

Whitehorse Uniting Church
Sunday 30 July 2023
Pentecost 9_A



Whitehorse Uniting and Canterbury Uniting

A 5th Sunday service. If possible, please watch Livestream or the recorded version for Rev Salesi's presentation and the choir's hymn-singing.



Introit – TiS 467, I am the church! You are the church!

You Tube - terrytusab

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=I+am+the+church+You+are+the+church+YouTube#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:7abe59cc,vid:Weugc4TPwrM>

Welcome – Julie Hawkey

Acknowledgement – Anne Smith

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.

(ALL)

We acknowledge, too, our responsibility to share with and continue in the care of this land, its waterways and oceans, its mountains and plains, the surrounding atmosphere, maintaining them for future generations.

Call to Worship – Anne Smith

Why are we here?

(L) We bring ourselves, some weary, some energetic

(R) We bring ourselves, some trusting, some doubting

(L) We bring our achievements and failures

(R) We bring our questions and certainties

**(ALL) We bring our whole selves to offer our worship to God
And to be open to God's life and love among us.**

Prayer – Anne Smith

We meet in the wondrous yet mysterious presence of the God of all creation,
visible in our ever-evolving universe,
seen in the balances and beauties in the natural world
and found in our friends and neighbours.

Prayer of Confession – Anne Smith

We come

(R) Remembering those times of hurt we wish we could forget

(L) Bringing those times of action or inaction we recall with shame

(R) Reviewing events past we regret but are unable to change

(L) Regretting the times we ignored or neglected opportunities to help or console.

In silence we share our personal regrets with God

(time of silence)

Words Of Assurance – Anne Smith

We hear words of assurance that we can put the past behind us:

God is love.

Through Christ our sins are forgiven.

Take hold of this forgiveness

And live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(ALL) Thanks be to God.

Hymn TIS 658, I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

(Collin Raye, Cookstown Methodist 2021)

Daniel Schutte 1947-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngoit0sRTWY>



Introduction to theme – Environmental Stewardship – Bob Laslett

Young at Heart – Kings - Bob Laslett

Ponder about the kings you know and the king of Heaven



Bible Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 – Sharon Collins

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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Rev Tina – introduces Choir and Rev Salesi Faupula and Bass Band

Canterbury Uniting Choir – Hymn 1

Speaker – Rev Salesi Faupula – Climate change in the Pacific

Canterbury Uniting Choir – Hymn 2



Combined Hymn - Lord the Light of your Love is Shining. (Shine Jesus Shine)

(WMTV music 2016) Graham Kendrick

<https://youtu.be/rce9UHYZwl4>

Shine Jesus Shine – Big Sing at Royal Albert Hall London

Himaachen 2013

<https://youtu.be/D4hXJ9ax2FY>

Prayer with Symbols – Margot Kemke



Hymn 668 Touch the Earth Lightly

The Beyond the walls choir – Centre place 2022

The Beyond the Walls Choir is a program of Community of Christ Toronto Congregation.

Find our music at <https://www.centreplace.ca/choir>

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931– Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company Music: Al HU. Swee Hong Lim, 1963– ;
arr. Tamryn Parker-Carver, 1970– Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company Performed by the Beyond the Walls Choir. -

A beautiful YouTube version

<https://youtu.be/sTPPmvut-cM>

Sending out - Rev Salesi and Rev Tina

This we know, the earth does not belong to us

We belong to the earth.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life

We are merely a strand in it

This we know, whatever we do to the web

We do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

Blessing – Rev Salesi & Rev Tina

Bless us, O God
 The moon that is above us
 The earth that is beneath us
 The friends who are around us
 Your image deep within us

Amen

Sending out and Blessing from Iona Abbey Worship Book Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow.
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Pastoral Care tips – Rev Tina

Solving Problems



I once heard someone speak about solving problems.

He said:

If you focus on the problem, you get nowhere.

If you focus on the problem and the solution, it's like treading water, you get nowhere.

If you focus on the solution, you will move forward. You will get somewhere and solve the problem.

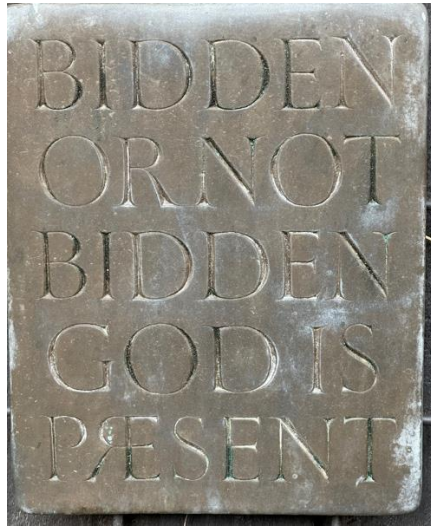
Now the solution he was talking about was Jesus and prayer and how we can trust in the power of prayer. God will help us find a way to solve the problem.

If we choose to focus on the problem, it can define our horizon and perspective. If we focus on it long enough it may even define us. I've heard if we focus on anger long enough, it can consume us where we become an angry person. The same can happen with feeling and focusing on hate, jealousy, and fear.

It's when we can let go and let God in, that our mind becomes clear and free to listen to the still small voice of God in our hearts. If we are focused on Jesus and prayer, the love in our heart will become as wide as the ocean, where there is no room for anger, hate, jealousy and fear. Instead, there is room for grace, light, peace, joy, and life.

Focus on Jesus, not the problem.

Gurrumul & Paul Kelly
Amazing Grace (Gurrumul Official from The Gospel Album 2016)
<https://youtu.be/MVORrx9jliE>



With Unveiled faces

'When Moses went down the mountain, his face was shining because he had been speaking with the Lord.' Exodus 34:29

Light up
my life, loving Lord:
let me reflect the radiance
of your love on those around me.

Burn within
my being, until I am aglow
with your grace, O God.

Reach beyond
my earthbound existence
into the heart and soul of each community
with whom I come into contact

Transform me
with your glory
so all will see and know
that you are God

*Carol Dixon, Bare Feet and Buttercups, (Edit. Ruth Burgess)
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