



## **Sunday Worship Service**

12 September 2021 (Pentecost 16)

This time of worship we will join with each other in Spirit and affirm that we are a church called by Jesus this moment. The worship service is prepared by Jenny Warren (Bible Reading), Margaret Maxwell (Kids Talk), Justin Han (Prayers of the People), and the music team. We thank them for passion and energy in serving God who shows love and compassion.

### **OPENING PRAYER: TO GOD, THE SOURCE OF LIFE**

Generous God,  
You are the source of all life,  
creating and sustaining every living thing.

You are the source of all food,  
material and spiritual,  
nourishing us in both body and soul.

You are the light that goes before us,  
shining into the darkness.

May we be filled with your breath  
Nourished by your food  
Renewed by your living water  
and sustained by your love.

Amen.

### **HYMN: ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO WELL**

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make:  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why\* the Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall form age to age endure.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION: WALKING WITH GOD

Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! (James 3:9-10)

*Let us pray:*

Almighty God,  
You have set before us the path  
but we have wandered on our own  
to try to find our way.

Sometimes we are like toddlers  
and we hear Your call and come back.

Other times, we are children testing boundaries,  
ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,  
demanding to be cut loose and set free,  
not knowing how much we still need  
to seek Your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults  
and have figured it all ours and know our own way,  
only to stumble and stray so far.

Remind us, parental God,  
that we are always Your children,  
that we are never fully grown up in Your sight,  
that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day,  
to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance,  
and help us to return to the path and walk with You.

In the name of Christ,  
who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray.

Amen.

## **BIBLE READINGS JENNY WARREN**

First Reading: Psalm 19:7-14 (New Living Translation)

<sup>7</sup> The instructions of the Lord are perfect,  
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The commandments of the Lord are right,  
bringing joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are clear,  
giving insight for living.

<sup>9</sup> Reverence for the Lord is pure,  
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;  
each one is fair.

<sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold,  
even the finest gold.

They are sweeter than honey,  
even honey dripping from the comb.

<sup>11</sup> They are a warning to your servant,  
a great reward for those who obey them.

<sup>12</sup> How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?  
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant from deliberate sins!

Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt  
and innocent of great sin.

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart

be pleasing to you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading: Mark 8:27-38 (New Living Translation)

### **Peter's Declaration about Jesus**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets."

<sup>29</sup> Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup> But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. <sup>32</sup> As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

<sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? <sup>37</sup> Is anything worth more than your soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **SONG: O LET THE SON OF GOD ENFOLD YOU**

O, let the Son of God enfold you  
with his Spirit and his love;  
let him fill your heart  
and satisfy your soul;

O, let him have the things that hold you  
and his Spirit, like a dove,  
will descend upon your life  
and make you whole.

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives;  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.*

O come and sing this song with gladness  
as your hearts are filled with joy;

lift your hands in sweet  
surrender to his name;

O, give him all your tears and sadness,  
give him all your years of pain,  
and you'll enter into life  
in Jesus' name.

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives;  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.*

## SERMON

May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

*Psalm 19:14*

In the past three months, I have lived with diagnosed condition of frozen shoulder on my left one. It includes that my left arm is stiff when I move. Getting dressed is one of difficult things at the moment. After suffering many weeks, I went to see my doctor and then had Xray and ultrasound test. Then what my doctor recommended is to have medication and to keep doing gentle exercise. I needed to accept it. And now I am trying to take this change as part of my life's journey. I have frozen shoulder. The frozen shoulder is mine, which I should bear the rest of my life.

Then I shared my reflection on living with frozen shoulder with my parents in Korea, saying, "Mom, Dad, I am turning into a big season of losing my physical competence but gaining deeper understanding of how you two were feeling when you had frozen shoulders." With my deep sorry for them, I expressed what I felt at that time after hearing of the result. I had never

understood how they might feel when they were growing older, getting weaker and facing all the crisis in life including parenting of two young adult children and their latter retirement. I wondered whether they expressed wisely and relevantly as they suffered from all physical and emotional challenges? Who was there for them to give guidance and wisdom as passing through the tough time in life? At my age of 45 years and 10 months, I would be able to understand that my parents did so well to my sister and me, and to their Lord Jesus Christ during their crisis. The frozen shoulder and its related changes have reminded me of my parents, who are now their mid 70s. It was worth the time to feel empathy from my parents who I always miss. No one turns back to the past. No turning back. The life goes on. Then today I am becoming a father of three children during this challenging time with COVID-19 and the severe lockdown in Sydney. Where is God in those challenges? How does God respond as the people of God follow the way of Jesus in this time? How would I give life and hope to my children and many in the coming of new season?

Mark's gospel begins with identifying who Jesus from Galilee means for his community. "This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1) The statement of "Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God" leads both audience in Mark's time and readers like us to the way that Jesus journeyed through. To be honest, in Mark's time, the consequence of following the way of Jesus was for disciples and believers to end up taking up cross and having crucifixion like what their master Jesus received. The way meant for those who heard of the stories of Mark's gospel to live for Christ and then to die as Jesus did. Believing in Jesus the Messiah was living and dying like Jesus. The purpose and the consequence were the same like Jesus, their Lord. I would say that it was a privilege for them to imitate the Messiah while they lived on earth and believed the life everlasting. Huge crowd of Christ's followers admitted commitment to the Son of God and his Lordship so that as results, in the world of Caesar, the followers faced costly political choices. They gave up their lives for the faith in Christ instead of compromising between God and Caesar. Though they didn't understand



fully where the will of God was, they went to the max for Jesus Christ. Where was God on their suffering way to follow? How did God respond as the people of God followed the way of the cross? What should we learn from them?

When Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah, his correct answer to the question was silenced. In Jesus muting himself, he was concerned by Peter not because he wanted a good position in Jesus' reign, but because he didn't understand what it means to say like that. To Jesus, discipleship is about the way of the cross. Saying "You are the Messiah" meant to disobey the emperor and all authorities in Judea including religious leaders. And saying "You are the Messiah" follows repentance, self-denial and judgement which are not familiar concepts for all authorities. It was a subversive title. In Jesus' silence, he would rather invite widows, orphans, tax collectors, the poor, the sick and the marginalised and make them be part of the kingdom that he brought into their lives. Jesus blessed those who were less fortunate and gave them the ownership of the kingdom of God. In Jesus' eyes and heart, there was only place for those suffering from the world standards and values. Matthew 11:28-30 clearly speaks, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." I believe that this moment Jesus Christ calls us to come to him and bear his yoke in God's point of view, not human's.

In verse 34, Jesus invites all audience and readers to answer by adding one's name in that sentence. "If any of you [*Your name*] wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." Jesus' use of 'any of you' functions as an appeal to us as if there is a blank space we are challenged to fill in with our names. Mark created an interactive story here. Would you like to fill in with your name and then complete the sentence? Here, the cross is not a religious icon hung on the church wall and "taking up your cross" is not for personal anguish. To follow Jesus Christ is

to respond God's call to live life that we find anew in Jesus and to make our neighbours experience the life in our sharing love, a radical love that Jesus taught and acted.

In verse 34, the call of Jesus is for us a call to walk in a path of subversive love that challenges oppressive power in this pandemic era, which allows us to assume others instead of to welcome no matter what. This can lead us to danger because we live out this call in the midst of overwhelming forces of self-interests and discrimination.

In verse 35, Jesus invites again to fill in with our name. "If you [*Your name*] give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." Can you do that? To be honest, I am hesitating now to fill in with my name. I have had much possession in this life including family and ministry, so that I cannot easily fill in. Instead, seriously I am taking it in and being specific of what the possible consequences of my following this path are. What do I most fear? Suffering is presented as a consequence of discipleship. In irony, I pray for discipleship in my life and for many lives.

Remember that Jesus did not call people to walk the path of discipleship alone. But rather to do so in loving community. He lived with all sorts of people and became part of their life stories. People centred to Jesus and he formed a community called the kingdom of God. Man's story was able to be a chapter of God's story. He walked along all the way to each one's place in life in order to give life to their hopeless and meaningless life. He ate with sinners, sharing a heavenly meal and talking with ones who never be welcomed. When Jesus was presented, they were all gathered in the kingdom of God.

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, who is the community that is called to be with us on this path? To follow Jesus means not only to walk in his path but also to be in imitate relationship with him and the God who he prayed to. In Jesus, no matter who speaks or mutes, we are embraced by

God's compassionate and self-giving love, receiving God's promises and being filled with the Spirit. These are all God's gifts for us. I pray that now as a Christ's community and as an individual we Boronia Park Uniting Church may experience the gifts in our life this day and the days to come.

Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE JUSTIN HAN**

Gracious God,  
we call upon your name  
because we know that you are a God who hears.

We know that you are a God who cares,  
and we know that you are a God's very presence  
that brings grace even into the most ungraceful of situations.  
Today, we ask for mercy for everyone  
who has been affected by Covid-19 from Sydney to Perth,  
and all over the world, and every inch that this virus has touched.

We pray for those  
who lost jobs, businesses, homes, and loved ones.

We thank you for the helpers during this time.  
For doctors and nurses, for public servants helping people,  
and for Covid-test workers doing their best  
to get people and community safe and sound.

God of peace,  
we pray for the leaders of nations,  
and we ask for your wisdom, compassion,  
and grace to be with their decisions.

We need good news.  
We ask for the vulnerable to be protected  
and for love to triumph over hate.  
Yet, we cannot do this with your Spirit.

So Holy Spirit guide us.  
Keep whispering in the silence to us  
how we can do good in the world,  
and may our ears be open to listening and acting.

In the world cycle of prayer,  
we pray for Ghana and Nigeria.  
We thank you for Christians and Muslims  
who take risks to work for dialogue and reconciliation,  
and people of disparate ethnic groups  
who strive together for the common good.  
Also we thank you for churches  
who have been faithful in spreading the Good News,  
serving the people and pursuing justice in these societies

We ask for your blessing upon them  
and continue to make things possible.

We thank you for the many churches around us;  
Glades Hill Presbyterian Church and Kalos Korean Church.  
We also ask that you continue to bless  
the ministries in their church.

We pray in your name, Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

我們在天上的父，

願人都尊祢的名為聖，

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，

아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨，

願祢的旨意行在地上，

如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며，

아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이

땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食 今日賜給我們，

오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債 如同我們免了人的債

우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을

용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고，

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，

救我們脫離兇惡，

우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고

악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，  
全是祢的，直到永遠。  
나라와 권능과 영광이  
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

## OFFERING AND DEDICATION

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

**Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church**

**BSB: 634-634**

**Account: 100023784**

**Reference: Offering**

**Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey**

**96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111**

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or [robyn.49@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robyn.49@bigpond.net.au) for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

## SONG: JESUS CALLS US

Jesus calls us here to meet him  
as, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm God's promised presence  
where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;

praise the Son who calls us friends;  
praise the Spirit who, among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of Life and Lord of All,  
sharer of our flesh and frailness  
saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his holy human story;  
tell his tales that all may hear;  
tell the world that Christ in glory  
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:  
found in him are no divides.  
Race and class and gender and language  
such are barrier he derides.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
join the hands of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table,  
rooted firm in time and space,  
where the church in earth and heaven  
finds a common meeting place.  
Share the bread and wine, his body,  
share the love of which we sing,  
share the feast for saints and sinners,  
hosted by our Lord and King.

[John L. Bell and Graham Maule](#)

**BLESSING**

Christ, the Messiah goes before us,  
with the fellowship in Holy Spirit.

You and I are not alone in this journey  
because Christ's love and his community always follow.

Go with each other  
and love and serve your Lord Jesus Christ.

The blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

The Boronia Park Uniting Church communications team who recorded and edited the videos, ensured all the videos ran as they should and designed the invitation and order of service.

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