



## Sunday Worship Service

26 September 2021 (Pentecost 18)

This time of worship we will join with many members and guests of the Church Christ has built upon his words and deeds. By this, we are able to welcome each other to this gathering. The service is prepared by Daniel Yeon (Bible Reading), Jenny Keast (Prayers of the People), and the music team. We thank them for commitment to all God's works that may bring life to us.

### THANKSGIVING CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.  
**Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**

God blesses us with gifts of love:  
**with food and clothing, home and family.**

God blesses us with daily work:  
**and all we need from day to day.**

God keeps us in time of danger:  
**and protects us from every evil.**

God calls us into relationship with him:  
**and forms us into one holy people,  
the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

Therefore, shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.  
**O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

*Attributed to Thomas L. Weitzel*

## **SONG: I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU**

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples.  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.  
For your steadfast love is great, is great to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.  
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

*Words and music © Brent Chambers*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **Invitation to Confession**

God saves us despite us being unworthy of that salvation.  
In response to that grace, let us confess the ways we have fallen short.

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of Endless Mercy,  
we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness,  
**desiring that which we do not have,  
filling our lives with things that do not save us.**

We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making,  
**polluting your creation,  
neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth.**

We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence,  
**ruling by the military instead of accepting refugees,  
ignoring your commandments.**

Lord have mercy,  
for we have broken your image in us and fallen short of your glory.  
**Christ have mercy,  
for we are broken and need your salvation.**

Lord have mercy upon us and hear us  
as we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Attributed to Stephen M. Fearing*

## **BIBLE READING    DANIEL YEON**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 9:38-41, 49-50**

### **Using the Name of Jesus**

<sup>38</sup> John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn’t in our group.”

<sup>39</sup> “Don’t stop him!” Jesus said. “No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me.”<sup>40</sup> Anyone who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

<sup>49</sup> “For everyone will be tested with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.”

Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Epistle Reading: **James 5:13-16**

**The Power of Prayer**

<sup>13</sup> Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SONG: GOD ALMIGHTY IS THE LORD (Deus Poderoso)**

God almighty is the Lord the Holy One  
There is nothing You cannot do with Your power  
You are listening to us Lord  
All our cries and thoughts You know Lord  
Every single hope and dream belongs to You our Lord

God almighty is the Lord the Faithful One  
You can abide in our pain and all our sorrows  
For You nothing is impossible  
And You raise the dead to life again  
None can overcome the power of mighty God

We believe the Word of our Lord  
Cast the net down into the sea  
All will see your wondrous works  
And lift our hands to praise Your name

Listen to the Word of our God  
Cast the net down into the sea  
There is nothing we can't do when we believe.

Music by Alda Célia

## **SERMON      We are called to live in the “us”**

Recap the previous lessons

We'll recap briefly on what we have learnt from the gospel readings between the first Sunday of the 2021 lockdown and the one we studied last Sunday. My hope in recapping those lessons is that we may find something that in the kingdom of God, Jesus and his community achieved on their journey. Let us start!

We began the current lockdown worship service at home by the scene of sending the Twelve. Jesus called them and gave them godly power and authority to drive out all evil things from where people gathered and lived lives. By their master's commands, the Twelve taught people about repentance and healed the sick by anointing with oil. In using oil, Jesus and his disciples showed their humble and friendly supports as symbol of healing and becoming God's people.

John the Baptizer was headed by King Herod. There was a silly request from Herodias that the king offers John's head plating on a silver plate to her daughter. In this very shocking account, we might learn what consequence we might have when we follow God's call in life's journey.

“Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.” (Mark 6:34) So Jesus came feed 5,000 men and more women and little ones enough, offering only five loaves and two fish. In this Jesus' mighty and compassionate act, we are able to find who Jesus is: He willingly encountered with 5,000 people's all different stories of their hunger, struggle and experience of injustice and being marginalised which brought them all to the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. He felt empathy with his people, and they were welcomed by God at that instant.

Their time being with Jesus passed so fast and then the Scribes, Pharisees entered in their scene, disturbing their encounters with the presence of God in Him. Jesus and his community were tired of those people being hypocrisy, following traditions and laws without questioning, and most of all their domination in society. God, Immanuel was with them, but those who dominated many people acted like a god among them. No love to either God or neighbours. They didn't realise that what they spoke and acted made them unclean. This account would remind us as well of who we really are when we speak and act as people of God.

Do you remember a Syrophoenician woman who begged before Jesus's feet and gained her daughter's life back? What about her faith? Though she was a pagan woman, Jesus acknowledged her faith which moved him and gave her daughter a second chance in her life. She gave up all herself and gave all her trust to God.

Again Jesus fed 4,000 people. In this, the whole church and all traditions have found the meanings and signs in Eucharist or Holy Communion. Eating together, drinking together and gathering as God's people are godly messages in comparison to Pharisee's teaching of hypocrisy and domination. Then Jesus reminded people that there are 12 baskets and 7 baskets of leftovers when he fed many hungry people. Jesus' grace is enough. Jesus' grace lacks nothing. Jesus' grace saves us all when we believe. In His grace, there is nothing we cannot do when we believe.

As God's time approached, Jesus and his fellow wayfarers were walking toward Jerusalem, the centre of all power, authority and domination, where Jesus would end his earthly journey. Jesus predicted his suffering and death. He taught about self-denial, bearing of the cross and what it means to follow him – the way of the cross. His teaching is still resonating with the hearts of us, individuals and a Christ's community, Boronia Park Uniting Church that Jesus expands the "us" with compassionate heart. Jesus calls us to follow, inviting us to a little tiny faith in him, the Messiah and to join in the "us" that he lived for, died for and rose again to become the "us". In Jesus, the "us" begins. In Jesus, the "us" has its meaning and mission. In Jesus, the "us" has been growing and now asking us to become part of it. Who is the "us"? Jesus says, "Anyone who is not against us is for us." (9:40) Jesus taught his disciples

and now teaches us who the “us” is. I believe that his teaching has the same message to us today.

## Sermon Introduction

Last Sunday, I shared with you an incident report that I had a telephone conversation with a man. I have not had any call back from him. But I have had several comments from members of our congregation. Every single comment reminded me of neither shameful moment that I responded poorly nor failure of giving appropriately, but just called upon me to pray for him and his welfare. One of the comments included an action that I am given three 10 dollars gift cards that may be used if there is a request like one that the man made. To me, it was a sign from God. God reminds us of the importance of the “us” and how we should live for? In this powerful practice, I have found a hope that the “us” is expanded, increasing its capacity wider and deeper. And I believe that by expanding the “us”, Jesus would undermine any attempt to claim an exclusive franchise over the practice of justice and compassion. In this, I truly believe that Jesus reminds all Christians, followers, seekers and even doubters that we will be on the receiving end of the works of mercy and grace. Jesus said, “If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.” (9:41) Jesus taught his disciples and now teaches us what the “us” should do. By expanding the “us” today, what would we become more like God’s creation? And what would we do on the behalf of Jesus Christ as his disciples to our neighbours near and far? As we know about the greatest commandment of Jesus, which is, love your God and your neighbour, the expansion of the “us” means to grow love for Christ in us by the power of unity and prayer.

### *The power of unity*

Jesus talked about the “us” to his disciples who stopped someone who healed people by the name of Jesus. No matter the person was not following his way to Jerusalem, Jesus welcomed by receiving the person as part of his divine works of mercy and grace. Then he said, “You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.” Jesus emphasised on the power of unity, giving his friends the affirmation of call

to their discipleship. No matter what they were or where they came from, one thing Jesus always wanted and lived for was this:

Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. (John 17:11)

Jesus invites us to the relationship between God and himself. In this true relationship, we are able to redistribute the power of unity among us instead of holding and dominating.

In early summer 1995, I, with hundreds of young boys, was conscripted and then sent to an infantry bootcamp in Jeon-Ju, South Korea. For six weeks, I was called as 'Trainee No. 95' and all trainers and officers called me like that. A 19-year-old boy and other fellow trainees were getting transformed as soldiers, becoming one whole unit day by day. Can you imagine what could happen when each and every young boy brought all different lift styles and characters into the bootcamp? It was not easy to get to know each other and even harder to build relationship during the course of trainings and sessions. One day, there was a turning point for young boys to unite with each other. Training course called "Individual Combat Training Field" was given one day. This was one of advanced level of training that each trainee must reach up to the point, going through all obstacles including bunkers and barbed wired ground, and staying in the tear gas chamber for one minute without wearing a gasmask. I don't want to repeat it! I don't want any young ones to have the horrible experience though the military service is till compulsory in South Korea. Anyway, by the deadly summer heatwaves, many of trainees struggled to stand tall and even breath in and out. There was the water station only at the end of the final station. All trainees were given a cup of hot water and a refined salt pill. Because it was the first water station after a long day's training which was dirty and muddy, no complaints were there. But this was challenging. We were ordered to give the water cup and the salt pill to next one with saying, "My friend, well done, have a drink with salt and you will be alright." I had to wait until trainee no. 94 got me a cup of water and the salt pill. When I had my turn to receive and then give them to no. 96, I was so grateful that we are able to take and give water



and salt to one another. I would say that what the young boys experienced in the bootcamp stressed our pride in brotherly love among comrades in arms, even after being discharged from active service. I still remember the moment that we became united as one by having one cup of hot water and one salt pill among us, on one summer's day in 1995.

In the power of unity, we are able to be like a christ to each other. We can also be like salt when we, to anyone, would extend a helping hand, care for the earth, feed the hungry, teach the good news, stand for justice, and give a cup of water in Jesus' name. This is how we belong to Jesus and the "us" today. This is a way that Jesus belongs to us.

### *The power of prayer*

If we, in the power of unity, were exploring how we would find our identity in Christ, now we are seeking more practical way to live it out from reading the passage, James 5:13-16. To pray in Jesus' name is such a powerful spiritual tool in our faith journey. Jesus already promised, saying, "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7, 8) By this, maybe, when we pray, we have already all our prayers answered by Jesus Christ. Language in prayer does not matter. Whether you read from a printed one or offer from your heart, God listens to us and finds His way to answer. The most important thing is that for us there is always the One who is in that prayer time. We believe that Holy Spirit works in our prayers, calling upon all servants of God to work of mercy and grace, on the behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This passage is the reference to my healing ministry when I offer prayers in appropriate settings like local nursing homes and its chapel services. At Ashburn House, when we used to go there, every three month, I brought a jar of olive oil to anoint, prayers to offer and the passage to read for the residents and staff. I didn't think that the residents were all ill and in hardship. But I really wanted to touch their lives in offering the healing prayer, anointing with oil and affirming that Christ is always with them no

matter what chapter of life they would be. The way of prayers was well communicating when I encountered with those who could not talk or hear from me. But the skin-to-skin communication by touching each other brought us together in a special fellowship in that environment. Simply a sign of cross made by tracing olive oil on palm or forehead, I, with each recipient, formed a church at that instant. I touched, being touched. I believe that God was there for us. And I believed that we would experience the power of prayer at that instant, eventually gaining access to the works of Christ's mercy and grace. So powerful, so meaningful, so giving and forgiving. I won't forget that instant where God abided in us. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." (James 5:16) Many colours and wrinkled skins touched my soul and heart and then I became who I am this moment. I believe that their non-verbal prayers had power and brought me here today in my journey toward God almighty. In the power of prayer, the "us" grows, increasing the kingdom of God every aspect in life. No matter where we are, here on earth or life beyond, the "us" is expended by the power of unity and prayer.

## Conclusion

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, do you believe that we are in the "us"? And are we now expanding the "us" by loving Christ and neighbours at this instant? In our faith journey, we sometimes rise and fall, and make turns when we face all life's questions and changes. This is true and will be the same. But Jesus Christ today still loves and calls the "us" into living in union with Him. And He prays for us and our unity and discipleship in Him. As He prays, let us pray for each other. The harsh lockdown must have its end. We don't know when, but the end comes near. Then we continue living as Christ community to bring hope and to give life to the "us" who are still seeking a community of heart. I hope that today's message for us all would motivate us to mortify the world where there are still injustice and exclusiveness exhausting many lives viciously. Because we, Boronia Park Uniting Church have committed to becoming the "us" in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anyone who is not against us is for us. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE   JENNY KEAST**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Once again we come before you to acknowledge who you are and recognise our failings before you. We look at our troubled world, not only with the Corona Virus but the myriad of human induced sufferings and dilemmas and know that without your help we could not see a way forward.

Thank you for all those people who step up in times of crisis. For those people who provide medical assistance, shelter, food, clothing, building repairs, counselling and leadership in these times. Help us to respond in whatever way we are able.

Thank you Lord that we have a vaccine available to assist us in the way forward to a more normal life with COVID. We pray we will be safe in the time of restrictions easing and sensible in our behaviour. We pray that our hospitals will not be overwhelmed and that doctors, nurses and paramedics will be able to care for the sick.

We pray also for the situation in Victoria where there are so many difficulties being faced and now an earthquake tremor.

We pray for the mental health of all people. Give each person strength to endure whatever difficult circumstances that prevail. We pray for HOPE in these troubling times.

We continue to bring before you parts of our wider world and this week we pray for Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru and for Christians to have courage, imagination and energy to build bridges of peace and understanding against conflict and division and to pursue justice for the poor, marginalised and dispossessed.

We pray for our local Anglican Churches of All Saints and St Marks that they will be providing ministry to their parish and beyond through faithful Church members.

We pray for families during this school holiday period, for a break from the rigors of home schooling and the challenges of lockdown.

Give wisdom to our Minister, Elders and Parish Council as they guide our church and make plans for the future. Help us to know the needs of those around us, family members, friends and church members. Encourage people to reach out to others if they need help.

We know that you journey through these times with us. Let us know and feel your presence and help others to turn to you for support. Thank you for your presence in our lives.

**In Jesus 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 for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

## **HYMN: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING**

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
    alleluia, alleluia;

O burning sun with golden beam,  
and silver moon with softer gleam,  
    *O praise him, O praise him,  
    alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
    unfold rich blessings on our way,  
    O praise him, alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
    let them his glory also show;  
    *O praise him, O praise him ...*

And everyone of tender heart,  
    forgiving others, take your part,  
    O praise him, alleluia!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear  
praise God and on him cast your care;  
    *O praise him, O praise him ...*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
    and worship him in humbleness;  
    O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
    and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
    *O praise him, O praise him ...*

*Based on Laudato sia Dio mio Signore  
The 'Canticle of the Sun' of Francis of Assisi by William Henry Draper*

## BLESSING

Go in peace to enjoy and employ your gift of faith.

**Our help is in the name of God  
who made heaven and earth.**

Fear neither outward enemy nor inner temptation.

**Our help is in the name of God  
who made heaven and earth.**

Rejoice in your blessings and smile in your hardships.

**Our help is in the name of God  
who made heaven and earth.**

The everlasting grace of Christ crucified but risen,  
the tireless, eternal love of God,  
and the live-in Guest who fills household of faith with many gifts,  
will be with *us* this day and for evermore.  
Amen!

[Attributed to Bruce Prewer](#)

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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