

Sunday Worship Service
Pentecost 2, Sunday 19 June, 9:30AM
Boronia Park Uniting Church
Lead: Rev. Seung Jae Yeon

Acknowledgement of 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 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.

Opening Prayer: *A prayer based on Psalm 42*

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for you the living God.

All: Come in power, Almighty God!

My tears seem to be my food day and night;
my tears seems to speak to me and say, "Where is your God?"

Answer my tears, O compassionate Father!

Yet these things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how sweet your presence is and how exciting it is
to worship you with shouts of joy amongst your people.

I rejoice in you, O joy giving Lord!

These are the things I ponder:
why my soul is sad and in turmoil within me?
I want to hope in you God.
I want to experience your power.

O come, Holy Spirit!

Yet even now, when my soul is cast down within me,
I remember you in the land of trials and testing.

I trust in you, Jesus!

I want to hear your voice Lord like the sounds of great waterfalls,
speaking with power and having powerful affects.

Come, O Holy Shepherd!

You are my rock, the One in whom I have trusted...
yet I sometime feel forgotten,
I often mourn so many losses.
I sometimes feel oppressed.

Come, O God of deliverance!

My soul will not be cast down forever...
the turmoil will end...
my hope is in you Lord...
I shall praise you afresh.

Jesus is my salvation and my God!

Amen.

Kansas Bob

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.’

Deirdre Browne

Scripture Reading Isabella Lee

Luke 8:26-39 (New International Version)

Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with

me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him.³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³² A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission.³³ When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside,³⁵ and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.³⁶ Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured.³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

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

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.

Mary Pearson

Sermon A Calm Composure of the Holy Spirit

We just sang *Who Is This Man?* in the beautiful tune of *Londonderry Air*, giving our praise to Jesus who was and now is within our hearts and in remembrance of him. He was calm all the time. Even the night before he was betrayed and handed over to the court of Pilate, he stayed calm eating with friends and washing their feet with water and his sacred hands. As he visits and encounters with people who are in need, he displays outstanding capacity based on his sense of delicateness and calm composure unique to himself. One of his stories which is told just before today's passage, the story that Jesus calmed down the stormy sea of Galilee would tell us who he really is. He was right to call for a firm but calm stance so as to not aggravate the situation any further.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples." (Luke 8:24-25a)

The disciples on board would have been in fear and amazed by his calm composure, then asked one another, "Who is this man?" The Man from Galilee, who sit and ate with all sinners and commoners who were marginalised, scattered and invisible, was journeying with the disciples who struggled to find their faith in the troubled waters. "Where is your faith?" from his mouth and heart echoes that Jesus was and now is with us in his firm but calm presence. So we may give thanks to God for his Son Jesus.

Jesus in the other side of the Sea of Galilee

Why are there some images and words like tombs, swine or swine-owners and legion that the Jewish people in Jesus' time may be reluctant to speak or even think? In the culture, religion and the pressure of Roman colonisation, the people still maintained the taboo against seeing the pollution of tombs, eating pork, and gossiping about the occupation forces in the country of *Gerasenes*, the existence of a Roman settlement and harbour. Jesus went through the stormy sea and then landed on out of comfort zone with the disciples. They would have struggled to deal with visiting in the region rather than the demon-possessed man.

But their Master Jesus remained calm. I believe that nothing defiled Jesus and the holy and calm composure rescued and transformed the demon-possessed man who lived in the tombs and the disciples who had no faith in Jesus. Having seen and heard him to speak, Jesus asked, "What is your name?" The man identified himself as "Legion," because many demons had gone into him. Here, we need to know the Roman army stationed the majority of occupation forces over Palestine in the Gentile Decapolis, where Jesus met the man with the unclean spirit. A legion or *legio* in Latin was the largest military unit in the Roman army, consisting of some 5,600 soldiers. Who was possessed by the demons? The man or the people in Palestine? Remember that Jesus stayed calm while visiting in the region. He was there for him and for many in the region who were under the subjugation by the Roman Empire in order to proclaim that the heaven is nearer than ever before. Jesus was the Heaven, the Messiah and the God that the people had expected to receive.

Then legion or hundreds and thousands of demons went into the pigs. The disciples and the locals saw the destruction of swine. They did not see the man being cured, rescued and transformed by Jesus' ministry. Instead they became afraid of what he had done. This is how the passage describes their action and reaction against Jesus. "Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left." (v. 37) What did they do? They asked God to leave them. The locals reacted in fear rather than faith. They rejected God who was there for them to save and set them free.

For the man, God and Jesus are one and the same

The man who was set free from the unclean spirit begs Jesus “to go with him”. But Jesus commissioned him to proclaiming in every city. Every city. The man is now called to tell in every city about the essential story of salvation that he has received from God in Jesus. Jesus commands, “tell how much *God* has done for you.” The man went out and told “how much *Jesus* had done for him”. For this man, God and Jesus are one and the same. This man experiences the kingdom of God in Jesus and from Jesus he receives a call to proclaim the salvation story to the Gentile world. Last but not least, remember that Jesus stayed calm and only asked “what is your name?” and said, “tell how much God has done for you.” The man was set free and became a genuine evangelical witness. What a story! This Man from Galilee transformed the entire region by healing one man with his firm but calm composure. What should we learn from him today?

Myall Creek Memorial, Sunday 12 June 2022

Last Sunday, I joined Myall Creek Massacre Memorial with some 300 attendees from all around the country. We gathered and remembered with deep sadness and shame the massacre that was perpetrated at Myall Creek, New South Wales on the 10th of June 1838. We gathered at the Myall Creek Memorial hall, walked along the memorial walking track, and then had a meaningful ceremony at the Memorial Rock. It took almost 6 hours but I did not feel tired or exhausted. I fully attended all course and program.

Even though I came there by myself, I met a couple of Uniting Church friends. One of them was Rev. John Brown (photo on page 9), a retired Uniting Church minister and former Victorian Presbyterian Church missionary for South Korea(1960-1972). I know he is 88 years old and suffers from Alzheimer’s disease, combating it. Fortunately, he made such a long trip from Canberra to Myall Creek with help of Rev. Ivan Roberts and his wife Margaret. I introduced myself to him then as his companion I had my all day with him. Literally we walked together. And we talked to

each other in Korean and English. And unbelievably, on that day, he was able to attend the memorial from the beginning to the end.

What surprised me was that he asked to all who he met this question: “Where are you from?” Then began his encounter with them. No matter they are young or old, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, he walked up to each person then asked, “where are you from?” He asked the same question to me in speaking Korean. Then he explained and answered to whatever question he had. He looked so calm but so passionate about people and their desire to know what it means to commemorate the Myall Creek Memorial.

Also he kept holding still where he was during the program. He joined the Aboriginal elders, past, present and emerging and attendees to remember the victims’ descendants. Temperature was like 8-9 degrees Celsius out there and it was windy. He did not complaint. He was so engaging in every single second. I know he is one of founding members of the memorial and committed to make this memorial as a permanent one in 1998. He seemed to me that he feels sorry for them, loves them and pays his full respect to the Aboriginal people. In my eyes, he was there sitting like a milepost – milepost that tells people which direction they are journeying through. For me, this old man was transforming the entire gathering by holding still where he is with his weak but calm composure. It was such a great honour for me to walk with him all day on Sunday 12 June 2022. For me his calm composure is the image of Jesus Christ, who touched and transformed the life of the man on the east shore of Sea of Galilee.



Seung Jae and Rev. John Brown at the Myall Creek Memorial, 12 June 2022

Transforming power in your calm composure

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, today we learned lessons from the story of Jesus’ interaction with the man who needed his firm but calm

composure in the region of Gerasenes. What Jesus did is simple – to ask his name and to call him to proclaim in every city what God has done for him. And what Rev. John Brown did at the Myall Creek Memorial is simple but powerful – to hold humbly still where he was. With your calm composure, hold still your time to pray, study about the Word of God, meditate it, serve others and look after the weak around you. In doing so, I believe that the Holy Spirit may work through and in you. His gentle touch, calm stance would be found in you and then people around you. Don't rush in doing many things for others. Only display who you are based on your delicate faith and calm posture unique to your own self. Where the Holy Spirit is, there is you and us who are formed by the word and work of Jesus Christ our Lord. In you, Christ lives. In Christ, we abide and grow our faith together.

Prayers of the People

[1] Second-generation Korean migrant and young UCA leader Joy Han has written Prayers of the People, asking God's comfort, healing and hope for the Korean community, particularly the people of North Korea struggling with the rapid spread of COVID-19.

Prayers for the people of North Korea

Hana-nim*, Holy One,

We praise you for your promise of renewal throughout the cosmos.

We thank you for Christ's reconciling work and recommit ourselves to the ministry of reconciliation.

We lament the historical and ongoing violence and trauma that divide people from one another.

* Christians who speak Korean all around the world may call Heavenly Father Hana-nim in prayers, hymns and the Scripture.

As a people for whom Christ's gift and will is unity,
we lift up before you the Korean community,
both in the homeland and the diaspora,
who are hurting from more than 70 years of partition.

We especially lift up before you
the people of North Korea,
a people estranged from the rest of the world,
as they struggle against the pandemic.

We grieve alongside those who are mourning,
and we share the anguish of the many –
North Korean refugees, families separated by the war –
who are anxious for their loved ones across the border.
We yearn for your comfort, healing and hope
for all who are sick and suffering.

Grant an extra measure of your strength and sustenance
to the people of North Korea
and to all those who would come to their aid,
bringing them vaccines, other medical supplies
and basic food supplies as well.

We cry out against the inaction
that entrenches inequality;
We cry out against the vested interests
that entrench systemic violence.
We cry, come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit,
bring your liberation and Gwang-bok[•]

[•] After long suffering under the colonial invasion of Japan for 36 years, as a result of the end of World War II in Asia-Pacific, the people and the land of Korea were liberated on 15 August in 1945.

to the Korean peninsula and to the whole cosmos.
Move us to live out your unity in witness to the world.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Joy J. Han, (6 June 2022: Sydney)

[2] This Sunday begins Refugee Week (19-25 June), a celebration of the many positive contributions that refugees make to the Australian community.

Thanks to Abi Benham-Bannon, a panel member of *the Assembly's Working for Justice Circle* for sharing this prayer to use in your worship across the week. This prayer leads us into reflection on the global context in which people are being displaced and the contexts and policies that impact them as they seek to find safety.

Prayer for Refugee Week

God of peace,
Bring light to the dark corners of hearts,
To the violent shadows of our world,
Whose power crushes down, inflicting suffering,
Pushing so many out of their lives and out of their homes.

God of welcome,
Bring warmth to the hearts of the homes to which they flee,
May they find safety and comfort,
In open arms.

God of liberation,
Bring freedom for all people locked up by cruel policies,
From the bars which bear down on their souls,

The National Liberation of Korea is called gwang-bok. The word “gwang-bok” means “restoration of light”.

Freedom to walk the land, to live a life.
Freedom of spirit.

God of justice,
Open our eyes and give us the courage to call for change,
For a country that rejects cruelty and violence,
That puts down its fear,
And chooses welcome. *Abi Benham-Bannon*

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 Prayer

God, whose giving knows no ending,
we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
we offer up ourselves in service and praise.

Receive these gifts by your grace.

Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world.

Amen.

Joanna Harader

Song We Will Keep Our Faith Alive

Gathered here within this place,
we can share in God's redeeming grace.
There's no room for doubt or fear;
we can feel His presence here.
As we face each passing day
we will serve and honour and obey;
and if hope should start to dim,
we will know our trust is in Him.

*And we will keep our faith alive,
God will always be our guide
Through the darkest night,
we will see God's light.
We will keep our faith alive!*

We will live as God has planned
though at times we may not understand.
Many things we may not see,
but our faith will help us believe.
From his word we learn the truth;
through His love we all are born a new.
With His help we will not fall
for we know our God will prevail.
And we will keep our faith alive ...

When we share the love He gives,
all the world will know that we are His.
In God's name we stand as one,
and through us, His work will be done!
And we will keep our faith alive ...

We will stand as one 'til His work is done.
We will keep our faith alive!

Don Besig

Commission and Benediction

God of life,
God of hope,
God of all.

Lift us on your love like eagle's wings.

Sustain us,
guide us,
heal us.

Then send us forth into the world
that we may love as you love. Amen.

Terri

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

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