



Sunday Communion Service

7 November 2021 (Pentecost 24)

This time of worship we gather to worship and honour God by celebrating and participating in the table fellowship called *Communion*. By sharing the bread and the cup, we can affirm that in our journey we never be alone and lack of God's grace for us. This liturgy of the communion is prepared by Christy Kim (Bible Reading), Justin Han (Prayers of the People), the music team and the Minister. We thank them for the commitment to all God's works that may give life to us in this season of life.

A PRAYER FOR THE LATE MARY ROLFE

Recently, we have been passed a sad news of the passing of Mary Rolfe who used to be a member of the congregation and moved to a nursing home in Bexley, NSW. She was survived by her sister Helen Drury. We believe that Mary is now in the house of the Lord where there is no more pain and sorrow. We mourn but have a hope that she would be now with the Lord of sea and sky who called her eternal home in heaven.

Let us pray:

You, God, are the Lord of life and death.
In the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus,
you have made us think differently about our own death.

Sometimes it's hard, but we're trying to understand
that death is not your final word,
that there is yet more to come, a most glorious more.



Rev Seung Jae Yeon and Mary Rolfe were singing together her favourite tune "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" at her new nursing home in Bexley on 28 October 2016. (Photo credit: Seung Jae Yeon)

But we grieve that death will separate us
in our time and space, because we're human,
and loving relationships matter to us.

It's not easy for us to yield someone we love,
even to you, our loving Father,
so help us to unclench our hands,
and release them into your grace.

Comfort us with the love of your compassionate heart,
and reunite us at the end of time, in your realm.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR THE FIRST PEOPLES

From before recorded time, the Eora Nation cared for this land. We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have offered themselves in tending it. We acknowledge the Elders and communities of the Walloo-metta-gal People who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator. We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

PRYAER OF CONFESSION

In baptism, we are claimed by God,
and given the gift of the Holy Spirit
that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ
and share his ministry in the world.

Service of Baptism, Uniting in Worship 2

We have not always lived as Christ's disciples.
Let us confess our sins:

We have failed to live out our baptism:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have been blind to the vision of a renewed world:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have been indifferent to the suffering of others:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In your mercy, pardon and restores us,
that bound together in the ministry of Christ
we may serve you with joy
all the days of our life.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
not counting our sins against us,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

2 Corinthians 5:19

Mark 2:5

Thanks be to God.

Through baptism, the sign of the cross is upon you.
Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**As members of Christ's body, the Church,
we will live out our baptism,
serving together in Christ name.**

SONG: COME AS YOU ARE (TIS 693)

'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?

'No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.

'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

'Come as you are; that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.'

Words and music by permission Spectrum Publications, Melbourne

BIBLE READING CHRISTY KIM

Gospel Reading: **Mark 12:38-44**

³⁸ Jesus also taught: “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. ³⁹ And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. ⁴⁰ Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished.”

The Widow’s Offering

⁴¹ Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

⁴³ Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. ⁴⁴ For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON SEUNG JAE YEON

Let us pray:

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](#)

Amen.

There is an English saying – “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” This saying teaches us that we should not judge the value of something by its outward appearance alone. For example, “That poor widow may look very insignificant because she gives only two copper coins. But don't judge a book

by its cover – she gives everything she has”. Actually, this is what Jesus said in today’s passage. “Don’t judge the poor widow by her offering of two copper coins.” This would remind us of characteristics of God and especially of what God really wants us to be. You may remember that when Samuel selected one from Jesse’s household, seeing Eliab, his eldest son, the Lord said to him, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Now we know who God is and how he calls us into his kingdom and his ministry.



The poor widow gave only two copper coins to the treasury of the Temple. This simple and humble act of the widow may give us a profound picture of commitment as a giving of self. She seemed to have no reputation, but her daily life and dependant family are on the line. Because she gave everything that he had to live on. In comparison to the poor widow, rich people put in large amounts as their contributions. The rich people would have boastfully talked about their large contribution to the Temple, advertising their good deed among the crowd. The poor widow would have remained serious in silence as it pondered on her own contribution. Indeed, they made offering

for the life of the Temple, which is their religious institution but for the widow, the two small coins represented her commitment. In the eye of Jesus who sat down near the offering box in the Temple, the poor widow did it more honourably because she committed her life to God. To us, Jesus does not invite contributions but call to commitment.

Today's bible reading is the best example of what commitment we live for in this faith journey and who Jesus Christ is for us. Firstly, making a commitment means sacrifice. It is binding oneself to a course of action, a promise, an intension, or a firm responsibility. And commitment may require us to consider things that we may avoid. In this age, life has conditioned us to desire a life of ease, of quick gratifications and of less discomfort. There is really nothing wrong with desiring an easier life, but what is troubling is that many of this generation now expect to receive abundant rewards with minimal effort. It is so easy for us to give up on something that require extra effort, sacrifice of time, and sharing of what we have. Worst, sometimes we may seek to find a short-cut to achieve goals we set. I don't say that I am not included among this generation. The passage clearly speaks that the poor widow, the one who had a lowest position in Jewish society, gave tithing of what she had, showing 'who she is' to God. Her giving was giving of herself to God as a sacrifice.

Secondly, commitment is one of the values that underpin strong and mutual relationships. The widow was acting as a God's child who could maintain strong relationships and she was the most likely to fulfill her commitments and stay committed. This was so because in her commitment it took emotional competence to sacrifice time, to exercise considerable will, and to utilise substantial effort. The rich people who valued their contributions would have been highly skilled in managing laws and contracts, especially in their business with those who had the Temple's power and authority. They wanted to let others know how much they contributed in offering though "they gave a tiny part of their surplus" as a token of what they gained. The rich people wanted to show off 'what they do' in giving contribution and be approved 'who they are' among the crowd. The widow had strong and mutual relationships with God, but the rich people had contribution to the Temple's leaders as their custom or a part of religious piety. Jesus seemed to criticise their 'piety' in this passage.

Thirdly, commitment is also a personal thing. It is a strong indicator of a self-discipline, resilience and persistence. It is a value that distinguishes the brave-hearted from the wicked. The poor widow who was committed, did her very best even outside her comfort zones. She would have walked through to the Court of the Women which was in the farthest point of the inner temple complex whereas the rich people walked in through every place and gate in the Temple. She hurdled difficulties to fulfill her commitments not only to herself but also to others who were the same as herself – the lowly and less fortunate people. Because she is focused, her decision to give in the Temple is clearer and she knows her way towards her goals – Love her God and her neighbour as herself. The rich people who were not committed lack focus and usually end up with many unclear choices. They gave only in large amounts. They could not have understood about sacrificially working towards their dreams because they only gave a tiny part of their surplus.

The widow acted as a faithful person, bringing her whole heart not only to count on coins but also to give thanks and praises to her God who walks together in her weary life. There is nothing else between God and herself. Jesus watched and said, “She has given everything she had to live on.” Two copper coins means everything for her daily life and family, her religion and faith, her integrity, and her true self. In the Temple, the centre for Jewish religious practice, Jesus breaks down their laws and contracts to maintain their authority and power and to rule over the weak and the poor. But he instructs the crowd in critical thinking, warning against those who use in wicked ways their power and authority from the Temple, a house for God’s people where they meet and pray. And he today teaches us how we should or can live as a people of the good news of Jesus Christ, demonstrating who he himself is, the Saviour and the Meaning of life.

We believe that we are saved by Jesus Christ and his ultimate life-giving acts on the old cross. Because of his sacrificial commitment, we are loved and called by God in this life’s journey with each other as the company. We live the life given by God and his Son Jesus Christ. Our status is totally different since we committed our lives for Christ. So our statue is never based on our performance of God’s commands. We are to seek things above because we are already raised with Jesus. (Amen!) We are to set our mind on things

above because we are dead and hidden with Christ in God. (Amen!) We are to mortify the flesh because we are already alive to God and will appear with him in glory. (Amen!) The story of the poor widow's offering demonstrates that 'what we do' is based on 'who we are'. We obey because we belong to Christ. We do not become the Lord's because we obey. By making sure that we do not confuse our 'who' and our 'do,' Mark's gospel calls us to commit our lives to Jesus and to each other as Jesus did the same to God and to all God's people. Jesus' obedience to God by bearing the old cross never earned God's love. Instead, his obedience expresses his love to God and to all God's people including us and many.

Today and the days to come, we act upon the faith and commitment that are ours because our love for God leads us to do so. Jesus has taught us endlessly the love that we express to God and to our neighbour. "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength," and "Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31) Since nothing creates greater love for God than profound understanding of Christ's commitment for undeserving sinners, the grace that establishes our new identity in Christ is the power of the Christian life. Commitment does not release from obedience but is the compelling power of it. We long to please the One who has given us the status of his own child though we did nothing, and could do nothing, to earn this identity. Knowing who we are ultimately gives us the power to live as God desires.

Last Sunday night, I went to pick up my son Daniel who worked for a Japanese restaurant in Macquarie Centre. On the way, I was accompanied with Daniel's two cousin brothers. While I stopped my car at the pick-up zone, they began to ask questions. I believed that they think their religious minister uncle could satisfy all their curiosity. The Q and A began! All questions and statements were interesting ones about Christian ethics, the 101 of Christian belief and doctrines, and personal questions. They bombarded questions and I answered them well, using everyday language to explain. At the end, there was a real hard question. This is the question. "Would you go to work if a megachurch in South Korea calls you as their minister and pays you very well?" To be honest, they asked this question so seriously. Then, I told them the truth from my heart which has been always

prepared to answer. I said, “I would bring the matter of the call from the church to my family. Then I would discern the call with them. But if any of them says ‘no’, I would say no to the church. No reason to serve a church without my family’s permission and their support.” I thought to myself, saying, “Good.” This incident has reminded me of my ordination and the commitment that I made on Saturday 19 July 2014. This is based upon the words from 1 Corinthians 9:22-23.

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us listen for the Word of the Lord. Let us make a commitment like the poor widow that gives everything that we have to live on. Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-45) Jesus never sees the amount of contributions that we have given. But he always weighs the values of commitment of each and every day that we have lived. In the story of the poor widow’s offering, Jesus once again calls us, as his disciples, to follow. “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” (Mark 8:34) I pray that two small coins and the commitment that the poor widow lived out are our commitment today.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE JUSTIN HAN

God of life,

In the midst of trials, we have failed to live in unity with each other and with you; making selfish wishes and false values.

Fill us with the beauty of your creation in Christ and all gifts of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration.

God of peace,

In the midst of uncertain times, we have often denied your lordship; trusting in our own knowledge and power. Instill within us your peace when we are filled with worries, anxieties, prejudice, misunderstandings, and fear.

God of justice,

In the dark despair and all deep distress, we have failed in our calling to be your holy people; setting up barriers that separate people into racial or other ethnic groups, barriers that divide rich from poor barriers that split men and women, young and old.

Make us strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the way to your kingdom, and strengthen us together in mission to your world,

In our world cycle of prayer, we pray for beautiful countries in Oceania; French Polynesia, Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. We pray that you continue to bless them with abundance of joy and peace.

We pray for our local churches, Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill - All Saints and St. Mark's to stand strong in the tough times and to seek your wisdom for better future.

We pray in your name, Amen.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

COMMUNION SONG: FEED US NOW (TIS 538)

Feed us now, Bread of life, in this holy meal;
let us know your love anew: we hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of life, come and live within;
let your peace be ours today, Lord Jesus, we pray.

Piece of bread, cup of wine: Lord, this food is good:
love and mercy come to us your promise we trust.
Piece of bread, cup of wine: who can understand
how his mercy works in these? Yet, Lord, we believe.

God is here, O so near, nearer than our thoughts.
Stay with us where'er we go; Lord, help us to grow.
God is here, O so near, in this heaven's meal.
May we always feed on you – on the bread that is true.

Words and music © R. Mann

THE INVITATION

Let us draw near to the holy table.
Jesus is here, in this bread and this cup,
even present and ever real, opening our minds
to the possibility and promise of heaven.
Come, share in the story
and feast on the grace that heaven provides
in the community gathered at this table.

NARRATIVE OF MEAL

Here are God' gifts for God's people.
In this we follow Jesus.
On the side of Hunters Hill, on the shore of two rivers,
in the home of all believers, seekers, and doubters,

at the end of a journey,
Jesus in food and drink offers to his followers
fellowship with himself
and a foretaste of the new creation.

Most memorable of all
was on the night of his arrest
when he took bread and gave thanks to God
and broke it and shared it with his friends, saying,

“This is my body broken for you.”

Then he took the cup and again gave thanks to God
and gave it to them, saying,

“This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that you made us,
and before us
you made the world we live in.
And before the world,
you made all that is
and all that will be.

Through the stories of the past
you reveal that you call the most unlikely people to leadership.
You do not shy away from hardship or suffering
but in brokenness you breathe new life.
In suffering you breathe comfort
and in despair you breathe hope.

You came to us and entered time.
In Jesus, you confront our arrogance.
You challenge our truth.
You notice the overlooked, respecting the gifts of each and every one,
and valuing those considered worthless.
So, we give you our thanks.

We broke him
but he did not stay broken.
He rose to life,
breathing forgiveness and giving us hope.
Our gratitude rises,
inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We join with the whole creation in every time and place, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you that you have called a covenant people
to be a light to the nations.
Through Moses you taught us to love you law.
And in the prophets you cried out for justice.
With this bread and this cup,
we do as our Saviour commands.
We celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
make us one with him,
one with each other.
and one in ministry in the world
until at last we feast with him in the kingdom.
Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Hear us now, O Christ,
and breathe Your Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and wine.

May they become for us Your body,
vibrant with Your life,
healing, renewing and making us whole.

And as the bread and wine
which we now eat and drink
are changed into us,
may we be changed again into You,
bone of Your bone,
flesh of Your flesh,
loving and caring in the world.

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Here is Christ coming to us in sharing of bread and cup.

The gift of God for the people of God.
The body of Christ.

Now, you are invited to eat the bread and drink from the cup that you have prepared.

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Thank you, loving God
for inviting us to share in this meal.
May we sense your presence with us
in new and deeper ways,
as we seek to live and share with others
the good news of your love.
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 Direct Debit.

SONG: WHO IS THIS MAN

Who is this man, who gathered people to him,
and touched their lives along each dusty way;
who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness
and valued all their ordinary days?

Who is this man, who, at the long day's ending,
would draw apart to wait on God and pray,
and, in that mystery that knows no ending,
would find God's wisdom
and would know God's words to say?

Who is this man, who gave to women dignity
in partnership of worth and equal grace,
who listened to the stories that they told him
and honoured all, whatever was their place?
Who let them choose to come and join his company,
and learned with them God's love for every race,
who showed to each the courage of their nature
to care and tend each lonely
and each suffering face.

Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness
and showed them all the children at this side;
who taught of love and justice for all people
and took a towel and washed away their pride?
In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy,
and how he trusted God to be his guide,
knew how he led them through misunderstanding,
and then forgave them
when they ran away to hide.

Who is this man who calls us now to follow,
a shadow presence asking us to be
companions on the way through this life's journey,
to live in truth, to set our tired world free?
So let us find each other now in partnership
with ears to hear and eyes awake to see,
that we might grow in grace and understanding
and walk beside that man
who comes from Galilee.

Words: Mary Pearson



BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil to evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.

Amen.

SUNG BLESSING: GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin | Music: William G. Tomer

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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