

Sunday 27th June 2021



Warrandyte Bakery Whitehorse Cluster Walk

Acknowledgement - Mikayla

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 - Maryann

God, Elohim, Yahweh, Allah,
God, by any name,
is good, steadfast and true.
Trust that which brought you here.
Gather in hope and anticipation,
ready to be fed and nourished,
ready to be guided and taught.

Open yourself to this oasis
on the path of your life journey.
Be in this moment, this sacred space.
Shed the world,
its concerns and burdens,
and welcome anew,
the Spirit of Life.

~ Psalm 25, Call to worship — Ana Gobledale, UK

Opening Prayer - Maryann

God of healing, be amongst your people.
 Draw near to those of us who know our injuries, and bring insight to those who injure.
 God of healing, be amongst your people.
 Give us courage to risk on behalf of those who have no capacity to help.
 God of healing, be amongst your people.
 Give us a liberated mind to move beyond social conformity and into your healing call.
 God of healing be amongst your people. Amen

Hymn: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven – Helen Jackson

**Prayer of Confession – “We wait in hope (Psalm 130)”
 (Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)**

COVID 19 Prayer – Rev Peter and Helen Cannon

From fears that paralyse us;
Heal us, O Lord.
 From illness that strangles us;
Heal us, O Lord.
 From sorrows that weigh us down;
Heal us, O Lord.
 From aimlessness that plagues our visions;
Heal us, O Lord.

— written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on *Liturgy Outside*. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>



“Nurse, nurse” : Prayer of illumination – Rev Peter reading

Sitting I take her hand.
 Unresponsive
 Yet allowed to hold
 Sitting Holding
 Offering words of comfort
 As yet unresponsive
 Yet allowed to hold

 Breathing laboured, conflict within
 Painted in vivid colour

 Hope crying
 Despairing
 Holding
 Soothing

As yet unresponsive
 But rest comes
 ...For a moment
 Still I sit...

From another room
 A plaintive cry: "Nurse. Nurse."

The nurse comes, reassures the troubled one

Others are here too
 Other rooms
 Other floors
 Other wings
 Windows upon windows
 Each for a person, a community
 Each crying, "nurse, nurse."

Hope crying
 Despairing
 Pain rampant
 Seeking

Still I sit Holding on
 Offering words of comfort
 Was that a move of a finger against mine?
 A response?
 Am I sure?
 Hope crying

From another room, a plaintive cry:
 "Nurse. Nurse. Help.
 I don't need much.
 Please, someone help."

The nurse comes, reassures the troubled one

Still I sit Holding on
 Despairing
 Maybe responsive
 Offering words of comfort
 Hope crying

The nurse comes
 Can I take your obs?
 Cooperation
 Responsive
 Hope

The nurse comes and smiles
 The nurse comes and listens
 The nurse comes and cares
 A healing presence

I read of a woman
 12 years seeking
 Too ashamed to cry, "help"

Now silent
 Alone with no one to comfort
 Yet too desperate to not reach out

And a child No name
 A desperate father leaving her hand for a moment
 Advocating
 Despairing
 Hope crying
 "Healer, healer. Help."

Hope crying
 Despair evident
 Pain rampant
 Seeking

The healer responds
 A healing touch
 Reassures the troubled ones
 Words of comfort
 Compassion
 Faith giving life

I see healers coming into the room
 Reassurance
 Touch
 A listening ear
 Words of comfort
 Nurses, doctors, physios, cleaners, food servers
 Compassion
 Faith giving life
 Hope blessed

"Nurse. Nurse."
 The plaintive crying continues
 Sometimes aloud, sometimes silent
 Hope crying
 Despair evident
 Pain rampant

In every room
 Hope continues
 Compassion

I sit holding her hand
 Crying out for her
 Seeking the healer's touch
 Waiting
 Hope continues
 Compassion seeps through
 Faith giving life.

Readings – Lorraine Thomson

Reading – Lorraine Thomson - Mark 5:21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

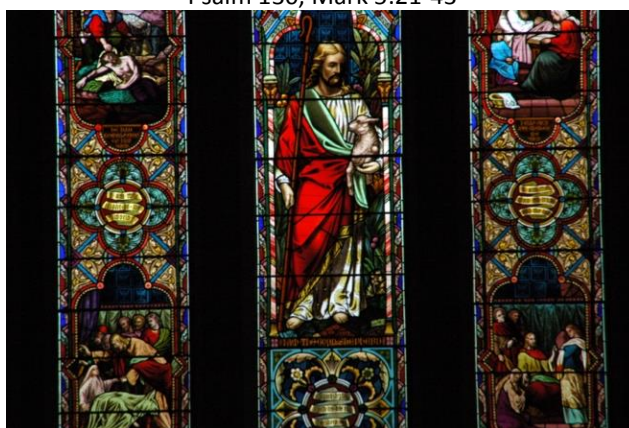
³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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Sermon – Rev Tina

Do not fear, only believe

Psalm 130, Mark 5:21-43



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

There is a stained-glass window at Toorak Uniting that portrays Jesus’ ministry. One image has always intrigued me. The image of Jesus raising Jairus’ daughter from death. You can see the image in the bottom left hand corner of the stained glass window.

I can’t imagine how Jairus felt. Most of us know what it feels like when we see someone suffer. Our heart goes out to them. Compassion can feel like a stab in the heart. It moves us deeply. But we are moved even more deeply when we see a loved one suffering, especially our child. They are part of us. Many of us know the pain Jairus felt. It’s

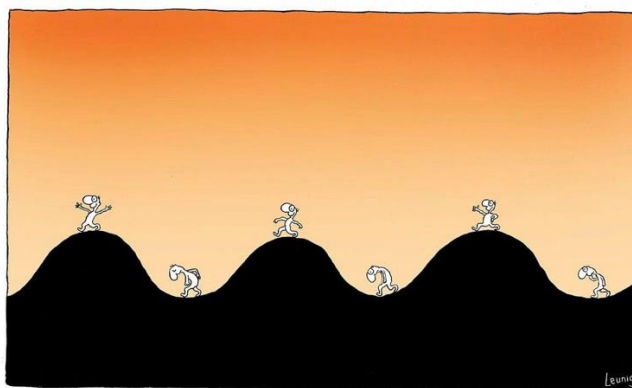
gut wrenching and so is the terror, the fear of losing someone we love. Imagine how it was for Jairus to wait, while Jesus spent time with a woman who was considered unclean and unacceptable within her community, because she was bleeding. She had bled as long as his child had lived. He witnessed Jesus' kindness and compassion towards the woman as he waited, while his daughter was dying. He witnessed the woman being healed and then Jesus doing what a Rabbi normally did, proclaiming publicly that the woman was healed and no longer unclean and unacceptable. Jesus gave her back her life. Now she could re-join her community and worship in the synagogue. Did this waiting make Jairus' suffering more intense or was he able to trust in Jesus and wait, knowing Jesus would come to his home to heal his daughter?

Perhaps witnessing Jesus' kindness and compassion gave him hope.

Hope that Jesus would heal his daughter and restore her to him.

Waiting when we are suffering isn't easy. It must be difficult for those with a serious illness and their carers at this time, separated from family and unable to worship in their church with the gathered community, waiting for better times when we are all reunited with our families and church community.

It may feel like a roller coaster of emotions at this time with fear and longing, faith, and rejoicing.



Yet we all hope that the cloud of gloom will lift. There may be more lockdowns, but we will come through if we stick together. We may not be worshipping in our church buildings today, but we are still strong as the body of Christ. We are making sacrifices for the sake of others, who cannot open their church building and gather. This care for one another is being the love of Christ in the world. This is what it means to care for those who are vulnerable within our community and this goodwill and love will make us stronger in our faith. This is the love Jairus witnessed as his daughter lay close to death and it would have stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Jairus also experienced his hopes being dashed. Most of us know what that feels like.

Today's psalm speaks of a man in a hopeless situation who calls out to God. He is waiting and it sounds like he's been waiting for a long time. His soul waits on God, yet, he believes in God's steadfast love for him.

God will hear his cries and come to him and make him whole.

The woman who bled had waited to be made whole for twelve years. She had tried everything.

Jairus had heard about Jesus healing people, and he sought him out and fell at his feet like the woman did, with complete trust in Jesus being able to heal and make whole.

The woman reached out and touched Jesus. An unclean woman dared to do this. No wonder Jesus told her that her faith healed her. She pushed through her fears and her faith in Jesus made her whole. Her waiting was over.

I wonder what it's like for people with COVID? Are they the new lepers, the ones who are now unacceptable within society? I spoke with a pastor whose family are in Malaysia and people are hiding the fact they have COVID because of stigma and this is making it spread. I haven't heard any stories in this country of people overcoming COVID. Perhaps they fear stigma.

But Jesus cut through what was unacceptable in his society and accepted the woman. It is said she touched him. She must have longed to be accepted and held. Now she no longer would be isolated. She could be held.

Many of us know how it feels to be isolated and unable to be hugged. We must obey the social distancing and lockdown rules. For many it means not being touched. Some even fear getting close to people. We long to be restored where we can be held and where we can touch another, shake their hand, or hug them. We know what it feels like.

Jairus had his hopes dashed when people came from his home to tell him his beloved daughter is dead. They also tell him to give up. Jesus overhears them and says: Do not fear, only believe. Jairus takes Jesus to his home and when Jesus says to the mourners who are wailing loudly, that the little girl is still alive, they laugh and have no faith. Jesus dismisses them. He takes Jairus and his wife and three of his closest disciples to the room where the little girl lay dead.

It was not permitted for Jews to touch corpses. It would make Jesus unclean. But Jesus breaks the rules and reaches out to take the hand of the little girl and commands her to get up.

His words are not written in Greek by Mark. They are so profound they are written in Jesus' language. Aramaic. "Talitha cum" which means "Little girl, get up". These words are profound like the words "Abba" which mean Father or God. These words raised the dead and pointed to Jesus being raised from the dead. This is why Jesus asks all present to tell no one.

Jesus' words "Do not fear, only believe". We need to hear these words today. Fear can get a grip over our lives.

I'll share something that was published in a book called: *Voices out of lockdown*. It's edited by Jan Pickard, written by Thom Shuman and published by Wild Goose Publications

God is in the healthcare folk
all around us:
Encouraging us to stay home,
reminding us to wash our hands
so we can help others be safe,
teaching us to be mindful
and watch over ourselves and others

Even when we shelter in place,
we will not give into fear,
for God us with us,
in those who phone us and care for us,
In those who shop for us,
and those who treat us.

Around a lonely table,
in a household of family,
in a hospital of strangers,
God feeds us with grace,
pouring out hope upon us,
filling us with peace in the sleepless night.

I know, without any doubt
that God's gentleness and compassion
are walking right bedside us,
showing us the way home
to the One who holds us
in Love's Heart forever.

Jesus speaks to us, whenever we are afraid, saying to each one of us:
Do not fear, only Believe."



We must patiently wait on God and call out to God when we are in need. We will not give into fear. We will believe. We will come through this time of waiting and Jesus will heal our hearts. We will gather again; we will be reunited, and we will rejoice. We will Believe.

I'll Finish with a prayer called *The Bridge* by Joy Cawley from her book *Aotearoa Psalms*. The prayer was shared with me by a member of Forest Hill Uniting. During these times we, like Jesus, are called to be a bridge. This prayer is for all of us who are caring for one another as we journey through lockdowns and restrictions.

The Bridge

There are times in life
when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic,
but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there over
some difficulty
such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way
for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another,
I bring upon myself a blessing,
for I escape from the small prison of self
and exist for a wider world,
breaking out to be a larger being
who can enter another's pain
and rejoice at another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing in this life, and that is,
to allow someone else to be a bridge for me. Amen

Hymn: Great is your Faithfulness- Helen Jackson

Offertory Prayer - Pete

Great God of Heaven and Earth,
you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future.
Sometimes we find your call challenging.
We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present.
May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Prayers of the People - Trevor de Run

God of everlasting love, we praise you for your creation and for all that you richly provide. As we come to you in prayer, we thank you for all which you have blessed us with. We pray to you for one another in our need, and for all in our world at this most difficult of times, as lives and livelihoods are being severely impacted by the pandemic.

In our international prayer cycle, we pray for the peoples of Kenya and Tanzania, where the incidence of the coronavirus has had an overwhelming effect, particularly in Kenya where the number of covid-19 cases has exceeded 180,000 with over 3,500 deaths. Give wisdom for the leaders of these countries and for all the frontline workers, as they work to contain the spread of the virus in their respective countries.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the congregations of Whitehorse Uniting Cluster and seek your guidance as we maintain community and purpose in this most difficult time. We bring our concerns for those who are grieving, distressed, depressed or afraid, that they may be comforted, and their hearts lifted and filled with hope. We pray for the team of Ministers of the Whitehorse Uniting Cluster, Rev. Tina Lyndon Ng, Rev. Peter Cannon and Rev. Pete Rivett, as they provide the ministry for the congregations of Blackburn North/Nunawading, Forest Hill and Mountview Uniting Churches.

We pray for the other churches in our region, in particular for the Independent Churches in Whitehorse and in the presbytery, for the Uniting Church at Carlton, Church of All Nations. Give their leaders the wisdom that they will respond to your will for them and for their community. We offer our prayers for the Principal, Staff and the students at Kingswood College, Box Hill South.

Keep us safe during the coming week and be with us in all that we do. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us pray...

Our father in heaven, hallowed be thy 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 for ever. Amen.

Candle Prayers

Benediction – Rev Pete (presented by Rev Peter)

Go from this place, daring to shrug off social expectations and move into the Kingdom of Heaven. Go from this place to heal and be healed. Amen

Song from Iona – We will Meet – Hans-Olav Moerk & John Bell

<https://youtu.be/K3jDFrPP21g>

We will meet when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are done;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly
we will join to break bread and share wine;
and the peace that we pass to each other
will be more than a casual sign

So let's make each other a promise
that when all we've come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way
that's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for every new day.

The Aaronic Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace

Song "Blessing" (a NCYC version of the Aaronic Blessing) is used behind a range of prayers and at the end of the service

By request -Tips for Self-Care - Rev Tina

It's NAIDOC Week between 4-11th July. I invite you to read the Pastoral letter of the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch.
<https://victas.uca.org.au/news-events/news/>

Beyond Blue has a podcast called: Not alone by Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann that is worth watching
<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Dr Miriam-Rose shares about Dadirri which is about a way of deep listening, awareness and stillness. I will be introducing Dadirri during the sessions on meditation and contemplation (see the notices) which will be held during NAIDOC week. Dadirri is about finding peace within ourselves, especially during challenging times.

There is a saying – *"We cannot hurry the river. We have to move with its current and understand its ways."*

During these times we do not have control over lockdowns occurring. We need to constantly adapt and face the unknown. What remains unchanged, reliable and always present to us, is God. What we do have control over is our response and our choice to find peace through prayer and reflection.



Where is Joy?

As the hand is made for holding,
and the eye for seeing,
You have fashioned us for joy.
Share with us the vision that
shall find it everywhere.

And, when our song of joy dies down to silence,
come, hold our powerlessness with love!
Then shall our fear be gone,
and our feet set on a radiant path.

(Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2, The Northumbria Community Trust)

For the Young at Heart from Messy Church

Messy Crafts by Lucy Moore

Satisfying crafts

3 Silhouette portraits



Shine a really bright light on to a wall. Sit sideways on between the light and the wall.

Let your friend or family member place a sheet of dark paper on the wall and draw round the shadow of your face profile very carefully with a soft pencil, including every stray wisp of hair, so that you can cut it out and mount it on an oval background of a contrasting colour. Older people might like to cut it out with a craft knife.

(You can also make silhouettes with digital photos, using computer programmes such as Photoshop.)

Bible themes

- God's love for each person
- Made in the image of God
- Every hair on your head is counted (Psalm 139)
- 'I have called you by name' (Isaiah 43:1)
- Beauty (Esther)
- Parts of the body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

Toddler crafts

1 Primeval swamp gloop



Before God separated the water from the land, it must have been so messy! Mess about with this swamp gloop and talk about messy beginnings.

You will need

- 2 cups cornflour
- 1 cup water
- Food colouring (optional)
- Glitter (optional)

Mix everything together with your hands to make a thick sludge. Set it out in a deep tray or wide bowl and simply play with it. Try hitting its surface, modelling it, or letting it run through your fingers. Provide a few tools to use with it: a sieve, spoon or cup.