow, we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor. When sin's waves crash over the side, we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride thinking we will not get wet. When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.

Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt, we long for someone to help us – so save us, Holy One, save us! Stretch out your hand, so we might be lifted from our despair to hope, from our worries to trust, from our foolishness to faithful living. Then, we will dare to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

L: In confessing that Christ is Lord, we let go of the past, and turn to God's future. We step out of our fears, and walk into the light and life offered by our God.

P: In trusting Christ's resurrection, we trust all of God's promises, letting the Spirit work in and through us, healing and making us whole. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

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We listen to the Word of God

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."



²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

(NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

A reading: from the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 105

1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. 4 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

16 When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread, 17 he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. 18 His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron; 19 until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him. 20 The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free. 21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, 22 to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

This is the word of the Lord

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD

Song 689 Lord hear my praying

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WxtpPCUDMc>

Sorrowing Song

Verse 1

Lord hear my praying listen to me
You know there's evil in what I see
I know I'm part of all that is wrong
Still won't You hear my sorrowing song

Verse 2

Children are crying hungry for food
Sick from diseases God are You good
People are homeless lost and alone
God are You hiding where have You gone

Verse 3

Why do the rich ones steal from the poor
Why do they build their weapons of war
How can You stand the torture and pain
Hope disappearing freedom in chains

Verse 4

Jesus remind us that You are found
With those who cry with those who are bound
Where there is suffering You will be there
Help us to follow Lord hear my prayer

CCLI Song # 1272410

Robin Mann

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Sermon: Rev Paul Cameron

Walking on Water.

Peter Sellers walking on Water in the film "Being there"

There is the story of the Anglican and UCA ministers that were out fishing on a lake in a boat. When they ran out of bait the Anglican minister said, "Be right back," and promptly jumped over the transom and walked across the lake, bought some bait and walked back. Later, when they ran out of sodas, the UCA minister, not to be outdone, said "Be right back," and leaped over the prow of the boat and quickly sank and came up sputtering. The Methodist hauled his friend into the boat and said "John, you should have asked me where the stepping stones are..."

Once I was invited to play golf. I usually decline. It was a church outing. A church Golf tournament.

Three men from the church invited me. As we got our drivers out and loosened up they asked me if I played much.

I said, “No, I haven’t played . I’ve never been much of a golfer.

They looked at each other and then began to talk about placing a little bet on the 18 holes. I listened as they agreed to a modest bet and when they turned to me I simply nodded in agreement, knowing that I would be the loser. But, the bet was small and it was a beautiful day and I was really there for the view of the green grass, beautiful course and the exercise and was just hoping that I wouldn’t slow them down. May be there might be time to chat.

It was decided that I would tee off first. I calmly placed my ball on the tee, swung my club back, and then drove that little white ball straight down the fairway in a perfect position to chip onto the green and putt out for a birdie.

I stood there in shock. What had I done? I had never hit a golf ball that far and that fair in all of my life. My three friends began giving me a bad time, “Sure... you’re not much of a golfer.” “Uh, huh.... You haven’t played . “I can see who is paying for the drinks later .”

I chipped onto the green with my iron. One putt and I had three strokes for a birdie.

But, then came the second hole. I had just played the best hole of golf in my life. Now the pressure was on me. I began to think through in my mind all the fundamental steps of a good drive. The palms of my hands got all sweaty. I started to shake.

I sliced the ball and off it went onto the adjoining fairway. My friends stared at me. “So, you’re going to tease us, huh?”

Well, it didn’t take long for my performance to convince them that the first hole was one of those strange quirks of life. I did end up slowing them down. I did end the loser. I did pay-up for the drinks.

What happened? What went wrong? Or, maybe I should ask, “What went right on that first hole?”

What went right was that I wasn’t thinking - I was just doing. What went wrong from then on out was that I tried as hard as I could to recreate that first hole. I began with no fear of losing and no hope of winning. I was there to enjoy the view, the exercise and being with my friends. But, then I tried to win and fear took hold. I was afraid of failure. As long as I knew that winning and losing weren’t important, I was Tiger Woods. But, as soon as I knew that I could win and that I had to repeat my performance on that first hole, I was lost.

I was no different than Peter climbing out of that boat and walking on the water towards Jesus. I don’t imagine Peter gave it a thought. Jesus said, “Come” and Peter hopped out and began walking towards him. I can imagine Peter looking down finally saying to himself, “I’m walking on water!” Then he looks again saying, “I’m walking on water?” Finally he shouts to himself, “I AM WALKING ON WATER!” and he begins to sink like a stone.

You see, Peter is afraid. He is walking on that water and the wind is whipping his face and he realizes that people just don’t do this. People do not walk on water. It just is not done. And he begins to sink.

Fear – the four letter word that we all know and that probably, more than anything else, is what keeps us from becoming the person we can become in this life – the person we are meant to become in this life.

A few weeks ago, I collected these quotes for the Church Newsletter;

Sayings:

Fear is a vital response to physical and emotional danger that has been pivotal throughout evolution. If people didn’t feel fear, they wouldn’t be able to protect themselves from legitimate threats”—— Psychology Australia

"The only thing we have to fear is fear it'self - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified, terror which paralyses needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." - FDR - First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

"One of the things which danger does to you after a time is -, well, to kill emotion. I don't think I shall ever feel anything again except fear. None of us can hate anymore - or love." ---- Graham Greene - The Confidential Agent (1939)

"A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice." ---- Edgar Watson Howe - Country Town Sayings (1911)

Fun - Some sample of fears from: The Phobia List – Web site

Genophobia- Fear of knees.

Gephyrophobia or Gephydrophobia or Gephysrophobia- Fear of crossing bridges.

Gerascophobia- Fear of growing old.

Gerontophobia- Fear of old people or of growing old.

Geumaphobia or Geumophobia- Fear of taste.

Glossophobia- Fear of speaking in public or of trying to speak.

Gnosiophobia- Fear of knowledge.

Graphophobia- Fear of writing or handwriting.

Gynophobia or Gynophobia- Fear of women.

Anthony de Mello was a Roman Catholic priest, a Jesuit, who grew up in India. He died a few years ago at a young age from a heart attack. His teachings have probably influenced me more than anyone else to this point in my ministry. He writes that, "Some day that there are only two things in this: God and fear; love and fear are the only two things."

He says that, "There's only one evil in the world, fear. There's only one good in the world, love."

Anthony de Mello explains that love is sometimes called by other names. Sometimes we call it happiness or freedom or peace or joy and sometimes we call love God. But the label doesn't matter, he says. There's nothing special in the combination of three letters that makes up our English word G.o.d. The label really doesn't matter. All of those words point towards the same reality.

And, he says, that there is not a single evil in the world that you can't trace to fear – not a single one. Fear is the greatest obstacle to happiness, to wholeness, to completeness in life. It is why I cling to one of my most helpful Biblical passages, 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

Perhaps you've seen the words, "No Fear," on the back of cars driven by young men with their caps turned around backwards or you've seen "No Fear" on T-shirts. I don't know about you, but the first time I saw those words, "No Fear," I immediately thought of 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." I thought, isn't it wonderful, these kids are so sophisticated in the Bible. Then somebody told me that isn't what "No Fear" refers to.

Much of what we call fear is thought.

There seems to be no limit to our fears. In a Peanuts cartoon strip Charlie Brown goes to Lucy for a nickels worth of psychiatric help. She proceeds to pinpoint his particular fear. Perhaps, she says, you have hypengyophobia, which is the fear of responsibility. Charlie

Brown says no. Well, perhaps you have ailurophobia, which is the fear of cats. No. Well, maybe you have climacophobia, which is the fear of staircases. No. Exasperated, Lucy says well, maybe you have pantophobia, which is the fear of everything. Yes, says Charles, that is the one!

Sometimes we feel like we are afraid of everything. We are afraid of ourselves. We are afraid of people. We are afraid of the future. We are afraid of the past. We are afraid of life. We are afraid of death.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was the first author to alert the West to the horrible realities he experienced in Stalin's labour camps. Solzhenitsyn said that only once during his long imprisonment in a labour camp in the Soviet Union did he become so discouraged that he thought about suicide. He was outdoors, on a work detail, and he had reached a point where he no longer cared whether he lived or died. When he had a break, he sat down, and a stranger sat beside him, someone he had never seen before and would never see again. For no apparent reason, this stranger took a stick and drew a cross on the ground.

Solzhenitsyn sat and stared at that cross for a long while. He later wrote, "Staring at that cross, I realized that therein lies freedom." At that point – in the midst of a storm – he received new courage and the will to live. The storm didn't end that day, but through Jesus, Solzhenitsyn found the strength to ride it out.

If I ask myself the question why would Matthew bother to tell us this story. The I think the answer to the early church is not have more faith, but in your difficulties remember God will walk with you. As you face persecution remember who hold your hand and will lift you up.

I don't know what storm of life will come our way this week, or what storm we may be enduring at this very moment. Even as the storm rages around you, if you will listen very carefully, you will hear a gentle voice calling to you, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." And in time the storm will pass. And Jesus will still be there.

Some questions:

Of what are you afraid?

Is fear necessary? If so for what purpose?

How have overcome your fears in the past?

What has helped you get through? (improved your resilience?)

Do you agree with Anthony de Mello - "There's only one evil in the world, fear. There's only one good in the world, love."?

"We Make Our Response To God's Word To Us

Offering

(after the prayer of Dedication, we sing)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below,
praise God above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken
1637-1711 *alt.*

Prayers for others and ourselves
John Cox



PRAYERS of the PEOPLE.

We come together to pray for the world our church family and friends.

At the end of a section of prayer I will say "Loving God we offer our hearts concerns." Join me in responding. ***"Loving God hear our prayer"***

Let us pray

We come to you loving God at this time when the world seems to be in so much turmoil. Although many wars continue with loss of life and injury to those involved and also innocent civilians; We are shocked by the explosions in Lebanon with the loss of life and thousands injured. We bring all those in wore torn countries and those whose lives are tenuous even without the pandemic of COVID-19 before you. Loving God we offer our hearts concerns.....

Loving God hear our prayer.

As the pandemic continues we are made aware of life's fragility and vulnerability.

We pray for those infected by this virulent disease. For those infected no matter what their age we are concerned for them. For the aged in particular we pray. As many have additional disease that compromise their health we pray for the nursing staff who care for them. We pray for the families as they struggle with their fears and helplessness due to the inability to visit and lack of contact. For those in aged care facilities we pray for the staff to continue to offer excellent care. We pray for their own health and that of their families. We pray for management and administrators to make decisions in the interests of the residents and not from other external pressures.

For all who are involved in this devastating disease we pray for their health and stamina in these testing times. The doctors, nursing staff and associated health staff. We also pray for the many who are behind the scenes, the office workers, cleaners, drivers and laundry personnel.

Loving God we offer our hearts concerns.....***Loving God hear our prayer.***

We pray for national, state and local leaders. We pray for them as they struggle with the tension between the health of the community and the impact on the economies of their countries and communities. Help them make wise decisions both for now and the longer term. Help us in our own situations to understand and accept what will be best for each other rather than our own particular interest.

We pray for businesses employers and employees in these difficult times to find ways of surviving and adapting to meet the challenges now and in the future. We pray for the government to make wise thoughtful and considerate decisions to care for all impacted by the loss of work hours or their employment.

Loving God we offer our hearts concerns..... ***Loving God hear our prayer.***

We pray for our church that in our continued closure of meeting together as one, we will sense our connectedness. We ask that you assist those in discussions regarding the student placement here that the way forward will be clear for everyone's personal and spiritual care. Help us to

find opportunities for expression and celebration of what the future holds for our church in the Blue Mountains.

Loving God we offer our hearts concerns..... *Loving God hear our prayer.*

We pray for the wider work of the Uniting Church and all Faiths as they seek to honour the One God who is compassionate and loving to ALL

We pray for those in our community of faith who are not well or need our special love. We pray for Phil Gleitzman family as they mourn the loss of Phil who was special to his family and so many others. For others who we know in the church and who are attached to us in other ways we pause to bring them before you.

Pause for quiet prayer

God of love we offer our hearts concerns..... *Loving God hear our prayer.*

In the midst of the churn of life we also thank you God for the large and small things that give us life. We pause to lift our eyes and hearts and are thankful....

Pause to reflect on at least one experience this week for which you give thanks to God's loving embrace.

We join together to pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray

God, you are life for us,

holy be your name.

Your new day come, your will be done,

On earth as in your vision.

Give us this day our bread for the morrow;

And forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Strengthen us in the time of test,

and deliver us from evil.

For the power and the splendour

and the fulfilment are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Hymn61 (TIS) Sing, all creation, sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMVVqdE4Knc>

Sing, All Creation

ISTE CONFESSOR/James Quinn SJ

1. Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness!
Joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage!
Chanting his praises, come before his presence!
Praise the Almighty!

2. Know that our God is Lord of all the ages!
He is our maker; we are all his creatures,
people he fashioned, sheep he leads to pasture!
Praise the Almighty!

3. Enter his temple, ringing out his praises!
Sing in thanksgiving as you come before him!
Blessing his bounty, glorify his greatness!
Praise the Almighty!

4. Great in his goodness is the Lord we worship;
steadfast his kindness, love that knows no ending!
Faithful his word is, changeless, everlasting!
Praise the Almighty!

Text: 11 11 11 5; Psalm 100 (99); para. by James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010, © 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by
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Benediction