

Whitehorse Uniting Church
Sunday 13 August 2023
Pentecost 11_A



Order of Worship

Hymn 154 Great is Your Faithfulness

Written by Thomas Chisholm, music composed by William M Runyan
Dutchforward Songs of Praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>

Welcome

All are welcome as we worship together

Acknowledgement

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Call to Worship

Leader: Loving God, we praise you!

All: **Risen Christ, we greet you!**

You are with us in our troubles,
and your hand holds us through every danger.

Hold us now, O Divine presence

Holy Spirit, come and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

Prayer

Most loving God,
help us to centre our lives on your awesome light and love,
that we may recover, or maybe even discover in a new way,
that ennobling awe and worship which can hallow all our years.

May we become more true than we have been,
and offer you more than we thought possible,
with a liberty of spirit which makes praise as natural as dancing for joy.
Let this hour colonise all the hours of this week. To your glory. Amen.

Words of Assurance

It is written: "If we come clean about our sins, God is true and more than fair,
forgiving our sins and cleansing us from all evil."

In the name of Christ Jesus, I assure you that our sins are remarkably and completely forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 447 Lord your Almighty Word

'Thou Whose Almighty Word' was written by Rev John Marriott

Tune is 'Italian Hymn' written by Felice de Giardini

Chet Valley Churches

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJugdIVH8VY>

Bible Readings Tim Joyce

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' So, he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So, he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So, Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind,^[b] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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A quiet moment to reflect on the readings and the image

Hymn 211 Jesus Lover of my Soul

Hillsong

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mff8_hwgWy4

Offering Prayer

We bring our gifts to you, Lord God, in gratitude and hope.
In dedicating them, we dedicate ourselves again to be your people in the world,
in the strength and power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the people Derek Moore

Let us come before God in prayer.

Today we acknowledge National Homelessness Week. We are distressed to learn that 1600 Australians become homeless every week and that currently 30,000 Victorians are homeless. We pray for all those involved in programs working with the complexities of homelessness and changing the lives of people from all walks of life.

We also pray that the Federal politicians will have the courage to positively address homelessness, including a change in attitude to housing from one of investment opportunity to that of providing shelter for our citizens.

Bless all peacemakers around the world, including those in Eastern Europe.

We are mindful of those amongst us who are dealing with health issues, some of which are quite severe and ask for Your blessings upon them and their health providers.

Please join me in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your Name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen.

Candle prayers

Hymn 602 O Love that will not Let me Go

Chet Valley Churches

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biHQVoAUTtU>

Blessing and Sending out

In days of firm faith, serve God joyfully. In days of struggle, serve God courageously. In times of joy may we sense God's smile. In times of grief may we feel God's tears. In times of failing, trust God's mercy. In times of success, give God thanks. Go knowing that God who holds all things will be with us in stormy times, in rough waters, that Christ who calls us friend will walk the way alongside us, and that the Spirit who dreams our story will mark our way with light and hope. In the name of Christ. Amen

Sung blessing 779 Shalom to You Now - tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oqiFenpWxY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=35>

Acknowledgements

Laughingbird Liturgical Resources with an Australian Voice

Synod Vic Tas Worship Resources

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