

Sunday Worship Service

Easter 6, Sunday 22 May 2022, 9:30AM

Boronia Park Uniting Church

Lead: Rev. Seung Jae Yeon

Announcement

Acknowledgement of the First Peoples

We acknowledge the Walloomattagal people,
the first inhabitants of this place.

**We honour them for their custodianship of the land,
on which we gather today.**

Call to Worship

In the name of God,
who created us,
who holds us and the whole world in his hands.

In the name of the Son
who came into the world,
who reconciles us with God.

In the name of the Holy Spirit
who fills us with eternal life,
who links us with all Christians
and incites us to peace,
we come together to offer our thanks and praise.

[Sheilagh Kesting](#)

Hymn I Will Give Thanks to You (TIS 726)

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.*

Brent Chambers

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are a God of Life to us.
You show your Self as our source of compassion
as we struggle for whole relationships in the home,
our communities, our nation and our world.

We recognize your presence among us in our life and worship,
and ask your gentle Spirit to constantly open our hearts
to the ways of justice and peace.

We ask all of this in your Name,
because you alone are holy,
our true justice and peace.

Amen.

from National Peace With Justice Week resources

Scripture Reading Ashley Han

Acts 16:9-15 (New International Version)

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia’s Conversion in Philippi

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

John 14:23-29 (New International Version)

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children Young People Talk Jenny Warren

Let’s start with what is peace? What are some words that mean peace? Peace is...

Calm, happy, not scared, no bully’s, freedom, kind, friendly, not worried, quiet, tranquility, safety, feeling of home, feeling loved?

Who is the prince of peace? Jesus, right? Why is Jesus the prince of peace? Because Jesus himself is peace. Jesus is all these peaceful words we just

mentioned. Jesus brings peace, he fixes everything and he makes everything good again. How do we know this? Because Jesus promises us this.

In John 14:27, Jesus says, **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

Well this means to me, that no matter how scary or crazy the world feels around you, if you just talk to Jesus, say his name, ask Jesus to help you he will! You don’t have to do anything alone, Jesus will always be there to help you, and you don’t need to be scared or afraid. To me that is such a wonderful peaceful feeling, that you and I have the prince of peace Jesus helping us!!

Jesus continues to remind us of the peace we have from him in John 16:33. **“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

Jesus doesn’t promise that there won’t be any trouble in life, but he does promise that you do not have to worry and he will help you through it all. I have some pictures that I want to show you that reflect the peace Jesus gives you in a world that will always have trouble. All you have to do is ask him.



In Matthew 5:9, it says, **“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.”** So as children of God we too are called to be peacemakers. I think of it as being mini Jesus’s. We can’t be exactly like Jesus obviously but we can try, by being peacemakers too, we too can be mini princes of peace.

How can we be peacemakers? Being nice, being kind, being thoughtful, helping, telling the truth, being honest, not being mean. Including everybody, not gossiping, sharing and being respectful.

Now let us sing a song!!!

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, He’s so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me,
He cares for me, He’s so good to me.

God answers prayer, God answers prayer,
God answers prayer, He’s so good to me.

I praise His name, I praise His name,
I praise His name, He’s so good to me!

Sermon

Seung Jae Yeon

“The peace of Jesus tells where we are going”

I would like to begin my reflection sharing with you by introducing sentences of wisdom. The title is Being Peace written by Lao-Tzu, 6 BCE scholar.

*If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.*

*If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.*

*If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.*

*If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.*

*If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.*

So true, isn't it? Almost 2,600 some years ago, this man thought about the world where peace brings a lot to many lives, systems, communities and human histories and stories. He believed that peace sustains historical and biological circle of life. And its beginning is one's heart. Maybe your heart, my heart, our hearts are the beginning of the world peace. This moment I pray that you have a heart of peace in you that may make this world liveable and sustainable for this generation and the generations to come.

Let us pray:

God of peace, God of those who have pure heart,
come and help us listen for your word
that may speak to us your wisdom
and touch us as we find you this moment.
Amen.

It was the first time for me to take such a long holiday ever since Covid-19 hit Australia. I had fully rested and recharged by going places with family and friends, meeting families and colleagues, and encountering with God in different spaces and times over four weeks. Sometimes I turned up at Sunday morning services surprising you and worrying you about why this minister on leave is here. I also learnt new things such as some Korean songs and histories that scratched my heart and soul. And I began again my continuing education of theological studies. New learning environment and a lot of inputs got me refreshed as I read and study about theology. I know it is not an easy thing. But challenging and pushing me harder creates for me a space where I could grow my own self as Seung Jae and a follower of Jesus Christ.

During the holidays, I also took two weeks of study break. For that period, I had such an honour to be a member of the 16th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. For me, to become a member of Assembly was the final puzzle to complete the picture of how Uniting Church in Australia has mutual submission to each council and between councils. With thanks, I joined about 300 members during the meeting. I had two learning goals for the Assembly meeting. One was, as I said, to find out how Uniting Church governs and operates all ministries and missional activities of the church. The other was to represent my cultural and linguistic identity as a Korean member of the church. I had so many chances to greet members from other synods, presbyteries, and other culturally and linguistic diverse

communities. Also I met my old friends who had formed and transformed me in my early years within Uniting Church. Nigel Hawken is also a member there so we had a couple of talks in between sessions and over meals. You know he is so caring. He took a great care of me during the meeting.

Each and every member represented their appointing councils and agencies, recognising that we are all taking journey of faith in challenging and changing times. Some proposals brought humongous debates and discussions, dividing the Assembly into so many pieces some moments. Chaotic and confused. On those cluttered tables that had many papers and devices, all members kept discussing with people sitting next and raising orange and blue cards to express their warmth or coldness to the words and phrases in proposal. The longest discussion ended up bringing quietness in the conference centre where it was raining outside. All felt very tired but gave thanks to God for receiving the proposal and calling us to commit it next three years. Eventually the gathering place was filled with peace – the peace that the world cannot give. I believe this was the peace of Christ for all members of the Assembly.

After the four days meeting, all concluded well by sharing bread and the cup in communion. That's what I learnt from the Assembly meeting. Many voices, different arguments and perspectives were to be placed among all members.



But once it came to a time where we were all called by God to discern what

he wants us to be, with the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit, all members agreed, becoming a body of Jesus Christ and inviting Jesus Christ, the Head of the church to rule. The witness of John 14:25 was revealed there. “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Helper was there for all of us to teach and to remind of who we really are – people of God who live by faith and peace not by law and division. During the four days of meeting in Sunshine Coast, Queensland, I learnt that I am part of the people of God in the Uniting Church and the Holy Spirit teaches and reminds his people that the Peace of Jesus is always there for us as he promised to send.



On the last day at the Assembly, I took an opportunity to stand and speak to all the members of the Assembly about what I learnt from all of you, Boronia Park Uniting Church. It was my first time ever to stand at a

microphone and give a three-minutes supporting speech for a proposal regarding culturally and linguistic diverse community within the Uniting Church. I talked about what I learnt from all of you, your openness to welcome me as your minister, two great female ministers before me, Jacki Somerville and Vale Annette Hawken who had brought good changes to this congregation, and our Growing Young congregation who are willingly changing our character for next generation and their future journey. When I was speaking at the microphone, I was fully who I am, Seung Jae and who

you have formed and transformed. During the speech, I could feel that my heart was being filled with the Peace of Jesus Christ. It was such a godly moment where I was speaking the testimony and its words that belong to the Father God. I could sense that there was the Holy Spirit hovering over me and all listeners in the meeting. This touching moment was coming to me during the Assembly. I believe this is truly the gift of God for me during the holiday.

The sentences of Lao-Tzu would remind us again where the Peace of Jesus Christ begins to grow. It is my heart, your heart and our hearts. When we do Christ' words and works, the Holy Spirit is nearer than ever before. At the same time, unfortunately we human beings are failing Christ's words and works so that there are wars, conflicts, famines and climate crisis and disasters. Thus we may cry out how long we fail each other and disobey the Prince of Peace on earth and among all God's creation. We celebrate God's grace and love and at the same time we mourn over our failure. This is our faith journey and it is the ongoing challenge that we will bear with our human effort until Christ will come again. Let us remind each other of the promise of Jesus Christ about who God is for us. In verse 28, it says, "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I." In the Peace of Jesus Christ, we are together in this journey to become peacemaker in this world until all will be well. Let us rigorously resist against what is evil and let us thoroughly be wise for what is good. Let God's words and works be real in our everyday life. I believe that we can do this because of our fellowship in Christ and with each other.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Barnabas Joo

Dear Lord,

We come to you in prayer this morning. We thank you for the world you've made that we are able to enjoy.

We thank you for another Sunday that we are able to gather and praise you.

As we have time for the prayers of the people, we remember that there is so much to be thankful for.

We thank you for the fresh water that runs through our taps. The plentiful meals we enjoy daily. We thank you for peace in Australia. We thank you for religious freedoms. We thank you for political freedoms.

We note the Federal Election that was held yesterday. Father, we pray that any incoming government will do your will. That they will not be swayed by greed and short-sightedness.

Because Father, we know there are many things wrong in the world.

We know that the many in the world live in poverty.

We know that many live without sanitation.

We know that many contract terrible diseases that could be prevented with proper living conditions.

We know that there are wars that still haunt the lives of men, women and children all over the world.

We know that there are many areas where people are being persecuted for their beliefs, whether religious or political.

Father, help us to be part of the solution. Help us to work and strive for what the right thing is. Help us do what's right to make the world you created. The one you saw as good.

As we remember all what is wrong in the world, we pray for your light to shine through us.

As we are approaching National Reconciliation Week, we pray that leaders of the country and leaders in communities will be more proactive in righting the wrong that was done against Indigenous communities, and continues to be done. We pray for an Australia that is truly fair, for true harmony.

This week, in our Ecumenical World Cycle of Prayer, we especially remember the countries and the people living in the Indian Ocean. We think of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. These are beautiful, vibrant cultures Lord. We ask four brothers and sisters there, the churches, and the people that they all daily receive your blessing and love.

This week, we remember and uphold the congregation and ministry of the Hunters Hill Anglican Parish, St Marks & All Saints. May you be with our brothers and sisters as we walk alongside each other to do your will in the world around us.

We pray for our own congregation here at Gladesville Boronia Park Uniting Church. That you will be with us all in the coming week and keep us in your hands. We pray for our children of the church. That you will keep them in your arms as they grow in your love.

As we prepare for the Confirmation Service in June, we pray for Daniel, Ashley, Oscar and Bianca who seek to confirm your blessing and their faith

in you, our Father. We thank you for their faith, and their mentors Justin, Alan, Jenny and Lenny who have guided them in this journey to you.

We think of all our members who are unwell. We take the time to think of Rosemary, and Judy Robinson. We pray for their recovery. We pray that they always remember your comfort, presence and love. We pray that we in the church take care of each other and provide each other the warmth you teach us.

We also remember Lenny's family. We know, Father, that you have taken Warren and Jhovy away from us, even though we don't always understand why. However, we pray in this time, that you bring strength and comfort to the family. We especially pray for their kids, James, Jaden, Justin and Jeramie. We pray that you will be with them as they grow up in this world, that they will feel your guidance and protection.

Finally, we also pray for our minister, Seungjae and his family. We thank you for this family, the joy and talents that they bring. We ask for your blessings upon our minister and his family as well as on all of us, your children as we continue our journey together in this congregation.

We pray all of these things 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

Faithful God, you ask us to be faithful people.
In this community, you ask us to be people of justice.
In this community, you ask us to be people of mercy.
In this community, you ask us to be people of peace.
Be with us as we try to be faithful
in large ways and in small ways
so your eternal community may come in every way.
Amen.

from the Seasons of the Spirit

Song Where the Spirit Is There Is Freedom (TIS 421)

*Where the Spirit is there's freedom.
Where the Spirit is. there is life!*

Not by the world can our freedom be nourished,
not by our things, only by Spirit.

Practice, my children, to live by the Spirit,
drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!

Where the Spirit is there's freedom.

Where the Spirit is. there is life!

Heaven on earth, here we live, free to
love and to share, carried by joy.

Practice, my children, to live by the Spirit,
daring today to taste God's future.

Where the Spirit is there's freedom ...

Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened,
imaging God, reflecting Jesus.

Practice, my children, to live by the Spirit,
heaven is here, time made eternal.

Where the Spirit is there's freedom ...

Per Gunnar Harling

Benediction

Peace between neighbours,
Peace between *friends*,
Peace between lovers,
In love of the King of life.

Peace between person and person,
Peace between wife and husband,
Peace between *older and younger people*,
The Peace of Christ above all peace.

from the Carmina Gadelica III, 267

And may the blessing of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
go with us as we leave this place.
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.

Olive Wood

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