

The Service of Worship

St Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark

December 30th, 2018

Leader: Lay Preacher – Lyn Bromage

Christmas I

We Gather to Worship God

CALL TO WORSHIP:

This is the place

The place where God is joyfully worshipped.

This is the time.

The time that we know God is with us in the coming year.

These are the friends.

The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when the testing comes.

This is the faith.

The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes our future.

Let us pray:

The old year is going:

The new year is coming with the promise of worship.

The old year is going:

The new year is coming with the promise of new truth.

The old year is going:

The new year is coming with the promise of friendship.

The old year is going:

The new year is coming with the promise of an end to injustice.

The old year is going:

The new year is coming, with the assurance that you, our loving God, are eternally with us. Amen.

(Acknowledgement - From "Prayers to Share Year A" by David Sparks)

HYMN: 96 Sing praise to the Lord

1

Sing praise to the Lord! praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, you angels of light;
all heaven adore him by whom you were made,
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.

2

Sing praise to the Lord! praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord sing praise for new birth;
praise him who has brought you his grace from above,
praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.

3

Sing praise to the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory tell forth in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what he has done.

4

Sing praise to the Lord! thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along;
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year, O God.

We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, the setbacks - all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

We celebrate our friendships and our family ties, O god.

We reflect on the times of uncaring, poor communication, and of strained relationships - all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

We celebrate the fulfilment we have found within the faith community.

We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and on blindness to the work of the wider Church - all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus, to follow him carefully and to take his word to heart - all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thanks be to God.

We Listen for the Word of God

Early Word

Hymn 573 A charge to keep I have

1

A charge to keep I have,
a God to glorify,
a never-dying soul to save,

made fit for God on high:

2

to serve the present age,
my calling to fulfil:

O may it all my powers engage
to do my Master's will!

3

Arm me with zealous care,
as in your sight to live;
and O your servant, Lord, prepare
a strict account to give.

4

Help me to watch and pray,
and on yourself rely,
so shall I not my trust betray,
nor shall I ever die.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Book of Psalms. Number 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.¹

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

- ¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

The Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians. Chapter 3, Verses 12 to 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ^[b] dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.^[c] ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

THE GOSPEL according to Saint Luke. Chapter 2, Verses 41 to 56

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

MEDITATION ON THE SCRIPTURE

(We apologise that this segment is not available this week as Lyn Bromage owns its copyright and has asked that it be not published here).

HYMN: 617 (Tune 603) By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered

1

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

2

Yet is this heart by the old year tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear.
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

3

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good, and so beloved, a hand.

4

Yet when again, in this same world, you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone

We Respond to God

OFFERING, DEDICATION

Into your hands we present our gifts, O God, for your blessing;

They are

Given for praise,

Given for support,

Given for the powerless,

Given justly,

Given carefully,

Given joyfully,

Given in community,

Given for global healing.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

(Acknowledgement - From "Prayers to Share Year A" by David Sparks)

NOTICES

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 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.*

The Sending Forth of the People of God

“Show and Tell” by the children

HYMN: 571 Forth in thy name O Lord I go

1

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
you, Lord, alone resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.

2

Each task your wisdom has assigned
still let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.

3

You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.

4

Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day;

5

for you delightfully employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven

BENEDICTION:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN 778 Shalom to you now

Shalom to you now,
Shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you my friends.

In all your living, and through your loving,
Christ be your Shalom,
Christ be your Shalom.

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