

Kogarah Uniting Church

February 26, 2023

We Gather

Welcome

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

Call To Worship, acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

The Traditional Custodians are stewards on behalf of our Almighty Creator

We promise to walk softly and gently on this land.

Sing – Father all loving – TiS 160

Father all-loving and ruling in majesty,
judgement is yours, and condemns all our pride;
stir up our rulers and people to penitence,
sorrow for sins that for vengeance have cried.

Blessed Lord Jesus, born humbly in poverty,
sharing a stable with beasts at your birth,
stir us to work for your justice and charity,
truly to care for the poor upon earth.

Come, Holy Spirit, create in us holiness,
lift up our lives to your standard of right;
stir every will to new ventures of faithfulness,
flood the whole church with your glorious light.

Holiest Trinity, perfect in unity,
bind in your love every nation and race:
may we adore you for time and eternity,
Father, Redeemer and Spirit of grace.

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Adoration/Invocation/Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Litany for Lent

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, we confess to you, and to one another, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and our failure to be completely honest with ourselves or with other people;

We confess to you, Lord.

Our preoccupation with our comforts or possessions, and our dishonesty in daily life and work;

We confess to you, Lord.

Our exploitation of other people, and our envy of those with more talent than ourselves;

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith we have;

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to

human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours, and for prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us;

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us;

Accept our repentance, Lord.

(Silence is observed)

Restore us, good Lord;

Grant us forgiveness and time for amendment of life.

Strengthen us to overcome temptation;

And empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord;

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.-- John 3:17

Dear friends, the gospel by which we seek to live states unequivocally that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. On the authority of this gospel I declare to all who truly repent: in Jesus Christ you are forgiven; for which we give glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sing – O God, you search me and you know me – Seasons 7-28

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

When I walk or lie down, you are before me:

ever the maker and keeper of my

You know my resting and my rising.

You discern my purpose from afar,

and with love everlasting you besiege me:

in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Words based on Psalm 139

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We Listen for God's Voice

A reading from the Hebrew scriptures: Genesis 2 : 15-17, 3 : 1-7

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will

be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reading from the Christian scriptures: Romans 5 : 12-15

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

Reading from the Christian scriptures: Matthew 4 : 1-11

⁴Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Sing – Jesus, tempted in the desert – tune TiS 493

Jesus tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:

“Use your power,” the tempter tells him; “turn these barren rocks to bread!”

“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “can the human heart be filled.

Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!”

Jesus tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:

“Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!”

Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:

“God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test.”

Jesus tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:

“Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!”

Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:

“God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!”

When we face temptation’s power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,

Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour, come and be our living bread.

By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray.

Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

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We Respond

Offering

Announcements – ppt

Prayer For Us and for Others

Holy Communion

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy Communion

Sing- Let us break bread together – TiS 511

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

As we travel through this land,

all God's children hand in hand,

Lord, fill all our living with your life.

Let us drink wine together with the Lord!

Let us drink wine together with the Lord!

As we travel through this land,

all God's children hand in hand,

Lord, fill all our living with your life.

Let us sing songs together with the Lord!

Let us sing songs together with the Lord!

As we travel through this land,

all God's children hand in hand,

Lord, fill all our living with your life.

Let us all work together for the Lord!

Let us all work together for the Lord!

As we travel through this land,
all God's children hand in hand,
Lord, fill all our living with your life.

PD ; based on an African-American spiritual

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Invitation:

The feast has been prepared - for us!
This is not my table,
it is not the church's - this is the feast offered to us by our God the generous
Provider.

So, come to this Feast.

Come, if your faith is blossoming and full – and come, if it is but a tiny seed planted
in your heart.

Come, if you always show up for this meal – and come, if this is the your very first
taste.

Great Thanksgiving Prayer

The Host of the feast be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who refreshes them into grace.

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

We praise the One who has prepared us for love and service.

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,
for you have given us the free gift of righteousness and life.

You created the world, abundant and fertile,
and entrusted it to us.

With every word that comes from your mouth,
you feed us with the fruit of life
and show us how to avoid the fruit of death.

When sin entered the world through one man's deceit,
we were all left, poisoned by shame,

our strength withering as in a summer drought.
But now, through one man, Jesus Christ,
righteousness has come.

He was tested in the wilderness
but refused to compromise with evil,
even when it came disguised
as compassion, knowledge and reason.
Though he was killed, you raised him to life,
and in him we have received the abundance of grace
that we might stand before you cleansed of all evil and deceit.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
as we celebrate with the people of every time and place, singing to your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy are you,
God who feeds us with the feast of grace and hope.
Your wonder works of creation praise your name.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes,
calling to us on the basis of love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is your son, Jesus,
whose trusted your perfect power in his weakness on the cross,
and who has entrusted us with his mission
of serving and proclaiming your steadfast love
from the wilderness to the cities
from a local community to the ends of the earth.

With remembrance of his life,
in the joy of the resurrection,
in anticipation of his return,
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:
Christ came, that we might know God's love;
Christ died, that our souls might be healed;

Christ will come again, that our hearts will be united with God's.

Words of institution

Jesus Christ, who on the night that he was betrayed,
took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper,

he took the cup and gave you thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

'This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unite us with him for ever and bring us with the whole creation
to your eternal kingdom.

We pray this in Christ's name,
who taught us how to pray, saying...

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 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.**

Breaking the Bread / Pouring of Wine

Christ is the bread of life,

Food for healing and wholeness.

Christ is the cup of hope,

Wellspring of resurrection life.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts

Be found and grow in Christ

And Christ in us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

grant us peace.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

Most gracious God, you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the Bread of life and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you, and ask that our daily living
may be part of the life of your kingdom.

May our love be your love, reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sing- Sent forth by God's blessing – TiS 531

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.

The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.

The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.

His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
the task of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each race.

One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.

Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

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Blessing and sending

It was written that the Messiah was to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations. You are witnesses of these things.

-- Luke 24:46-48

Sing- A Christmas blessing – TiS 779

May the feet of God walk with you,
and God's hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,
and God's ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and God's breath give you life.

May the child of God grow in you,
and God's love bring you home.

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