

ORDER OF SERVICE KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH 20/10/24

LIVING WITH MAJESTY

WELCOME:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

In a world divided,
you call us into unity.
In a world of getting,
you call us to be giving.
In a world of brokenness,
you call into healing.
God calls us in this moment,
and in every moment
Let us worship.

God of all-knowing, you know us each so well.
You know our secret fears.
You know our hidden hurts.
You know the damage we inflict on each other
and on ourselves.
Remind us today, here, in this place,
that you are the great doctor of souls,
the one who binds up the wounded
and restores the damaged.
And may we live whole, renewed lives.
Amen.

LIGHT THE CANDLE: God is here.....God is with us

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

As we gather for worship, we acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded grounds of the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation who have used their wisdom to care for this creation for millennia. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit to listening to their wisdom and humbly walking together in pursuit of truth, justice and reconciliation.

MISSION STATEMENT:

**Our vision is to be a loving and caring community, sharing God's love with the world.
We are a congregation who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles.
We are creating a safe place for the community and sharing the journey of life and faith.**

SING: **O for a thousand tongues to sing** **TIS/210**

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,

my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of our God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
that bids our sorrows cease;
such music in the sinner's ears
is life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
your loosened tongues employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

PSALM 104: 1-9; 24, 35C

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

2 wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

3 you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

4 you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

5 You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

6 You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

7At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

8They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

9You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

24O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

35C Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

God, we know that Jesus was not concerned with rank or privilege.
We know that he lived in the truth that all people are your children.
He knew that everyone he met was created in your image.
We know he welcomed all as you welcomed him.
We know this, and yet, we find it so hard to abandon all the false hierarchies amongst us.
We find it impossible to live without comparing ourselves to others.
And, so very often, we do not see the glory of God shining from the face of another.
Forgive us, God.
Forgive us our little systems of control,
our prejudices, pettiness, and smallness.
And all of this while we live in your world of goodness.
Forgive us. This is our humble prayer.

And God's assurance of forgiveness:

God's heart for the world is light and life.
God's Spirit in the world moves with transforming love.
Hear God's Good News for beloved people;
In Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

God of all hopefulness, God of all care,
we give thanks that your infinite patience waits for us,
your infinite compassion comforts us,
and your infinite love envelopes us.
We glimpse the life you have for us,
but often so dimly and so infrequently.
We so often live as if we know all that there is to know about each day.
We live as if the smallness of our experience is all there is.
Forgive us for the smallness of our vision,
the greyness of our dreams,
and the meanness of our joy.
Come to us as you always do in great, glad generosity
that we might fully be alive in you.

We thank you that you always offer us a life of joy and hope.
Amen.

PEACE;

SING: Community of Christ TIS/473

Community of Christ
make your cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in the street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When malice melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Job 38: 1 - 7

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: 2“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

4“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone 7when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

34“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? 35Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? 36Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? 37Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, 38when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? 39“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, 40when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert?

41Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES:

Hebrews 5: 1-10

Mark 10: 35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" 37And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; 40but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

REFLECTION:

SING:

We are your people; Spirit of Grace

TIS/468

We are your people;
Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us
to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community,
treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbours,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition,
help us to see

in all life's changing,
where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture
justice and care
(peaceful, resisting,
waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.

Christ as we serve you
in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.

OFFERING:

God of love and care.
May this money and all that we have and are
be used by you and your Church this week
to make this world more like the world as you want it to be;
full of love, justice and hope.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

God, of all that is known and all that is unknown,
we pray today for all those living in fear of the unknown.
We pray for those who do not know from where their next meal will come;
for those who do not know if or when their government will break down their door;
for those who do not know how they will endure another long, lonely night.
for those amongst us, who are ill.
None of us know what the future holds,
but we trust that you hold us close in our fear and uncertainty.

We pray also for those who do think they know,
who live completely sure of their own capacity to know and control the world around them,
and for those who know with certainty what is good for others and what must be done.
None of us know what the future holds.
Give us humility, courage and gentleness as we face the unknown in all of our lives.

We pray, God of all hopefulness,
for a world where every person will know themselves heard.
We pray for a world where the deep needs of every human being
will be able to be spoken aloud, and where we will,
together address those needs.

Make us a community that seeks, prays for,
and works for such a community, such a culture.
Give us the courage to speak and the courage to act.
Amen.

SING: **From heaven you came, helpless babe** **TIS/256**

From heav'n you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.
This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will, but yours', he said.
This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

BLESSING:

God calls us to courage.
God calls us to step into the unknown
with only the trust and hope of God's presence,
with only the role of the servant to guide us.
So, let us go in courage.

Let us go in hope.
Let us go in trust.
Let us go in God.
Amen.

SENDING OUT SONG: Let all creation dance TIS/187

Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time,
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings: "Your will be done."

Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul heaven's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend
and kindly tend creation's song.