

Sunday Worship Service

Easter 7, Sunday 29 May 2022, 9:30AM

Boronia Park Uniting Church

Lead: Rev. Seung Jae Yeon

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.**

Opening Prayer: A Prayer of Invocation

Mysterious God,
You reveal yourself in Jesus, your Beloved Child
who gives us a glimpse your glory
and invites us to share in the unity of all that is Holy:
the holiness that is You, your creation, your people,
united in the Spirit that breaks through all boundaries of fear and injustice.

Meet us here today, O Unity, and teach us to be one:

One in love for each other

One in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You

One in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever:

“May they all be one.”

Amen.

[Susan A. Blain](#)

Song Here I Am to Worship (Tim Hughes)

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
So here I am to worship ...

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
(Repeat three times)

So here I am to worship ...

Prayer for Unity

Father of all who live in the Spirit,
you have brought unity through your Son Jesus Christ:
help us all who confess his name to show in *our* lives,
 in *our* worship, and *our* services
that oneness which springs from the truth
as it is found in Jesus,
and fill your church with the desire
both to seek and find that unity
throughout the world; in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Michael Seward

Scripture Reading Jenny Warren

Acts 16:16-34 (New International Version)

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These

men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

John 17:20-26 (New International Version)

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you^l known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

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.

Sermon

Seung Jae Yeon

Let us pray:

Eternal and Loving Lord,
thank You for all my brothers and sisters
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
and thank You that You have made us one in Him
and are building us into a spiritual temple of living stones,
each with our own peculiar function,
in the heavenly kingdom of God.
Fill in each of our hearts
an increasing thirst after holiness and righteousness,
and give us an ever-deepening love
for each other and for You.

Keep us we pray, from petty arguments and careless words
and may we minister to one another

in true Christian fellowship and godly love,
in a body-ministry that exults You,
where the gifts and talents of each member
are used and valued in the learning of the others,
to the praise of Your holy name.

Be glorified we pray, in each and every member of Your body,
and use us all to be a witness of the love of Jesus
to those who are lost.

And Father, we pray that You would unite us
in godly love and Christian fellowship,
as we watch for the any day
return of the Lord Jesus,
in whose name we pray, Amen.

Last Wednesday, on my way home after dropping off Heather at her school I listened to the radio as usual. I had a heart-breaking news from Uvalde, Texas that 19 students and 2 adults were killed in the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School on May 24. I couldn't continue driving. I complained to God, saying, "How long must we cry out for innocent deaths especially young ones?" Those students were aged at 10 or 11 whose school term was finishing, expecting to make summer plans. They had two more days left in the school year. Two more days. Only two more days. What did they do wrong? Was Jesus really there for the victims to protect or for the 18-year-old gunman to stop?

The morning that I heard the news I had my Scripture classes at Boronia Park Public School. I teach Kindergarten to 2 class and 3 to 6 class where the topic is God's creation and how much God loves his creation and

especially all human beings who have the image of God. The God we learn from the creation story and the word “It is so good,” after each day of his creation may not resonate any message like ‘God is so good’ or ‘He answers our prayers’. I just gave thanks to God that their young and innocent lives are a bit safer than those who were killed by the school shooting in the US. I felt so sad. My giving thanks to God would be nothing for those funeral families in Uvalde whose crying-outs and broken-hearts feel sick of the world that has taken away their young and innocent lives from them. Two grade four teachers were killed and Mr. Garcia was found dead after his beloved wife, grade four teacher, Irma Garcia was killed. What a sad news.

For me, I couldn't continue developing my sermon for this Sunday. I was stuck where my broken heart cannot run. I felt my blood was getting cold. My brain became traumatised and didn't work properly. I was thinking about all our young people – especially all in primary years, Vivian, Jayden, Olivia, Sebastian, Jahnieka, praying to God that He may refresh all our hearts to make this world safer, really safe place for all people. No matter who they are – ethnicity, cultural and linguistic diversity, ability or disability, socio-economic level, age, gender and religion. We need Jesus, who we want to follow, and the Holy Spirit who we expect to come join us. And I believe Jesus may need us too, because we are the body of his church on earth who commits to the fellowship between God and his creation. It is not an one way but two ways. It is mutual and reciprocal. It is an echo and a clap that two hands put together. And it is a mutual submission in respectful and humble manner.

We may find an example from the Acts reading today. In verse 33, “At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.” According to the

witness of Luke, Paul and Silas went to the jailor's house. The jailor and his household were just saved by believing in Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Each and every person in these verses were filled by the Holy Spirit. Then what they did to each other was so special. It was an unprecedented spiritual fellowship in the history of the early Christian community. The jailor washed their wounds. Perhaps he used clean water to wash all blood stains out and then with honey, sugar, wine or olive oil to dress their wounds. After the washing or dressing, Paul and Silas baptised the jailor and his household by water.

Can you see the interactions between Paul/Silas and the Jailor/his household? They took care of each other. They mutually served each other. They had such a powerful mutual submission in the movement of the Holy Spirit. No one was in higher position than the others. In the presence of the Holy Spirit, by the mutual submission, they became brothers and sisters and formed a church in the city of Philippi, Macedonia. And this unity revealed what Jesus prayed for his disciples from John 17. In the prayer, he asked, saying (verse 23), "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." And then he continued (verse 26), "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." What Jesus prayed to God for his disciples and even for us all is that in our faith journey we are called to find that unity Jesus wanted and that mutual submission as long as together we live on earth. This is not an one-off thing but a life-giving thing in our faith journey. Where the Holy Spirit is there would be eternal fellowship and the sign of our mutual submission. Like the good example that Paul and the Jailor lived out in Acts 16:33, I would like to invite all of us to seek to find that spiritual relationship

within our neighbourhood and community. God may call us now. How would we respond God's call together as church?

I would like to offer the prayer of Jesus, a Lord's prayer for our unity to those who are not able to be with us here this moment. Also I offer the prayer for those who are struggling to find peace, hope, mercy and God's presence in life. I pray that, as Jesus prayed, the love you have for us may be in all fellow citizens, neighbours and the First nation's people and I give myself for them as a daily offering like the way that he sent his one and only son for us and for many. I pray that God's will be done on earth as in heaven. 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

Dear God,
Father and Creator of every single person throughout time,
we ask Your blessing and protection to follow these donations
to the people who will receive them.
Please help these items to be a visual and physical
reminder of Your immense love for each one of your people.

God, we also ask that we ourselves grow in charity,
in our ability to love even strangers as You love them,
and in our desire to care and serve
Your beloved sons and daughters in need.
Through these donations,
please connect our hearts and the recipient's heart
to Your merciful heart
so that we may all grow as members of the Body of Christ.
In Your Name, we pray. **Amen.**

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

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Almighty God,
by your Holy Spirit
you have made us one with your saints
in heaven and on earth:

Help us to see your presence
burning in the hearts of others;
grant that we may be united
in a fellowship of love and prayer;
give us the courage to pick up our cross
and respond to the needs of the world,
give us the stamina to follow you,
to be your hands and heart in the world;
enable us to witness to your grace and mercy.

We pray all this
through the love your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Terri on Rev Gal Blog Pals](#)

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

Sung Blessing Shalom to You Now (TIS 778)

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.

All music reproduced and streamed with permission. CCLI Copyright and Streaming Licence: 260394, 33617.

All English scripture readings in this service are from Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.