



Wesley Church Melbourne

Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia

Worship from Home!

1st August 2021

EVEN THOUGH
I WALK
THROUGH
THE VALLEY OF
THE SHADOW OF DEATH
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL
FOR YOU ARE WITH

me

PSALM 23:4

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the Kulin Nation,
traditional custodians of the land, under God.
We commit ourselves to work and pray for justice in this land.

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Call to Worship: (Psalm 46:1-3)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in times of trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Hymn 90 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, from Together in Songs, HarperCollins Religious. Public Domain. Organist: Geoff Urquhart. Soloist: John Lander

I'll praise my maker while I've breath,
and when my voice is lost in death
praise shall employ my nobler powers:
my days of praise shall ne'er be past,
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.

Happy are they whose hopes rely
on Israel's God, who made the sky,
and earth and sea, with all their train;
his truth for ever stands secure;
he saves the oppressed: he feeds the poor,
and none shall find his promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
the Lord supports the fainting mind;
and sends the labouring conscience peace;

he helps the stranger in distress,
the widow and the fatherless,
and grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise him while he lends me breath;
and when my voice is lost in death
praise shall employ my nobler powers:
my days of praise shall ne'er be past,
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.

Prayers of thanksgiving and confession

Holy God, you are the Giver and Goal
of everything that ever has been or ever will be.
Our minds founder when we try to imagine your eternity,
our souls are hushed when we approach your glory.
Here, in your Presence, our human pomposity
is cut down to size and we begin to see things in proportion.
We worship your greatness, we praise your generosity,
we glorify your patience,
we are grateful for your steadfast love.

Gracious and forgiving God,
have mercy on all that distorts our behaviour,
forgive the ease with which we get seduced by trivial goals,
the clumsiness and insecurity that mark our relationships,
the burdens and hurts we impose on one another,
the ways we dilute the Gospel to suit our prejudices.

Forgive and renew us in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Introduction of the theme with the children

“The bread of life”

Hymn 607 Make me a channel of your peace

by Johann Sebastian Templehoff ('Sebastian Temple') 1928-1997. Words by permission of Oregon Catholic Press. Taken from *Together in Song*, HarperCollins Religious. One License A-604653 Soloist: Grant Diffey. Pianist: Geoff Urquhart.

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.

*Oh 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.*

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.

*Oh 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.*

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

Readings

Reader: Charlotte Hall

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:
a light to our path.

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 8:15-28

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!^[a] Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[b] with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in^[a] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes^[a] for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes^[a] with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God,^[a] who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit^[a] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.^[a]

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^[a] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Lord may your Word live in us:
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Preaching

Rev Alistair Macrae

*“Jesus’s blood is my vaccine?
No! God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in times of trouble.”*

Hymn 647 Comfort, comfort all my people

By Robin Mann, 1949- © R. Mann. Taken from Together in Songs, HarperCollins Religious, One License A-604653. Organist: Geoff Urquhart. Soloist: John Lander

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
all your sins are taken away.*

Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living:
comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother:
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
all your sins are taken away.*

Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
comfort, comfort.

Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people:
all your sins are taken away.*

Robin Mann 1949 inspired by Isaiah 40

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Tom Hall

We pray for the members of this church,
Those who have been here a long time, the welcomed and visitors.
Bless the gifts we bring
and help us all grow in love for you and our neighbour.
We pray for the minister and all with responsibilities as
our mission develops its program of renewal Church on this site.
We pray that our faith will find new purpose and strength,
and may our environment and institutions revive and refresh.
Give us wisdom to face the future with confidence and determination.

Holy Spirit, who hears and heeds our sighs and groans;
intercede for us, in sighs too deep for words.

Dear Lord, give us perseverance in our time of need.
Drive us to seek hope, hope of the unseen promise
of a better world that lives and behaves according to your will.
May we live as good neighbours to each other and your creation,
explore and know your grace in the world,
know you more clearly
and find comfort in the generations of your believers.

Holy Spirit, who hears and heeds our sighs and groans;
intercede for us, in sighs too deep for words.

Teach us Lord as Jesus did the disciples,
to be humble and gracious at times of great expectation and uncertainty;
and to find the humility of a steadfast spirit to offer succour,
to give and to take in fellowship with each other.
May our love for you, O God, transform our lives, deepen our prayer
and strengthen our commitment to justice and peace in our world.

Holy Spirit, who hears and heeds our sighs and groans;
intercede for us, in sighs too deep for words.

In silence we pray for those we know
to be in special need of your comforting presence....

Holy Spirit, who hears and heeds our sighs and groans;
intercede for us, in sighs too deep for words.

Help us, Lord, abide in you as you abide in us.
May our belief initiate passion.
May our passion give consistency and continuity to our lives.
May we see through you that purpose gives hope
knowing that short doubts can strengthen belief
but longer doubts can bring despair.
And in all life's circumstances,
may Jesus be our friend and companion, in whose name we pray:

**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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn 153 God is love, let heav'n adore him

by Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, (alt.), Words by permission of Community of the Resurrection, UK, Now Public Domain. Taken from Together in Songs, HarperCollins Religious. Sung by John Lander. Organist: Geoff Urquhart. Recorded at Anglican parish of St Linus Merlynston

God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.

God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world is one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that self-same aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love, and, though with blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Benediction

On-site services will resume next Sunday, August 8th.

Our morning service will resume in the church next Sunday, led by Rev Dr Sandy Yule. We will be required to wear masks and to use the usual barcodes or sign-in procedures.

Weekly Roster

Sunday

1st August **In-person worship cancelled.**

Resource available online via the website:

<https://wesleychurchmelbourne.org.au/>

8th August 2021

(Covid Permitting)

Sunday

11 am In-person Worship

Minister

Rev Dr Sandy Yule

Door Stewards

Laurine Loke, Isabel Thomas Dobson

Vestry Steward

Margaret Cross

Reader

John Lander

Prayers of the People

Dinah Reddibough

Children's Leader

Sharon Hollis

No evening Service

The next Evening Service (we hope!) will be on 15th August 2021

Giving

You can contribute by setting up a regular or occasional transfer from your bank account into the Wesley Church Melbourne Offerings Account.

Direct Transfer

BSB 013 423

Account Number 472 967 586

OR PayID: **WesleyMelbOffering@gmail.com**

If you'd like to set up a regular transfer, please contact us at **churchoffice@wesleychurch.org.au** for more details.

Daily readings for this week

Monday	2nd August	Psalm 34:1-8
Tuesday	3rd August	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Wednesday	4th August	Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Thursday	5th August	Ephesians 5:3-14
Friday	6th August	1 Kings 19:4-8
Saturday	7th August	John 6:35, 41-51

Readings

1st August 2021

2 Sm 11:26–12:13a

Ps 51:1-12

Eph 4:1-16

Jn 6:24-35

8th August 2021

2 Sm 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Ps 130

Eph 4:25–5:2

Jn 6:35, 41-51

Our Ministers

Rev Alistair Macrae

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Days off: Monday and Friday

Rev Dr Sandy Yule (part-time)

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Tuesdays to Thursdays

Verger

Alex Yam

Check out <http://wesleychurch.org.au> for the latest news, events and sermons!



A DISTURBING TREND

By Bill Pugh

For a variety of reasons, people are choosing a civil celebrant for the conduct of marriages and funerals. However, there is something unsatisfactory about this shift, particularly as families with one-time church connections are choosing these options. There is evidence of failure in the church's teaching.

I was invited to the funeral of an old friend whose family was once regular in attendance at our parish church. A civil celebrant was invited to conduct the service and MC the occasion. It was an oily performance, with poetry, weak humour and platitudes about this man he had never met. Lastly a man from the yacht club, a mate, added his bit. What a good bloke was so and so ... and he

hasn't really left us. Really, I thought? And the widow and his family looked glum. "Why won't he come home with us then?" was the unheard expression. Then our celebrant invited us for drinks and a super afternoon tea. No word of hope.

Next was my brother's funeral in his home church. No celebrant but a Minister of the Word.

Years ago my brother had set out the order of service, hymns and selected scripture, with the present minister to officiate.

We sang his favourites, heard Psalm, Epistle and Gospel, and a family eulogy. Then the Minister delivered his message of hope, 25 minutes on the immortality of the soul.

Reflection:

So what has happened? Somehow the church and its ministry has failed in preaching, teaching, mission and witness. We need to get the fundamentals right.

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by Gabriela Clara Marinho | August 2021



Moderator's Emergency Response Fund

The new Moderator's Emergency Response Fund helps Victorian and Tasmanian communities with assistance in times of emergencies. Donations can be made at any time, not just in response to a specific emergency. To donate, visit www.victas.uca.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
UNITED IN WORD AND SACRAMENT

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