

Sunday Worship Service

13 March 2022 (Lent 2)



May the abundant blessing and liberating hope be with you all – a people of God in Wallumetta Country Boronia Park Uniting Church and all of you who are with us in Holy Spirit! Now we are on a journey of Lent. During the 40 days of Lent, we want more God's presence and help among us in our daily life. So this

Lenten season would be a perfect time for those who seek find Him and deeper relationship with Him. He is able so that He comes to us before we begin seeking. He is able so that He fulfils what we desperately need before we begin crying out. He is there for us all the time as a God of ever-living and boundless presence. Perhaps he wants to be found by us every time and everywhere.

Acknowledgement for the First Peoples:

We acknowledge the Wallumettagal people of the Eora Nation, and their elders past, present and emerging, on which we celebrate Jesus Christ our Lord. We recognize their special custodianship and relationship with the land and all creation. And thank them.

Opening Prayer inspired by Psalm 27

Light-giving, salvation-making God,
we have fixed living and our dying
and our being raised to new life
on your steadfast love and faithfulness.

You have promised
to hide us in your shelter in the day of trouble.
You have promised to set us high on a rock,
above those powers and forces
that hammer us,
that attract us,
that work against us.

We have sought your presence here,
listening for your Word:
your Word that gives life;
your Word that heals the wounded heart;
your Word that speaks truth.

Teach us your Way, O Lord Jesus.
Lead us on a well-lighted path.
In the times when you are silent,
grant us the courage to wait,
trusting in your grace that brings your resurrection power
to our dead ends.

You are doing a 'new thing' among us.
though, it is hard to see at times what that 'new thing' is.
We bring to you our grieving over what is being lost,
our fears about what the future might hold,
our desire to love and serve you.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
you are refining us,
purifying our discipleship,
pulling us into following Jesus
In this new world.

Grant us mercy and grace
to trust you more deeply,
for the only secure place is with you,
our light and our salvation,
the stronghold of our life.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus,
the first-born of your new creation
our hope, our life. **Amen.**

Attributed to Christine Jerrett

Hymn: Glory to our boundless God (TIS 189)

Glory to our boundless God,
who has promised peace on earth.
God the Father, glorious, strong,
heaven's sovereign, Lord of all:
worship, thanks, and praise we give
when your glory we recall.

Let unceasing praise and prayer
come to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God, incarnate Love,
Lamb who takes our sin away.
Risen and exalted Lord,
hear with mercy as we pray.

For in you alone we find
God's true holiness revealed:
you alone we claim as Lord,
Jesus Christ, through whom we see
God's own fullness manifest
in the Holy Trinity.

Scripture Reading Psalm 27 and Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)

Triumphant Song of Confidence

Of David.

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
 whom shall I fear?
 The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
 of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² When evildoers assail me
 to devour my flesh—
 my adversaries and foes—
 they shall stumble and fall.
- ³ Though an army encamp against me,
 my heart shall not fear;
 though war rise up against me,
 yet I will be confident.
- ⁴ **One thing I asked of the Lord,
 that will I seek after:
 to live in the house of the Lord
 all the days of my life,
 to behold the beauty of the Lord,
 and to inquire in his temple.**
- ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
 in the day of trouble;
 he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
 he will set me high on a rock.
- ⁶ Now my head is lifted up
 above my enemies all around me,
 and I will offer in his tent
 sacrifices with shouts of joy;
 I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
- ⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
 be gracious to me and answer me!

8 “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,

O God of my salvation!

10 If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

13 **I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

14 **Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lament over Jerusalem

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’ ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired

to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story (TIS 233)

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story ...

Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story ...

Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread;

but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story ...

Francis Harold Rowley

Sermon: He is able

I got a phone call from my Heather one school day afternoon. She said, "Dad, can you come and pick me up?" She goes to school and back home by bus. I sensed that she would have felt tired or had a urgent matter to ask a lift from school. I said, "Sure, I will be there as soon as possible." It could take more than half an hour to get there to pick up. I wished I could fly and then pick her up immediately. But I wasn't able. What I could do was that I drove down to her school and picked her up. I said, "Next time Heather, please let me know a bit earlier if you need a lift." That was what I could be for her.

On my way to Heather, I prayed to God, giving him praises because he is able and asking him to be with Heather while I was getting there. I didn't ask him to give me wings to fly to Heather or teleport me to her school. Simply I prayed that God stays with Heather attending her side. I knew God was there with her already. And I believe that God will be with Heather forever while her life goes on. I know I am mortal and cannot be with her forever. But God is able so that Heather can rely upon him during her

entirely life if she believes. I pray that all our young ones believe that God is only able to be with us forever.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus seemed to have his full trust in God who was leading him to Jerusalem to fulfil his godly mission. No matter what the Pharisees said to him he didn't look at all ceasing this journey to Jerusalem. The Pharisees' warning or Herod's desire to kill him could not stop him continuing his journey to Jerusalem. Jesus says, "I must be on my way," declaring that he will finish all God's purpose and mission in Jerusalem like the ancient prophets did. Some prophets perished in Jerusalem – Uriah, Zechariah and later Isaiah. Jesus humbly followed the legend of the martyrdom of prophets.

In verses 34 and 35, Jesus lamented over Jerusalem. His lament is the result of his compassion that has its own position against human rejection. Jesus laments over Jerusalem and the people in Jerusalem rejects Jesus. Jesus said that I have longed to gather your children together but you were not willing. Then Jesus used an image of a protective mother bird. The maternal instinct of the hen is powerful and the compassion of Jesus for Jerusalem is too. Jesus says, "Jerusalem kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it." He had his trust in God who sent him to the city and in the will of God although it would be rejected by misunderstanding of the law of God. He seemed to be in miserable circumstances on his journey toward Jerusalem on an ordinary day of his life. It seems there is no way for Jesus to hide or detour. He must continue his journey through all obstacles. But there seems no other way. He had the whole world against him.

In my reading and studying about the passage, there was one spiritual song that resonated within my heart. The title is *He is able*.

He is able more than able
To accomplish what concerns me today
He is able more than able

To handle anything that comes my way
He is able more than able
To do much more than
I could ever dream
He is able more than able
To make me what He wants me to be

[Greg Ferguson](#) | [Rory Noland](#)

This song reminded me when I felt like Jesus that I had the whole world against me. There was no one at my side. Grace's mother was the one who showed her full trust on me. I wrestled all burdens in life and had to overcome all huddles during the time when I discerned God's call in my ministry. This song and the moments that I sang and mediated was my hiding place where I deeply rooted my trust in God. I believe that he moulded me and transformed me what He wants me to be. I truly believe that God is able. A God I believe is always with me meeting all my challenges instead of defeating them all. A God I trust is always among us touching our broken hearts instead of violating our enemies. I can confess today that God has worked in and through rejection, frustration and even failures that I have had in my life. Because He is able. Our God is able.

In Psalm 27, it begins praising to the Lord, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid." Such a strong statement of who God is for us is this. And then the psalmist deeply affirms that the Lord God is only able to rescue all from every difficult circumstance. He sings, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" While God is coming to save and rescue us, let us trust in him with thanks and patience. Because God is here for us already. God is able to do all His works in his time and by his will.

During this season of Lent, dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, let us find anew who God is for us. And let us meet each other with thanks and patience while we are waiting for God's help in life. Again, God be with us always.

No matter we wait for, or it seems to be far away, God dwells in our midst always. Because he is able. Between God and us, no matter what circumstances we have ended up in or how far apart we become, we come back to God. Please stop separating, we are meant to be together with God who is able.

Amen.

Prayers of the People: Justin Han

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril, let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all, and we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace, not war.

We pray for the people of Ukraine,
we lament the violence that has come to their country.

We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer. We plead for an end to violence and aggression in their land.

We pray for the people of Russia,
we give thanks for those who protest for peace and pray for ongoing courage.

We ask for a change of heart in those who commit acts of aggression and war against their fellow citizens and neighbours.

We pray for Russians who will suffer because of sanctions and war.

We pray for leaders around the world.

We pray that world leaders might work for an end to war and for establishing of peace.

We seek wisdom for those who are making life and death decisions about how to respond to violence and threats of violence

We ask for courage for those who campaign for peace.

We pray for aid workers and journalists.

We give thanks for the willingness of aid workers to work in situations of war and unrest in order to meet the needs of others.

We ask for safety, wisdom and compassion for all working to alleviate suffering and heal the wounded.

We pray for journalist and media organisations reporting the situation in Ukraine and Russia,

may they report truthfully and compassionately.

We pray that you might give us a desire for peace and a willingness to work and hope and pray for peace each day.

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.

Dedication of the Offering:

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 *OR Moderator's Flood Appeal*

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.

Song of Praise He Is Able

He is able more than able
To accomplish what concerns me today
He is able more than able
To handle anything that comes my way
He is able more than able
To do much more than I could ever dream
He is able more than able
To make me what He wants me to be

Greg Ferguson | Rory Noland

Benediction based on Philippians 4

Be glad in the Lord always!
Again I say, be glad!
Focus your thoughts on all that is true,

all that is holy, all that is just,
all that is pure, all that is lovely,
and all that is worthy of praise.
Practice these things,
and the God of peace will go with you.

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

Sung Blessing Now Unto Him

Now unto Him, who is able to keep
Able to keep you from falling
And present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory
With exceeding joy
To the only wise God our Saviour
Be glory and majesty
Dominion and power
Both now and forever
Amen.

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