



Leura Uniting Church
22 August 2021
Ross Neville
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme
*Heal our nation, Heal the world
strength and guidance are given*

Pause and Honour the Darug and Gundungura first peoples of our land

Prayer Time of Adoration and confession

Time of silence

Remember something God did for you this week.
Remember something you did that you regret
or are sorry about.

Say together

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn 569

Guide me O thou great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land:
I am weak but thou art mighty; Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore. (repeat)

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the living waters flow:
Let the firey cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer.
Be thou still my strength and shield (repeat)

CCLI Song # 1448
John Hughes | Peter Williams | William Williams

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Psalm 34

Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
² I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
³ Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;

their faces are never covered with shame.
⁶ This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
 he saved him out of all his troubles.
⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
 and he delivers them.
⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good;
 blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
⁹ Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
 for those who fear him lack nothing.
¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry,
 but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
 Come, my children, listen to me;
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
¹² Whoever of you loves life
 and desires to see many good days,
¹³ keep your tongue from evil
 and your lips from telling lies.
¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good;
 seek peace and pursue it.
¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
 and his ears are attentive to their cry;
¹⁶ but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
 to blot out their name from the earth.
¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
 he delivers them from all their troubles.
¹⁸ The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
 and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
 but the Lord delivers him from them all;
²⁰ he protects all his bones,
 not one of them will be broken.
²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
 the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
²² The Lord will rescue his servants;
 no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalm 34 is A Hymn of praise 1-10

A message to the people 11-22

A reminder to Bless the Lord

Tell of your own personal experiences of God's mercy love.

Don't give up, be constant in your faith and trust in God.

Scripture and tradition tell us God will overcome, protect, save, rescue

No matter wars, famines, epidemics, disasters, name yours.

Common reactions historically even in the OT and still today

Blame God, Blame the people, blame the govts, kings

Hymn 430

Your words to me are life and health;
Pour strength into my soul;
Enable guide and teach my heart to reach its perfect goal.

Your words to me are light and truth;
From day to day they show, their wisdom passing human thought
As in their truth I grow.

Your words to me are full of joy,
Of beauty peace and grace;
From them I learn your blessed will, through them I see your face

CCLI Song # 1532040

George Currie Martin | Lucy Broadwood | Ralph Vaughan Williams

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Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6

Christian Armour is for defence not offence

Defence against What?

What are the spiritual forces we are fighting today? The scripture repeatedly tell us they are present. Walter Winks books

Anti humanity movements: Polititians, Capitalism,

Our Armour is stand against evil forces that are attacking us , forces that are beyond our human capacity to control or influence.

Jesus indicates in John 6 how we can use his spirit in this war.

Truth will overcome hate

Good news is critical in our society today, it would be an antidote to mental depression

Reconciliation, love would solve our wars and conflicts.

Faithfulness and trust are absent but if present would stop much unrest .

John 6:56-69

⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit^[a] and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit^[a] and life.

This john 6 passage is not about communion.

Jesus is telling us to fill ourselves with spiritual bread.

Only from the perspective of faith informed by the Spirit can we see the true meaning of the things being said.

TV health diets doctors and chemists all appear to claim to give us healthy bodies lifestyles that are sustainable, and whole.

What kind of bread do you think Jesus is telling us we hunger for.

Recognise there is a deeper hunger for:

security, belonging

Meaning and purpose

Connection interactivity, love

To know and be known by people

To delight in joy and creative engagement

Healing of old wounds

Wholeness redemption courage

We substitute for these hungers in many alternative ways:

Business, books, movies, exercise, chocolate, other people.

Many of these are being challenged and shown to be inadequate.

Hymn 239

Jesus the Lord said,

‘I am the bread the bread of life for the world, am I’

(Repeat twice) I am the bread.....

Jesus the Lord said,

I am the bread the bread of life for the world

Jesus said ‘I am the light, the one true light of the world am I (repeat twice ,The one true

Jesus said I am the light, the one true light of the world am I

Jesus said ‘I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I ; I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I ; I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I ;

Jesus said ‘I am the life, the resurrection and the life am I

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Notices

Offering and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR 22nd AUGUST 2021 (Carolyn)

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts

As we witness such great suffering in our world.

We hold before you, the people of Haiti in the wake of its tragic earthquake;

The grief and pain of the Afghan people in their fear and turmoil;

And we pray for courage and generosity for stronger countries to help them;

God of compassion/Hear our prayer

Loving God, we hold before you

All who are suffering throughout the world from COVID

Physically, mentally, economically and for those caring for them;

We hold before those in our own country who are ill, anxious, exhausted,

And for our politicians, health advisors, doctors, nurses and testers.

God of compassion/Hear our prayer

Lord of light, despite our groaning earth

Let us hold on to signs of hope and express our gratitude

For the many human acts of kindness seen and unseen

For the sun and the rain, and for new shoots and blossoms of spring.

God give us courage and allow us to receive your love.

God of compassion/Hear our prayer

Wise God, we ask for your prayers for your church everywhere,

In our striving to be the people of God wherever we are

We give thanks and pray for discernment for our Uniting Church leaders

For our ministers everywhere and Myung Hwa Park here at Leura

That wherever they serve they may feel your encouragement.

God of compassion/Hear our prayer

Loving God, we give thanks for our communities in the Blue Mountains

We feel for the vulnerability of many,

We ask for your blessings on the work of Junction142 and in the many ways

Our church at Leura tries to care for its members, families and many others.

We especially remember those who are alone, in poor health or facing uncertainty.

Both named in the Bulletin and unnamed in our hearts.

God of compassion/Hear our prayer

Let us say now together the prayer Jesus taught us

- ***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***

Hymn674

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain, Informed by God's own bias, we ask him once again:

How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind? How long dare vain self interest

Turn prayer and pity blind?

From those forever victims of human greed;

Their cruel plight composes a litany of need.

Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?

When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?

God asks, "who will go for me? Who will extend my reach? And who, when few will; listen, will prophecy and preach?

And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?

And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

CCLI Song # 3163221

Graham Maule | John L. Bell

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