

Welcome to Worship

Balmain Uniting Church

December 27th, 2020



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liturgy: adapted from Words For Worship Year B

CCLI #339483

This weeks Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

The Gathering of the people of God

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land. We give thanks to their elders and leaders, who are past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the work of justice and liberation.

Call to Worship

God of grace and God of glory,
Pour your Spirit of life on your people gathered,
Grant to each of us the Spirit of love,
Of hope,
Of new life
And of justice and goodness.
We gather to be with you.
Amen.

Song

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

God we give you thanks
For the many blessings of our lives.
For the gift of friendship and community;
For the gift of each other,
For the ability and skills of pathologists,
For scientists and doctors,
For nurses and caregivers everywhere,
We give you thanks.

And God we take this moment,
To turn toward your works and your Word,
We realise that there are times
We might have overseen or overlooked others,
We have not spoken up or spoken out when we have seen others put down,
We have failed to see the need.

We ask for your compassion and mercy.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Jesus said come to me those who are weary and I will bring your peace.

It is in this peace that we know that;

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Luke 2:22-40

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), **24** and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.^[b] **27** Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28** Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace,
according to your word;

30

for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon^[f] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna^[g] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[h] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

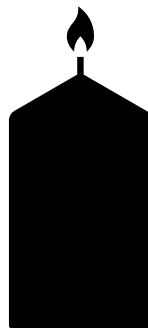
The Return to Nazareth

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reflection on the Word

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

Sermon of Stillness



Prayers of intercession.

God, Hear us as we open our hearts in prayer this day,
We offer them in this space, both out loud and in the quiet of our hearts.

...

Love have mercy,
Christ have mercy.

...

Amen.

Song

The Sending forth of the people of God

Notices

Commissioning and Blessing

Let us go to embrace a new future.
Let us go to serve the living Christ,
to work for the reign of God and
the peace of all.
Let us go in faith and love.

May the love of God overflow in us,
the Word of God bring new life through us,
and the joy and hope of the Holy Spirit
be known through us. Amen.

Let us go out to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ.
Amen.