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St. Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark
Sunday 21st October, 2018
22nd Sunday after Pentecost.
Celebrating Frontier Services – Leader: Marj Hookey
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“For the love of helping people.”

Welcome

All are invited to share morning tea together following the service.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FIRST PEOPLES

From river to ocean,
From campfire to hearth,
May the First People who have cared for this land be blessed.
From breath to song,
From step to dance,
May those who follow your song-lines, guide us on the journey, of living
honourably in this place.
From greeting to Amen,
from silence to chorus,
May our worship join with the voices of the First Peoples of this land.

GATHERING

Heavenly Father,
Light of our hearts,
Guide us, show us the way to help those who you place before us.
If you want us to help them,
Lord, show us how.
We need your guidance.
We want to live according to your will and become more like you.
It is our hope,
Heavenly Father, to be of Service to you,

To help those in need,
To be a servant to humankind.
Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Author of all marvels, we praise you. Creator of all things heavenly and earthly, we praise you. Your power and your wisdom are everywhere displayed. You have placed the night skies to be a roof over our heads, and the solid and fruitful earth to be the ground under our feet. O Father and Guardian of humankind, we thank and praise you. Amen

WE SING Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand (*Tis 188*)

1

Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.

2

Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

3

Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

4

Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

THE EARLY WORD - Video: Logos, Cunnamulla & Sunny's Story

WE SING When I needed a neighbour (*Tis 629*)

1

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

2

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

3

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

4

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

5

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?

6

When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?

When they put me in prison, were you there?

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 41:17-20

When the poor and needy seek water,

and there is none,

and their tongue is parched with thirst,

I the Lord will answer them,

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I will open rivers on the bare heights,

and fountains in the midst of the valleys;

I will make the wilderness a pool of water,

and the dry land springs of water.

I will put in the wilderness the cedar,

the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;

I will set in the desert the cypress,

the plane and the pine together,

so that all may see and know,

all may consider and understand,

that the hand of the Lord has done this,

the Holy One of Israel has created it.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 13 : 1-7 and 13.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

.....

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

.....for the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God who came down to us.

Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost.

Split open our frozen hearts that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting.

Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, into that Kingdom of grace and hope.

We would want to be foundations of hope for others, God of glory, but people only find hardened hearts.

We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you.

We long to stand with those in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgement.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the Good News:

In Christ, God's chosen plan for salvation
was accomplished.
You are forgiven, you are made new.
We will complete God's joy by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with
everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God. Amen

REFLECTION - Video: John Flynn's - "Mantle of safety" . Frontier Services.

WE SING Creator of this great world we adore you.

(Ross Langmead copyright free.)

Creator of this great land, we adore You!
Renewer of Your people, hear our praise!
Transformer of all life,
You often take us by surprise!
Continue to be present in life-giving ways!

Creator of this great land, we adore You!
Renewer of Your people, hear our praise!
Transformer of all life,
You often take us by surprise!
Continue to be present in life-giving ways - Great God!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD.

OFFERING

PRAYER

Loving God, the one who is with us in times of uncertainty as well as in times of security and optimism - we dedicate this offering to you today in the Name of Jesus. May it help to bring your love to those who are suffering terrible uncertainty and daily pain, and give hope to those despairing because of what life has brought them. Inspire us all to actively work for creative changes, that reflect your compassion, love and care. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

May new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
Made companions, free and fair.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done.
On earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.**

SHARING FROM THE CHILDREN

SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WE SING Lord for the years

(Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith – Music Michael Baughen CCLI)

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardon'd and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us.
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt You,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living pow'r remake us
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Video – Frontier Services explained to encourage donations

SENDING PRAYER

Take heart. You do not travel alone.
The Timeless God travels with you in all your endeavours,
an integral part of all your joys and all your sorrows.
Be comforted by this knowledge.
Praise be to God.

BENEDICTION.

WE SING For you deep stillness of the silent inland

(All Together Whatever 494)

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;

for you, sweet water from hidden springs;
from the edges seek the heartland,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you –
In the Name of Christ,
In the Name of Christ.

For you, warm comfort of the flickering firelight;
For you, sweet melting of winter snows;
For you, bright green of the land's emerging;
For you, clouds lifting from darkened skies;
From the cold place, seek the heartlands,
and when you're chilled by the journey,
May the warm breath of the hovering Spirit
Soothe and replenish you,
In the Name of Christ,
In the Name of Christ,
In the Name of Christ.