

Welcome to Worship

Balmain Uniting Church

July 25th, 2021



image: David Close on Unsplash

liturgy: Words for Worship, Uniting in Worship II and Rev. James Aaron

CCLI #339483

This weeks Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 214

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

Acknowledgment of Country

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation, traditional custodians of this land with God. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice for all people and all creation.

Let us collect in silence.

— A Silent Collect —

Lighting the Christ light.

Christ is the light to the world.

And the darkness has not over come it.

Call to Worship

Light and shadow are present in our days,
Yet, with you, O God of love,
We are able to see the light even in the darkest space.

We come to worship your abundant love,
And long to gather in this sacred place.
With each other,
Knowing one another,
Be with us, especially in these days.
AMen.

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

God, This last week has been full and flown past,
From busyness to boredom,
Not enough people, too many people,
We are unsettled.

In success and delight, we celebrate,
So much comes before us, in both small and significant ways.
Our thoughts pile high and cover our worries,
We meet abundant problems, and sometimes miss the simple solutions.
We focus on what is not, rather than what is.

In this space, let us lay our worries before our Listening God.

...

We are sorry that we miss your abundant care,
We are sorry we blame people for things which are out of their control.
We are sorry to take the easy route of disliking the other instead of
embracing our shared humanness.
We are sorry to let fear cloud our judgement of grace and care.
You are wisdom, and guidance, and often the answer for and to us.
Help us hear, see and know you.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

God hears and watches and knows each of us.
God is abundant love, and loves each of us.
In this knowledge we embrace that love,
Remembering we are forgiven
Thanks be to God.

We pray thanks;

Generous God, who offers the unexpected relief,
Who steps into our chaotic joys, anxieties, mistakes and successes.
We welcome your love.

In wonder and hope, we worship you,
You continue to create more with what we have to offer or give.
At times when we tire in our faith, hope, love and peace,
When we hunger for more,
You have met our needs, in and through each other,
Through mystery and the stranger,
Through the unnameable and the ordinary.

Our souls are filled with wonder and our hearts with love,
And so we praise you,
Our God of abundant love.

Hymn / Song:

The Liturgy of the Word

All Age Conversation

Reading

John 6:1-21

New Revised Standard Version

Feeding the Five Thousand

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.^[a] **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages^[b] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,
9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" **10** Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they[c] sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." **13** So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." **15** When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles,[d] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. **20** But he said to them, "It is I;[e] do not be afraid." **21** Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Sermon -

God may your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn/ Song:

Prayers of the People.

God of the trinity, lover of the world,
We commit our prayers for others, your world and ourselves today.

....

In your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

...

Open our eyes,
heal broken hearts and spirits,
teach us how to feed the hungry and provide shelter to those in need,
how to speak words of peace, and offer hope.
in all that we do and all that we say.

Amen.

Prayers over the offering

God,
Take all we have to offer, take our week and let it be used in your work of love
and care, sustaining society with hope and better ways of living and being,
just as you are, Jesus, fed a crowd of unknowns as if they were a united
family. May we create a picnic of hope and welcoming love with all whom we
meet this week, through zoom, being polite in our grocery run, in our
checking in with each other, and in all we have to give to this community and
beyond it.
Amen.

The Sending forth of the people of God

Commissioning and Blessing

We are God's children,
Forgiven, loved and blessed,
Sent that we might be bearers of hope and joy in the world.

**May the love of God enfold you,
The presence of Christ surprise you,
And the breath of the Spirit give you joy.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Amen