

Welcome to Worship

Balmain Uniting Church

June 13th, 2021

The Mustard Seed

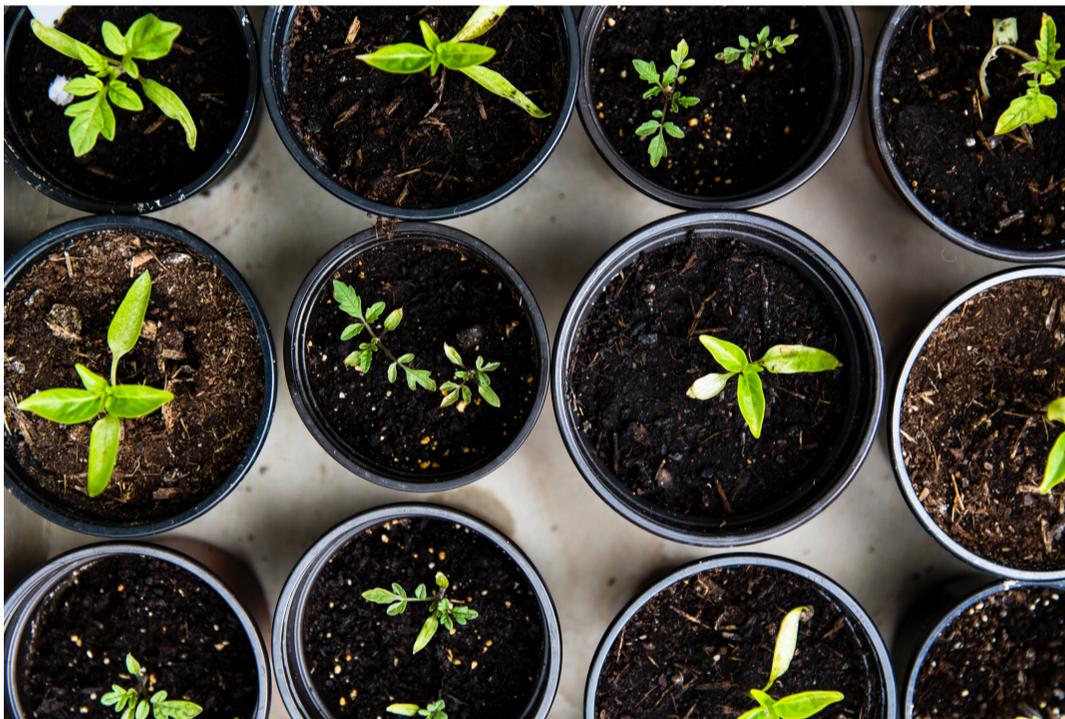


image: Markus Spiske on Unsplash

liturgy: Uniting in Worship II and Rev. James
Aaron

CCLI #339483

This weeks Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel
15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10
(11-13), 16-17

Mark 4:26-34

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

Come, Spirit of story and song,
Guide us as we meet this day,
Speak to us words of life
So we may be shaped to be people of reconciliation and hope.
amen.

Song/Hymn:

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

God of life, the stories we tell ourselves and engage with
Influence who we are and how we live in your world.

When our stories are those of seeking power,
And influence by coercion and oppression,
We are sorry.

When our stories are those of seeking wealth
And financial influence above all else,
We are sorry.

When our story is about keeping up appearance, and keeping the peace,
When it means trying to fit in rather than being ourselves to belong.
We are sorry.

When our story is about greed and taking advantage of those who are
dependant on the good will of others,
We are sorry.

When our story is about taking from the earth
Without thought for the damage that might be done,
We are sorry.

Break into the story of our lives and talk to us of compassion,
Kindness, and the ways of love.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's story is one of mercy and liberation. When God's story becomes
our story,
We are set free from what has bound us and are restored in the way of
goodness.
We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

We pray thanks;

Our hearts are full, for we have been put right with God.
Christ, who loves the world, has reconciled us to our holy Creator,
And we are made new.
God you call us anew, you call us friend, and you make us ambassadors
of grace,
You entrust us with your story,
A story of goodness, a story of love.
We give you thanks that your story is our purpose,
And you have set our feet ready,
You have filled our hearts with gladness and joy.

Amen

Hymn / Song:
The Liturgy of the Word

All Age Conversation

Mark 4:26-34

New Revised Standard Version

The Parable of the Growing Seed

26 He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, **27** and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. **28** The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

30 He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31** It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

The Use of Parables

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; **34** he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Sermon

Grace, peace and mercy are yours from the triune God, Creator, Christ and companion forever. Amen.

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.

Hymn/ Song:

Communion

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanks and praise, glory and honour are rightly yours.
For you alone are worthy,
In time beyond our dreaming,
You brought forth life out of darkness,
And in the love of Christ your Son
You set man and woman at the heart of your creation.

By the gift of the Spirit,
You bring to completion the work of your Son.
You lead us into all truth
And give us power to proclaim the gospel
To the whole world.
And so we praise you
With the faithful of every time and place,
Joining with choirs of angels

And the whole creation
Saying

**Holy, holy, holy God,
Of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, that you have called us to be in covenant with you.
Through Moses you taught us to love your law
And in the prophets you cried out for justice.

In the fulness of your mercy
You became one with us in Jesus Christ,
Who gave himself up for us on the cross.
You have called us to live together with him,
That we may rejoice in his presence
And share his peace.

By water and by Spirit
You have opened the kingdom to all,
You welcome us to your table
For by grace we are saved through faith.

You have blessed us with this last meal in memory.
For through our God in Christ,
Who on the night of his betrayal
Took bread,
Gave you thanks,
Broke it,
And gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take this and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,
He took the cup,
Gave thanks,
And gave it to them saying:
Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
Poured out for you and for everyone
For the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, whenever you drink it
For the remembrance of me.

With this bread and with this cup
We do as our Saviour commands;
We celebrate, we remember and we give thanks.

Pour out your Spirit oh God.
On us, and on these gifts.
That they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Make us one with him,
One with each other
And one in the ministry in the world,
Until at last we take part in the holy feast of your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ,
In your holy church.
All honour and glory are yours, creator,
Now and for ever.
Amen.

Let us say together *Rev. A Collis The Lord's Prayer*

**Abba God in heaven, glory to you!
Your rule of love renews the earth.
In your name, we take part in that renewal
Helping, and not harming,**

Caring, and not coercing...
We pray that we might receive with thanks
The bread we need,
The money we need,
The warmth we need...
We pray that forgiveness and freedom
Flow through our lives.
Teach us that in sharing life we live life to the full...
Remind us that evil is real.
Still, we are not afraid of it,
But confident
That love is stronger than hate,
Justice other than revenge,
True peace the work of your Spirit.
Amen.

The bread that we break,
Is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The Cup we take
Is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer after communion

We thank you God.
At this table you graciously feed us
With simple gifts of wheat and wine,
But for us the master of the eternal, grace and love.
May we who have received
Be strengthened in your service.
May we who have sung
Tell of your glory in our lives;
We who have seen your great love

See you face to face in your kingdom
Here on earth, and thereafter
We are joined with you and with all your saints forever.
Amen.

Notices & Offering

Hymn/Song:

Prayers over the offering

Spirit of love,
Let the goodwill with which we give these gifts remain with them as they
make their way to places and people that will receive them. May they, may
we, be a force for good.
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