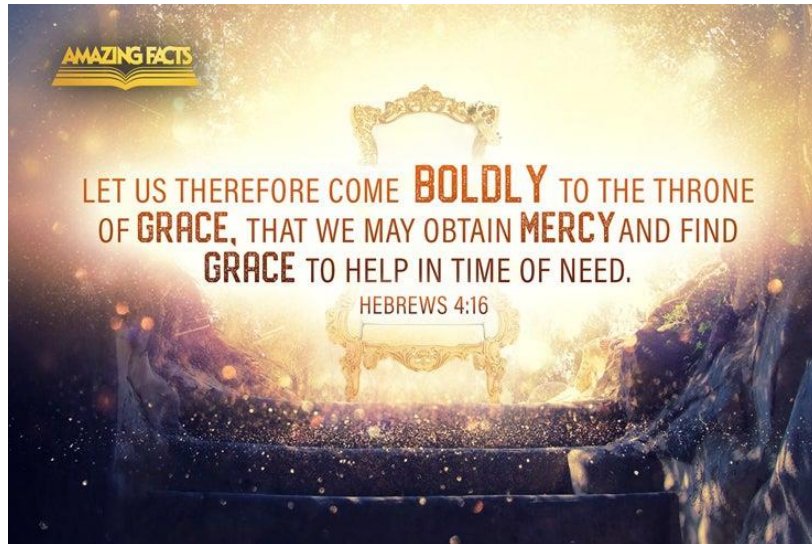




**Sunday Service for Woden Valley and Weston Creek
Uniting Churches**

10 October 2021



Pentecost 20

Leader: Irene Lund

Reader: Merrelin Robbins

Prayers: John Robbins

Responses: Elizabeth Cowan

Music: Helen Swan and Brendan O’Loughlin

We Gather as people of God

The Gong is struck three times

The gong sounds. We hold silence. We listen to the gong calling us to gather, calling us to be present in this time of worship.

Prelude Music

Acknowledgement of Country

Lighting the community candle

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world,
may its light brighten our spirits,
may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Call to worship

We are here

in the name of Jesus Christ,

to worship the God who gives us life and sustains it,

and to praise the Spirit who enlightens us.

Great is our God and deserves our greatest praise,

God is awesome beyond all our imagining.

Each generation shall pass on the good news to the next,

and shall publicly celebrate God's saving actions

Song God is Love let Heav'n adore him TiS 153

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 in 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 selfsame aching

deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness

sin afflicts our human hearts,

God's eternal loving-kindness

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.

Timothy Rees 1874-1939

CLI 45033

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!
And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another

Unmute yourself as you share a sign of peace with your neighbours.

Song **Hymn:** Be Still for the presence of the Lord1

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of Light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

We Reflect on the Word for our time

Singing the Psalms: Psalm 22 (TiS 9)

Response:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me,
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:
'He trusted in the Lord, let God save him and come to
free him if this is God's friend.'

Response

They divide my clothes among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me.

Response

I will tell your name to my people
and praise you where they gather.
All you who fear the Lord, sing your praises;
all tribes of Jacob, give your glory.

Response

Job 23: 1-9, 16-17

Then Job answered:

'Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.
O that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!
I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.
I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.
Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.
There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted for ever by my judge.'

‘If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!

Our Prayer of Lament

O Lord, how long shall we cry for help,
And you will not listen?
Or cry to you, ‘Violence!’
And you will not save?
Why do you make us see wrong-doing
And look at trouble?

In faith and hope, we respond:
‘How long, O God, how long?’

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defences;
You have been angry with us; now restore us! Psalm 60:1

How long, O people, how long?
‘How long, O God, how long?’

Where is your justice, God?
Where is your purpose?
Where is your reason?
Where is your compassion?
Do you not care for your people,
Your creation, your reputation?
Your purpose is hidden from our eyes.
Your reason is absent from our ears.
Your compassion is not discerned by our hearts.
We have no hope.
We are lost.
We are afraid.

A time of silence

Affirmation of Hope in Christ

In faith, we appeal to God.
In hope, we will not let God go.
In love we claim God's attention.
Let us honour the God who receives our cries,
And gathers us to herself even as we continue to call

We praise you, O God

In your humility, you seek us.
In your mercy, you keep us.
In your humiliation, you glorify us.
In your generosity you provide for us.
In your wisdom, you place us.
In your might, you shield us.
In your governance, you make us holy.
In your communion, you teach us.
In your love, you lift us up.

Amen

Uniting in Worship 2

Hebrews 4: 12-16

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A Reflection Where is God?

Music for reflection

We Respond to the Word

Prayers of the People *The care candle is lit*

Offering

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 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.***

Song 655 (TIS) O let the Son of God enfold you

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life
and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.

We Go out into the World

Words of Blessing

Go boldly into the future which God has claimed.
Know that the God who holds all things will be there,
that Christ who calls us friend will walk beside us,
and that the Spirit who makes all things new
will mark our way with light and hope.

Go in Peace Amen

The Community Candle is extinguished

Postlude *(a time for quiet reflection – please remain seated)*

'This week' at Woden Valley and Weston Creek Uniting Churches

Notices

Church News, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.