

Introduction To Worship

6th September 2020 – Pentecost 14



I've been reflecting on what I'm missing most during this lockdown and its time with my family at the beach. We normally go to the beach and spend time together. I'm sure you've all got memories of being with family at the beach. I've been finding old photos from over the years and listening to the sounds of waves on my App called Calm. I'm looking forward to the time when we can get together at the beach again. I'm hoping its soon, perhaps over summer. Being in lockdown has helped me appreciate what I value most and that is time with my family.

I invite you to ponder on what you value and miss most and what you hope for in the future.
This time is changing us and helping to know what's most important to us.

This week we will focus on what we miss most with our church family, such as singing, hospitality and being together. This week we celebrate being church and being loved. We celebrate the joyful memories we have experienced over a lifetime of belonging to Christ's Church and ponder on what it means to be church today. It's also communion Sunday.

You're welcome to watch the YouTube of our worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC95I3LWuFptWld392FOIElg/videos>

You may choose to partake of communion at the same time it is celebrated on the recording or have an Agape Meal: https://www.mountviewuca.org/uploads/2/3/9/4/23949798/communion_at_home_-muca_a4.pdf

May the Lord bless you and keep you and your loved ones. May the worship sustain and comfort you.

Blessings
Rev Tina



This week's music tip: Copyright protections mean we only stream music we have produced ourselves (per our MUC partnership with CMUCA). Yet we are able to provide internet links of recordings by others, so if the 5 hymns in the worship video is insufficient, then there's a further 5 of Tina's selections in this worship PDF 😊

Mountview Worship @ Home

Sunday 6th September 2020

Hymn: Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart – Helen Jackson [3:20]

https://youtu.be/jSp_rmC8NZA

Lyrics and Music: Henry Smith;

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Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son
(Repeat)

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich'
because of what the Lord has done for us'
(Repeat)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son
(Repeat)

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich'
because of what the Lord has done for us'
(Repeat)

Give Thanks
Give Thanks
Give Thanks

Welcome To Our Service

May you be blessed by today's worship.

Our theme is God's love and ours

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place

We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.



Call To Worship

Shout for Joy to the Lord

Worship the Lord with gladness

Come before him with joyful songs

Prayers Of Adoration, Invocation And Confession

Lord Our God,
 We are wondrously made by you,
 We are your beloved children
 You love us with an everlasting love.
 We belong to you.
 We tell the world of your love for all of us.

Shout for Joy to the Lord
Worship the Lord with gladness
Come before him with joyful songs.

Jesus our Lord,
 We depend on you
 You are always there for us.
 We live in you and you live in us.
 You walk with us, guide us and fill us with peace,
 You bless and comfort us.

Shout for Joy to the Lord
Worship the Lord with gladness
Come before him with joyful songs.

Holy Spirit, you live within our hearts,
 Filling us with love,
 Calming our fears,
 Leading us on with hope,
 Closer to God.
 Filling us with courage,
 To keep on following Jesus,
 Through all times.

Shout for Joy to the Lord
Worship the Lord with gladness
Come before him with joyful songs.

Hymn: Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace – Susan Boyle [4:19]

<https://youtu.be/gUI2EyYIEKs>

*Based on an anonymous prayer (?French) c. 1900;
 Posted to YouTube by Giulia Zarattonello, with limited attribution*

Hymn: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You – Helen Jackson [2:42]

<https://youtu.be/IsabMsp1uvQ>

*Lyrics and Music: Richard Gillard 1953– ;
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Scripture Readings

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Psalm 100

100:1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. 100:2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. 100:5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Romans 13: 8-14

13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
 13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself."
 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
 13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
 For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.
 13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; 13:13 let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.
 13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18: 15-20

18:15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 18:16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 18:17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18:18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

It Is Well With My Soul – BYU Vocal Point [4:08]

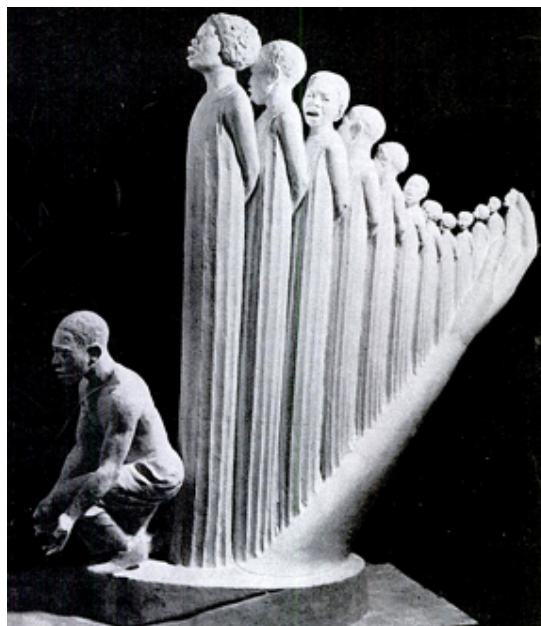
<https://youtu.be/FexGqNDBK3g>

*Words by Horatio Spafford; Music by Philip Bliss;
 © BYU Records; Posted to YouTube by BYU Vocal Point, with attributions*

Hymn: My Jesus My Saviour – Helen Jackson [4:00]

<https://youtu.be/6tcZkhTNG20>

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*Lift Every Voice And Sing
 Augusta Savage (1939 New York World's Fair)*

The church is about people of all ages coming together to worship God.
 Every single person counts and has something to contribute.

I Am The Church – Pastor Alice and Jackson (Connor) [1:31]

<https://youtu.be/HoDgWqexy3E>

*Lyrics & Music: Richard K. Avery 1934 – and Donald S. Marsh 1923 – ;
Posted to YouTube by Alice Connor, with artists' attribution
Permission to reproduce the lyrics obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-620587 [MUC]*

I Am The Church

*I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus all around the world,
yes, we're the church together!*

The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting-place,
the church is a people!

I am the church! You are the church!...

We're many kinds of people
with many kinds of faces,
all colours and all ages too,
from all times and places.

I am the church! You are the church!...

And when the people gather
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes
all of it saying:

I am the church! You are the church!...

I count if I am ninety
or nine or just a baby;
there's one thing I am sure about, and
I don't mean maybe:

I am the church! You are the church!...



The Mealtime Prayer – Fritz Von Uhne

For The Young At Heart

2 Kings 7: 3-20 (Adapted)

From The Message – A Humorous Story

I've always liked this story...

Four lepers are sitting outside the city gate, a city that's under siege. They said to one another, "What are we doing sitting here at death's door? If we enter the famine-struck city, we'll die; if we stay here, we'll die.

So, let's take our chances in the camp of Aram and throw ourselves on their mercy. If they receive us, we'll live, if they kill us, we'll die. We've got nothing to lose." So after the sun went down, they got up and went to the camp of Aram. It didn't take them long to realise the camp had been abandoned.

At first, they panicked and ran, then they changed their mind and went to the camp and into the tents and ate and drank. Then they grabbed silver, gold, and clothing, and went off and hid it. They came back, entered another tent, and looted it, again hiding their plunder. Then they said to one another, 'do you think we should tell them, the people in the city?'

This is a story that's relevant at the moment, where so many people in the world are facing starvation and homelessness, even in western nations. If we want to get through this time, we need to share what we have with those who have nothing, those who are under siege from COVID-19 and starving.

Sermon

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen



Lorraine Grant's brother Alan from Benalla is the Volunteer Coordinator for Uniting Church volunteers with *Blaze Aid*, a volunteer-based organisation working with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods.

Recently when the COVID-19 restrictions were in place he was travelling along the freeway to Corryong, Victoria and suddenly realised he'd missed the turnoff to Corryong and had ended up in NSW. Someone stopped him to inform him he needed a permit.

No! No! Alan wasn't having a bar of that!

He insisted on saying he'd missed the turnoff.

Alan had been doing this work for months and how he'd missed the turnoff was anybody's guess! A very helpful policeman arrived and said he'd sort out the problem. The result was Alan was told to go up there to the crossing between the freeways, turn on the truck's hazard lights and wait. Moments later the policeman drove up to Alan saying, '*Stick close behind me*' and with the police car flashing lights on, off they went, back to Vic, with Alan free to continue fencing.

Paul said, '*Hold fast to the rule of love.*' Love is everywhere. You only have to look around you. It's what knits us together. If we look back over our life and remember all the love we have received – we'd say, '*What a life!*' And, why would this change for us? There is so much more love to give and receive, where giving is just as important as receiving love and those who reach out in love need their love affirmed, valued, and treasured and those who receive love grow in love.

This mutual love makes the world go around.

This photo, at right, is of a group of people from Templestowe Uniting (now part of Manningham churches).



They're standing in front of a cross on a hill at Pallotti College, Millgrove. My heart burned when I first went to Templestowe Uniting Church and worshipped with the congregation. I soon found out why.

Several people told me the story about one of their ministers who stayed for twenty years.

He was travelling to Templestowe Uniting to be inducted with his young daughter when he was involved in a car accident, where his daughter was uninjured, but he ended up a paraplegic.

The congregation wanted him to be their minister, so they changed around the entire worship space, by moving the Lord's Table from in front of a large floor to roof window, to the right side of the church where they placed it on a platform, with wheelchair ramps going up each side of the Table, and then they moved all the pews around into a semi-circle to face the table and recarpeted the inside of the church. The entrance was also changed. Members of the congregation said many times, 'He taught us how to love.' I heard many people speak about how he received so much love from the congregational members and gave so much in return.

It was a transformative love.

There are many ways of showing love, for example by being a peacemaker and I've included a YouTube of Susan Boyle singing: *Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace*. 1 Corinthians also speaks of many kinds of love, such as kindness and patience and I'm sure churches embody and reveal the many faces of love.

Today's gospel says church is where two or three are gathered together. I've included the song: *I Am The Church* for the *Young At Heart*. A church is a gathering of people who embody and express God's love, who speak of the great love and faithfulness of God in their lives and of their love for God.

God's love is Trinitarian. The commandment of love is about loving God with all our being and others as ourselves. John wrote in his letter: If we have God in us, we have love in us and if we have love in us, we have God in us. Our great God loved us so much he sent Jesus to be amongst us, Jesus our Emmanuel. We are his brothers and sisters in Christ, his heart, voice, hands and feet in the world. Jesus loved us so much he lay down his life for us and taught us how to do the same by giving of ourselves, our resources and time, to one another.

We are the body of Christ, the love of Jesus in the world. Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name I am there among them.' Some of us may be alone at the moment and may call on Jesus and he comes and suddenly there are two. We may phone up someone and pray with them and suddenly there are two, where Jesus is present. We may be two or three and call on the Lord, and suddenly there is a small group gathered together with Jesus. The church comes in many sizes and is about the loving presence of Jesus with us.



Love is like a heart a woman made on the beach at Mount Martha, where she must have spent hours making it. Perhaps she wanted to express the love in her heart or celebrate the love in her life.



The Holy Spirit moves us to express God's love, a love that's poured into our hearts, love that grows, transforms, blesses and moves us to act with love. Every morning we pray and put on the armour of Light, we put on Christ and become aware of how we are in Christ and Christ is in us. We come to know how the Spirit moves our hearts and moves us to reach out with love and how we dwell in this love.

Robert was intellectually challenged and loved by the congregation he belonged to and he loved them.

Without fail, every Sunday he'd walk from his shared care home to church. He was always aware of people when they were suffering or those who needed prayer. When we had candle prayers, he'd light candles for all of them. A woman of prayer named Dorothy, a lifetime elder, spent her life praying for others and writing and saying prayers at meetings. She raised a family, was an artist and orchardist. After she died, we heard about her love for others. We even heard she'd been an elder in the aboriginal community and had a possum cloak. Children know of God's love and express it openly. Jubilee danced up the front of the church next to the Lord's table one day. Her eyes were closed, and her face looked peaceful and she danced. Perhaps those who watched would have considered her dance as her love for God embodied and felt drawn into that love.

Let your hearts be free like a child's.



Look around you at others and how they express love, look at paintings, and listen to music or watch a movie. Read your bible or devotional. Look at your pets and consider their unconditional love for you. Count your blessings. Love is all round us.

Hymn: Love Divine – Helen Jackson [2:50]

<https://youtu.be/2OE0SFEXFFA>

*Lyrics: Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.; Music: Rowland Huw Prichard 1811-87;
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The Lord be with you

Rev. Tina

O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) – Chris Rice [4:54]

<https://youtu.be/bLz3Xv2Hr> 4

*Lyrics: Based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1859-1940;
tr. from a Russian version by Stuart Wesley Keene Hine 1899-1989 alt.; © S. W. K. Hine; Music: Swedish Folk Melody;
Posted to YouTube by Paul MB, with limited attribution*

Offering Prayer

about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have

**Lord and giver of every good thing,
we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom,
all for transformation through your grace and love,
made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**



Prayers Of The People And The Lord's Prayer

Heather Barnes has prepared the Prayers of the People for you today

Gracious and loving God, although we are unable to gather together, we come before you this morning to bring you our cares and concerns in the 'Prayers of the People'.

Today in the *World Prayer Cycle* we are remembering the African Republics of Ghana and Nigeria.

The first Europeans arrived in Ghana in the 15th Century and commenced a trade in slaves. During the Colonial period, cocoa was introduced and became the backbone of the economy. Independence was achieved in 1957 but political unrest has been a continuing problem, along with troubling health issues. The northern parts of the country are prone to drought while environmental problems include deforestation, over grazing and inadequate water supplies.

Nigeria was created by an amalgamation of several British Colonies in 1914. Since then many violent coups have occurred and the Republic has an extremely poor human rights record. Even with its rich oil resources, there is great inequality in the distribution of wealth and Nigeria remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Many areas struggle with the problems of urbanisation, such as overcrowding, crime, corruption, unemployment and housing shortages. Disease and malnutrition are common.

Dear Lord, we uphold the peoples of Ghana and Nigeria before you and pray for a more equal distribution of wealth and power, an end to human rights abuses and better health care for all.

Heavenly Father, your whole world is experiencing an unprecedented health emergency. We ask for your guiding hand for all the World Leaders, along with all those in Positions of Responsibility. May they lead and act wisely and fairly. Give us the grace dear Lord to play our part by being kind, considerate and co-operative.

In the *Ecumenical Prayer Cycle* this morning we are remembering the Priest and congregation of our neighbourhood Catholic Church of St. John's. Be with them all as they seek to serve the Mitcham Community in your name.

In the *UCA*, our prayers are with the Lilydale-Montrose congregation and also with the Chaplaincy ministry at The Lord Smith Animal Hospital.

May your love shine through the words and actions of your people in these communities.

Here at Mountview we ask for our Minister Rev. Tina Lyndon. Guide and keep her safe and in good health as she works amongst us in these difficult times.

Dear Lord we ask for your blessings on those who are sorrowing, suffering health or family problems or struggling with major decisions. We name them silently in our hearts —————.
May they know your comfort and peace.

Heavenly Father, gather into this humble prayer the prayers of all your people in the world, that your peace, your justice and your mercy will enfold us and enable us to live as one.

We pray together the prayer you taught us.

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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (Ode To Joy) – [artists not stated] [3:01]

<https://youtu.be/eMY3ivdNzwE>

*Lyrics: Henry Van Dyke 1852 – 1933 alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 – 1827;
Posted to YouTube by HIMaachen, without attributions*

Holy Communion And Our Agape Meal



https://www.mountviewuca.org/uploads/2/3/9/4/23949798/communion_at_home_-muca_a4.pdf

Dismissal

Go out into the world in the power of the spirit and in all things at all times remember Christ is with you.
Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God. Amen

Hymn: Shalom To You Now – Helen Jackson [1:01]

<https://youtu.be/2oqiFenWxY>

*Lyrics by Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942–, to a traditional Spanish melody.
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Shalom To You Now

Prayerfully read the words

Imagine your family in Christ and send them heartfelt blessings from the Lord

**Shalom to you now,
shalom, my friends.**

**May God's full mercies
bless you, my friends.**

**In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.**

I have provided the following extra resources to accompany you on the journey during the week. Rev Tina

Extra Worship Resources



From *Celtic Daily Prayer, Book Two*. © 2015 William Collins p.1118-1119 (Adapted)

You may read a piece of scripture then meditate on the words using a process that's similar to Lectio Divina (which means munching on the words of God) where you read the scripture several times and reflect on what word or sentence speaks to you most. You may include this meditation or ponder on the meditation separately. Sit somewhere quiet where you won't be interrupted and when you read this meditation; pray, as if you are walking beside Jesus. Slowly spend a moment with each sentence and leave pauses between the sentences.

Listen

Hear the Word behind the word.

Listen

Sensing when the spirit's stirred.

There is healing in the water's
if God's touch is what you seek.

We must wait, and
Know God's moment,
listen well before we speak.

Listen

and let the silence cradle you.

Listen

For the voice that's speaking through
all the chaos of the talking
and the Babel that divides.

And in waiting for
God's moment
that in peacefulness decides,

listen.

God is not in a hurry.

We are His letters formed with care.

Heavens alphabet,
placed side by side.

To spell out words
of His choosing.

Arranged and rearranged
repeating patterns
emerging from muddle.

Kneaded in dough

Moulded in mud

Carved in strong stone

Lasting, enduring,

Fading and Falling

Joining together
and journeying

words fairly formed
lives that count

foundations
strong stones laid down

God is not in a hurry
The patterns are His

Savour the journey

Become available
Remain vulnerable

Together we have learned so much

For The Young At Heart

Spoonville Communities are popping up everywhere



Activity

Join together in drawing or painting or creating a collage of your church family. Gather some small rocks and paint faces on them or cut out circles of white paper and draw faces on them, then stick them on the rocks.

Make a Spoonville community out the front of your place and find a way to donate to a charity that's feeding the hungry and homeless.

Two Songs To Inspire You

Peace In Christ – 5-year-old Claire Ryann Crosby and Dad [3:37]

<https://youtu.be/Waitmz6C100>

*Song writer not specified; © Intellectual Reserve Inc;
Posted to YouTube by The Crosby's, with limited attribution*

(This Is Your) Fight Song (with Amazing Grace and Scotland The Brave) – The Piano Guys [4:33]

<https://youtu.be/mOO5qRjVFLw>

*Fight Song written by Rachel Platten & Dave Bassett;
Amazing Grace (traditional) lyrics by John Newton; Scotland The Brave (traditional)
Posted to YouTube by ThePianoGuys, with attributions*

For anyone with a Scottish background, enjoy this fight song. If you're unable to get outdoors, bring the outdoors to you. Fight those feelings of despondency and boredom by remembering God is with you through all the dangers, toils and snares. God's grace will bring you through this time just like you've come through past challenges. Put on the armour of light and fight the darkness with prayer and love.



Christians throughout the world have been invited to say the Lord's Prayer every day.

Please join them:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

Rev Tina, for Mountview Uniting Church

<https://www.mountviewuca.org/worship.html>

Final collation by Mountview Multimedia team.

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