



Leura Uniting Church
17 October 2021
Rev Myung Hwa Park

Order of service

Welcome

Acknowledgement of country

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Gundungurra and Dharug People, traditional custodians of this land under God. We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to worship

Come and dwell in the presence of Creativity God:
 source of life.

Our God calls us to renew ourselves
 and seek our life's purpose
 as we gather with others.

Let us worship God !

Hymn of worship TiS 477 Jesus calls us here to meet him

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|--|---|
| <p>1. Jesus calls us here to meet him
 as, through word and song and prayer,
 we affirm God's promised presence
 where his people live and care.
 Praise the God who keeps his
 promise;
 praise the Son who calls us friends;
 praise the Spirit who, among us,
 to our hope and fears attends.</p> | <p>3. Jesus calls us to each other;
 found in him are no divides.
 Race and class and sex and
 language
 such are barriers he derides.
 Join the hand of friend and stranger;
 join the hands of age and youth;
 join the faithful and the doubter
 in their common search for truth.</p> |
| <p>2. Jesus calls us to confess him
 Word of Life and Lord of All,
 sharer of our flesh and frailness
 saving all who fail or all.
 Tell his holy human story;
 tell his tales that all may hear;
 tell the world that Christ in glory
 came to earth to meet us here.</p> | |

CCLI Song # 878695

Graham Maule | John L. Bell

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Prayer of adoration and confession (in song)

TiS 686 Lord Jesus, we belong to you (Vvs. 1, 2. 5 and 7)

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|--|---|
| <p>1. Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you
because we bear your name</p> <p>2. Help us receive each other, Lord,
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them
because we bear your name.</p> | <p>5. Let nothing that we do or say
offend the weak so that they fall
and lose their faith in you
because we bear your name.</p> <p>7. You are the salt that cleanse us,
so clean us out, and make us fit
for common life with you
because we bear your name.</p> |
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John Wilfred Kleinig
1942-

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Merciful God,
You know our weaknesses and struggles,
and You do not hold them against us;
as we seek Your forgiveness for our lack of care,
we ask that You would continue to transform our hearts and souls,
so we might see with Your eyes and loves with Your heart,
seeking always to protect the most vulnerable in the building of Your kingdom,
for we do so following in the steps of Christ Jesus,
our teacher, Saviour and Lord, AMEN.

Declaration of forgiveness

L : God demonstrates his own love for us in this while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hear then Christ's word of grace: Your sins are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God

Scripture reading

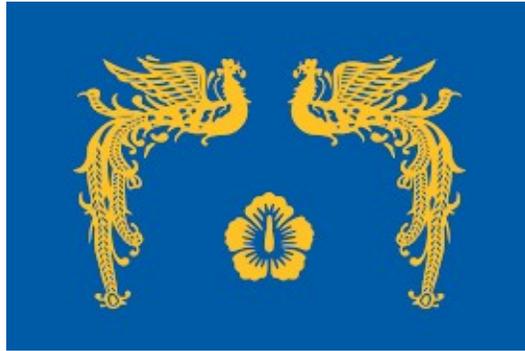
Job 38: 1-7, 34- 41 Jenifer Tippins

Mark10: 35- 45 Iris Swan

L: This is the word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

Reflection



Growing up in Korea in the 60s, the majority of boy children said they wanted to become a president or a judge when they grew up. And that was seen as the norm.

What about girl children? Of course, to be the wife of the president or a judge or perhaps a General, would have been the girls' dream in Korea at that time, and, of course, at the same time to be a virtuous wife and wise mother.

For the eyes of children in 60s , president, judge or army general were considered as the people of power.

But I learnt that today's children have different ideas. They want to become celebrities or sports person, for they are far more popular.

Today, I would like to invite you to share your experiences of silence and your understanding of power.

In our breakroom, I invite you to spend 10 minutes for three questions.

Breakroom (for 10 minutes)

Question 1. How do you experience silence?

Question 2. How do you respond when God, the all-powerful, seems silent in the face of human suffering, pain, the pandemic and global warming?

Question 3. Where do we draw power to serve, to empower?

Today's gospel passage from Mark chapter 10 is about this very understanding of power that we all have.

Two sons of Zebedee asked Jesus, demanding an answer from him, "We want you to do for us whatever we ask. Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." Clearly, this is their response to what they understood from Jesus' prediction for his death and resurrection. But James and John only saw the Messiah who would bring the old understanding of power and glory.

If Jesus became the king, the Messiah, like King David, they who followed Jesus would be entitled to have a privileged place in the kingdom, they thought.

But Jesus, asks them, "Can you drink the cup that I drink? Can you be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?"

John and James promptly said, "We can," but without realising what it really meant by the cup and the baptism. What about us? What is our response when we come to the

communion table and receive the cup, hearing the minister saying 'This is my blood which is shed for you', a suffering and a death?

And what do we understand about our baptism? Do we see ourselves as a baptised one who is willing to give up our life for a new life, new world, the reign of God?

After all, despite being the son of God, Jesus revealed his utter humility. He said, "To sit on my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared". Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered and was made perfect so that he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

In Job's reading, we hear God's response after a long silence to Job, who struggled to find an answer to why a righteous man like him faced suffering.

God draws attention to the truth of a bigger reality.

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Who marked off its dimensions?

Who stretched a measuring line across it? What were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone?

Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water?

Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?

Who provides food for the raven when it's young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?"

We don't have to go through every single question that God has put to Job in this chapter.

What we need to hear is the truth in the question. "Can Job, a mere mortal, really see as God sees? Really know as God knows?" And this also applies to us. Can we?

The message is clear that God is the architect of everything, laid the foundation, counted the dimensions, and put the cornerstone. And also, God is the provider for everyone, everything, fauna and flora.

And furthermore, God is seeking the response from Job, from the friends, and from us to honour the creation order.



In two weeks time, the world leaders will gather at Glasgow for the United Nations Summit for Climate change, which is called COP26. And 7.9 million people and the fauna and flora of this planet earth will be affected by the decision of the summit as it was described as the "Last chance saloon" by Prince Charles in an informal interview.

What kind of power will the leaders of the nations exercise, which will bring a huge impact on the people, animals, and habitats for both the fauna and flora?

Jesus in the parable of the rich fool who built a bigger barn to store his surplus grain for himself, said

'God will say to the self-serving rich man, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' thus making it very clear that what good is it to extend your barn today when your life may be taken tonight?

Let me conclude my reflection by extending your reflection in silence.

I'd like to invite you to pause for silence as I remind you of the work of the creator, God, described by the Psalmist.

Meditation



(Psalms 104:1-4)

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, and you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.



(Psalms 104:24-28)

How many are your works, Lord!

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom, you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

Amen

Responsive music, Video clip " Hope with our hand by Zo Tobi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmzxCZ7A_b0

Prayer for offering

Gracious and loving God, for all things are yours, and what we have comes from you. Accept the offerings we make, and grant that gifts which can never be worthy may yet be hallowed by your blessing and used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Announcements

Prayers of the People

We pray with people of faith all over the world on this global multi-religious '**Faiths 4 Climate Justice' Day of Action**, two weeks from the crucial Climate Summit in Glasgow.

Together, let us send a clear message to our Prime Minister, governments and major financial institutions: destroying the planet is against our and other people's religions. We will not rest until governments, banks and investors and we get it right. Because now is the time to act!

All powerful God

You spoke into the silence
 Light suffusing darkness.
 You spoke into the silence
 Blowing clean life giving air into the space
 You spoke into the silence
 Warmth and cold infusing the air
 You spoke into the silence
 Solid ground formed out of gushing water.
 You spoke voice carrying over the sound
 People, plants and animals came to life.
 You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would be abundant and sustainable.
 You saw everything you had made and declared it to be very good.
 You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that You had made.
 We speak and act
 Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we breathe.
 We speak and act
 Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.
 We speak and act
 Spoiling, limiting, destroying quality of life and life itself.
 We speak and act
 Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good stewards.
 You speak. You create. You want us to be stewards of Your creation. We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and people you have made. Prayer of Katrina Rowland, UK, 2017.

We are learning that the Covid 19 virus is also linked to Climate Change and affected by it. We pray for the countries where health systems are in chaos, such as Afghanistan, and Lebanon after the explosion and loss of Government; for small and poor nations without resources to buy vaccinations. May we share our resources with other countries, not guarding them jealously for ourselves.

L. Lord, hear us. **P. Lord, hear our prayer**

We are now in a period of opening up our communities after Lockdown, some quite cautiously. May we still care about the health of others as well as ourselves and observe health advice given. We give thanks for the pleasures of seeing friends again, having haircuts, eating out and re-uniting with family. We think of grieving families who have lost loved ones this week, not only to Covid but because of illness, accident or frailty. We pray for the people named in our Bulletin, and others known only to ourselves.

L. Lord, hear us. **P. Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for our Catholic sisters and brothers following their 5th Plenary Council of Australia in their hopes for renewal and change. We give thanks that lay people have been included for the first time. May your will be done through the discussions and plans for action.

We give thanks that the April Synod of NSW and the ACT voted to adopt a new strategy for the Uniting Church's Future Directions; for its *renewed commitment to ministry with people in the first third of their lives*; for its focus on growing the church. We give thanks for our minister, Myung Hwa Park, and her gifts for relationship and passion for the community both inside and outside our congregation. May we treasure our younger people and give them opportunities for discipleship and belonging.

L. Lord, hear us. **P. Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the return to face to face school learning be accompanied by care for the health of teachers, staff and children; and sufficient funds and flexibility to create a smooth return for all.

We give thanks for the gentle rain; for Springtime, its blossoms and new greening. Lord, help us to store up on earth things that truly matter ..., love, friends, experience, precious moments ... life in all its fullness. ...

God, thank you for storytellers, entertainers, comedians, writers ...

For people who make us laugh, bring us closer, give us understanding, give us hope; for people who open up to us the absurdity, wonder and mystery of being human. Prayer of Neil Paynter, Iona Community

And, in the words of George MacLeod of the Iona Community in Scotland: Almighty God ... Sun behind all suns, Soul behind all souls, ... Show to us in everything we touch and in everyone we meet The continued assurance of your presence round us Lest ever we should think you absent.

In all created things you are there, In every friend we have, the sunshine of your presence is shown forth. In every enemy that seems to cross our path, you are there within the cloud to challenge us to love. Show us the glory in the grey. AMEN

Let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples: *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.*

Closing hymn TiS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring you 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 you light; and where there's sadness, every joy.
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.
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 bone to eternal life.*
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.

Johan Sebastian Templehoff
1928-

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Benediction:

May the spirit of God , the restless wind of love sweeps through the world tend within us
desire to change , even change that seems impossible.

May the blessing of the creator, the redeemer and the enabler be with us now and always.

Music 'Truth to power'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4DFXUndvbw>