



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

**10 a.m. Worship
17 September 2023**

Leader: Joan Palmer
Readers: Piers Booth, Matt Jackson, Libby Coates
Music: Joan Pratt
Technical: Melissa Sinn and Lachlan Facchini

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

We Gather as People of God

The Gong is sounded

We are still and the reverberations of the gong call us to settle and be present.

Prelude Season of Creation

'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' Amos 5:34

Acknowledgement of First People

Lighting the Community Candle

Season of Creation

'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' Amos 5:34

Call to worship

The fire has its flame and praises God.

The wind blows the flame and praises God.

In the voice we hear the word which praises God.

And the word, when heard, praises God.

So all of creation is a song of praise to God. Hildegard of Bingen

Welcome

Song All are welcome Marty Haugan

Prayer

Simply to be, to be in stillness,
simply to trust that God is here,
simply to know the Holy Presence,
is to be blessed:
so are we blessed.

simply to hold the given moment,
simply to lay concern aside,
simply to let the heart be speaking,
is to be blessed:
so are we blessed.

so are we blessed within God's keeping,
so are we freed from pointless stress,
steadied to feel the soul replenished,
given this grace,
folded in peace. Amen (Shirley Erena Murray from 'Hope is our Song)

Passing the peace

We sing 'Shalom to each other and then pass the peace as usual

Song Shalom x2

Shalom my friend
Gods peace be with you
Gods peace be with you
Shalom, Shalom

We will now pass the peace in whichever way you feel comfortable

Song TIS 181 Come O God of all the earth

Readings

1 A Reading based on the Ninetieth Psalm God's eternity and human frailty *From Dorethee Soelle On Earth as in Heaven A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing 1993*

Lord you have been our dwelling place for all generations!
Before the mountains were brought forth and the oceans, before the little blue planet,
On which life multiplies through love and union, were born from you after a long pregnancy,
You were there waiting for us.
You allow cultures to perish and they separate from you,

and call others into being.
What seemed to us a thousand years and unchanging,
the bloody violence .
is to you a short watch in the night.
Even tyrants break down exhausted,
economic conglomerates dissolve,
and the knowledge of infallible parties
becomes last years snow.
Slavery was profitable and flourished,
but in the evening of your day it withered.
The fruits of armament climbed to the sky,
but your anger consumed them,
and your wrath will destroy the stolen property.
You make known our plundering of the poor;
you bring to light our veiled crimes.
Our days pass away quickly in fear of the truth;
we spend our years as if on a drug trip
that turns into horror.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

Our life here is seventy years;
in other lands many will not live even four years.
Here we push eighty and more,
but joy has become stale;
technology drags us alone.
Who has faith in you, poor God,
without nuclear bombs and without banks,
and who is afraid when your fish die?
Remind us that we are small,
dwelling here briefly on borrowed earth.
Teach us that we must die
and have no time for all the hatred
that makes our low flying planes howl.
Teach us to number the days
in which we think of you and call upon you.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

Turn your countenance us, O God;
come to those who watch for you.
Satisfy us in the morning with your light,
so hat we make music, and no day is without Joy.
Make us glad again after all the years of emptiness
in the land of looters,
where blood cleaves to our bank-balances.

Bring us bread and roses , O God;
your splendour is in the hair of children.
Let your light be upon us, making it easy for us to come and go.
Help us preserve your world
and establish the work of our hands,
the good work of liberation.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

From Dorothee Soelle On Earth as in Heaven A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing 1993

2 A reading from Cecily Taylor

This reading conveys the meaning of the scripture for today Romans 14 1-12

Imagine if we could harness that kind of power to vanquish hate, greed, and fear.

Our world is one world:
what touches one affects us all:
the seas that wash us round about,
the clouds that cover us, the rains that fall.

Our world is one world:
the thoughts we think affect us all:
the way we build our attitudes,
with love or hate, we make a bridge or wall.

Our world is one world:
its ways of wealth affect us all:
the way we spend, the way we share,
who are the rich or poor, who stand or fall?

Our world is one world:
just like a ship that bears us all:
where fear and greed make many holes,
but where our hearts can hear a different call.

What touches one does affect us all. May we be well warned and well prepared.

Hymn TiS 674 Inspired by love and anger

Reading 3 again from Dorothee Soelle

Even in us there is some of this Utopia.

The religious have many different names for God that answer the question of where God is to be found. Some stress silence, the solitariness of the heart, the sinking into collective unconscious. The biblical traditions added another name to the different names of God, and it seldom appears another religions in this strictness and precision. That is the name righteousness or justice, the heart of our Jewish and Christian tradition. Without it there can be no prayer, no incense, no meditative

absorption. Without the poor there can be no nearness to God. Justice is the way that we can discover God. Justice is the will of God. For its sake the Bible speaks incessantly the poor and warns that the riches we heap between ourselves and the poor also hide us from God and bar the way to God. Is god then involved the economic order? The Bible says yes, and it takes sides with the poorest.

From Dorethee Soelle On Earth as in Heaven A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing 1993 p 63/4

Reflection and sharing

Rivers of living water are to be poured out over the whole world, to ensure that people, like fishes caught in a net, can be restored to wholeness. Hildegard of Bingen

Music for quiet reflection

Hymn TiS 690 Beauty for Brokenness

Reading from Dorethee Soelle On Earth as in Heaven A Liberation Spirituality of Sharing 1993 p ix

“On Earth as it is in Heaven” is prayer, not a statement. It claims our hope for this world and for ourselves: there will be a time when God’s will or dream will be done not only in God’s realm among cherubim and seraphim be on earth among principalities and powers as well. To pray does not mean to ask someone else to fulfil, instead of us, what we cannot bring forward. It means to cooperate with God, it asks that we may be empowered and commissioned. We may say God has a dream about us humans; in prayer we end letting God dream alone, we participate in Gods Dream, we join in Gods dream.

Time for our prayers as the care candle is lit.

The Care Candle Song *Remain seated*

Aaron Harper, 2011

We take a match,
And light a spark,
To show the want,
Within our hearts,
To share each joy,
To bear each pain,
We take spark,
and light a flame.

We take a flame,
And light a fire,
To represent,
Our hearts desire,
To share our hopes,

To bear our shames,
We take a spark,
And light a flame,
We light a flame.

The Prayers of the people

Loving God

Let us be present in prayer for compassion in our political leaders....*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for truth and consideration for the upcoming referendum - *short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia.....*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for peace in other areas of conflict in our world...*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for people who are sick in mind or body or suffer addiction...*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for our neighbours who are lonely, homeless, or fleeing domestic violence ...*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer for people who are in the midst of natural disasters - floods, fire, earthquakes, landslides and famine....

Let's be present in prayer for our personal petitions.....*short silence*

Let us be present in prayer to help us play our part in bringing about justice and equity in our world*short silence*

We pray these prayers in the belief that we are bonded with God's Spirit with everything that exists. We pray with faith and confidence. Amen

These prayers are adapted from Michael Morwood "Praying a new Story" and Ruth Duck "Bread for the Journey"

Let us Join together in the Alternative Abba Prayer

**God - heart of the world:
revealed through every aspect of creation:
understood through our awareness.**

**May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.
May we always be thankful for the food we eat**

and the friends we have.

**May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our own.**

**In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat
and not be compromised by hesitation.**

**Through our freedom, may your justice
be seen and heard and experienced
forever and ever. Amen. (Sherri J Weinberg)**

Song TIS 181 Come o God of all the earth

Blessing

Go into the world and see it with fresh eyes as
God's good and great creation.

And may we find new ways of justice, more love in small things and the joy of the
life of the universe in all it's Godly harmonies

Word of Mission

Don't let yourself forget that God's grace rewards not only those who never slip, but
also those who bend and fall. So sing! The song of rejoicing softens hard hearts. It
makes tears of godly sorrow flow from them. Singing summons the Holy Spirit.

Happy praises offered in simplicity and love lead the faithful to complete harmony,
without discord. Don't stop singing. *Hildegard of Bingen*

Postlude *YouTube For everyone born a place at the table*

The Community Candle is extinguished

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Let us join in the Fellowship of Morning tea

References: [CCLI licence#546647](#); [Praying a new Story Michael Morwood 2003](#);
[readings and reflection from Dorethee Soelle On Earth as in Heaven A Liberation
Spirituality of Sharing1993](#); [Prayers and ritual https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/
creation4ariver2492023](#)

For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table

Shirley Murray
Tune: Mensa

Verse 1

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 2

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 3

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hand of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 4

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
Abuser, abuse, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
For just and unjust, a new way to live,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 5

For everyone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!