

Sunday Worship Service
Pentecost 7, Sunday 24 July 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 (inspired by Psalm 85:8-13)

Lord God,
speak your peace to your people, gathered here in Jesus' name.
We confess that our faithfulness to you,
our obedience to your calling,
our righteousness is not steadfast and true.
In living out our praise, we too easily falter after the first page.
Were it not for the lavish gift of your Son, we would be lost.

Through him, however, we turn to you in our hearts,
knowing your steadfast love and faithfulness,
your righteousness and peace.
In him your salvation is at hand.
We thank you.

May this worship reflect your goodness,
as we respond to you with our heart, soul, and mind.

Make a path in the middle of this congregation today,
and walk among us through your Holy Spirit.

This we pray in the name of the One who is *our* peace, *our* salvation—
Jesus Christ. Amen.

Retrieved from: [Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website](#)

Hymn Great Is Your Faithfulness (TIS 745)

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.

*Great is your faithfulness.
Great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is your faithfulness ...

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow —
these are the blessings your love will provide.
Great is your faithfulness ...

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm
Music: William M. Runyan

Prayers of Praise and Trust

(based on Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13)

Gracious God, we are surprised by the wonder of your mercy and love! You have so liberally and freely poured out your unfailing and unconditional love upon us, and restored us to yourself through your forgiveness of our sin. Your words of peace—your shalom—has warmed our hearts, brightened our minds, and encouraged our spirits—and for this, we praise and honour you with songs of joy.

Renewing God, your righteousness has smiled upon us with love and compassion, and you seek to guide us on our pilgrimage, so that we do not return to our foolish ways.

We listen for your words of truth and peace, your guiding and blessed words of salvation, so that right living and right relationships can come together in the joy of your shalom.

Trustworthy God, we praise you for your many blessings in the past, and the way you have renewed and redeemed us. You have not only poured out your love, but your mercy has flowed over us in such a way that it holds us with its richness and glory. Because this has been our own personal experience of God's goodness, we look with anticipation to future experiences of God's gracious generosity and bounty.

Inspirational God, you prepare the way ahead for us, so that in peace and joy we may journey onwards to our home in you.

Amen.

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Scripture Reading

Ashley Han

Luke 11:1-13 (New International Version)

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and

give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[l] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:6-15 (New International Version)

Spiritual Fullness in Christ

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,¹⁴ having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it

away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song Seek Ye First (TIS 745)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu, alleluia.*

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find,
knock and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ...

We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Allelu, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ...

Karen Lafferty

Kids Talk Jenny Keast

“ASK, SEEK, KNOCK”

This is a message about PRAYER. Not prayer that tells God to give us everything we want, but a means by which we can communicate with God. This allows us to align ourselves more closely with Him so that we learn how to pray in a way that is best for us and our lives, following His purposes.

Prayer is essential for a believer in Christ. Prayer is a two-way conversation, and we need to remember that and teach that to our young people. God builds us up through prayer. His desire is for us, His children, to ASK, SEEK and KNOCK to receive his unfailing love and grace.

Jesus is telling us that we should seek God through prayer. Think to yourselves, have you ever walked up to a door to knock, where no one came and answered? Jesus is saying that God answers the door when people knock.

Also, we know God is good and loving. He is not going to answer our prayers poorly: he is going to richly answer our prayers. He may not answer prayer the way we want Him to, but He will answer the prayer better than we ever thought, because He knows everything. We should always seek after God, because we know His ways are better than any other way.

5 Prayers for young people

1. Dear Heavenly Father, teach us how you want us to pray.
2. Help us God, to believe you answer our prayers.
3. Teach us, Father, how to ASK you for the things that will make a difference in your Kingdom.
4. Let us be SEEKERS Lord, after your truths.
5. We pray that we can FIND your answers to our prayers, so that we grow closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sermon Seung Jae Yeon

There was an interesting and truth-telling survey titled *Life during COVID-19* and its report released in June 2021. The survey had 7,306 participants from around Australia which means that 2% of 25.78 million Australian people participated in (25,766,605 at December 2021). Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Director Anne Hollands said the aim of the survey is “to understand how Australian families coped with the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the greatest health, social and economic challenges in history.” The findings from the survey tell us true factors that we shall agree. Key messages are following. Firstly, “The proportion of people always working from home rose from 7% before COVID-19 to 60% during it.” Secondly, “Before COVID-19, 30% of families used parent-only care. That rose to 64% of families during COVID-19.” And thirdly, “While parents worked from home, 40% always or often ‘actively’ cared for children during work.” I strongly agreed with the fact that many Australian parents worked for the family and cared for them tirelessly and devotedly. I also paid my full respect from the bottom of my heart to those families of this congregation – young families, single parent families, their immediate

families, and families far and even overseas who struggled but did their best to hold family strong and faithful.

From the findings, there are also huge voices of the participants crying out in unemployment and reduction of hours or wages at work. Almost half (43%) of respondents reported they or their partner had experienced financial hardship. Even young adults were overly impacted by the economic downturn, being almost 15% more likely to ask for help from government or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). As I minister the growing young congregation here in Boronia Park, I was saddened by this number, acknowledging their struggles and frustrations beyond the measure.

Grandparent care was a casualty of the pandemic. Nearly three out of 10 grandparents told they provided childcare at least weekly before COVID-19. Most told that during COVID-19 they ceased providing care. A 69-year-old female participant said, “I no longer see my only grandchild at all. He is 3 years old. I cannot help my daughter and son-in-law at all, because of the border closure between NSW and Queensland.” Many of us, grandparents didn’t see their grandchildren as much. Like my parents, they haven’t seen their grandchildren in Australia since 2018. I believe that in us there are some families who desperately miss their siblings, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren. I would call this COVID-19 homesickness. To be honest I complained myself that I got homesick abroad.

Although we are able to see them through holding a video conference or Zoom, the greatest challenge of COVID-19 is that we miss the company of our most precious human beings – family and friend. We used to think that we could meet anytime we want so that we sometimes easily postponed or delayed meeting them. I was so naïve that I thought I could see my parents the next year. But the next time didn’t come. It has been delayed since 2018. How long would we wait until all restrictions are lifted then can associated with the precious ones in our life. I wouldn’t delay or say ‘next time’, if I have a chance to meet my parents and friends. What about you?

Jesus taught the disciples about a prayer immediately when he was told to give them a guiding prayer. In Jesus’ time, the Jewish religion didn’t lack, in particular, of their practice and tradition of prayers. Jesus gave them the guiding prayer to pray and to live as they pray instead of giving them one of well-known Jewish prayers. Jesus would have believed that the good news among the followers and disciples needed to bring the new relationship between God and his people that they expected to see and own. Before Jesus brought the good news to them, the relationship and the covenant revealed in their Hebrew scriptures made them to anticipate in the reign of the messiah and the new heaven and earth that they would live in. It had been delayed seeing the coming of the messiah. Their lives in hopeless and turbulent times became

harder and tougher. The religion they followed caused to separate the common people and the low-class people by their religious authority and the temple power. Simply saying, no money, no forgiveness. The poor, the lame, the little and the excommunicated became more and more marginalised. Many people ceased joining in the temple and synagogues to pray and to listen for the word of God. They were scattered and forced to place at the margin of society. When the marginalisation of the common people came to a climax, Jesus came in person for those who cried out desperately, revealing the company of heaven among all God's people. Then the heaven in Jesus became part of all scattered people, spirit, soul and their own stories. He brought his Father's presence for all. He now brings the peace and justice of God that has no end and no limit for us all and for many. We believe.

Jesus taught them the prayer. He said to them, (vv. 2-4) "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." (I would like to invite you to read either loud or in silence what Jesus said to his disciples.) Then without hesitation he continued to give them a parable that he wanted them to understand the meaning of the prayer and to live out what they say in the prayer. The parable is this: There was a person who knocked the neighbour's door and asked three loaves of bread in the middle of night. The person did it because he had nothing left to feed his friend who stopped at his home for food and probably room to rest. It was weird but also common because in Jesus' time people might have travelled in night-time avoiding the heat of the day. What Jesus said next in the parable is provoking a lot of questions about hospitality, our act and service of welcoming, receiving, hosting and giving. He said, (v. 8b) "Yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need." Jesus placed our shameless audacity, in other word, our longing for peace and justice in the world upon friendship or fellowship. In him, the selfless takes priority over all else. Because as I said earlier, he became poor and low in human form of God. He gave himself up for us. Instead, let God's love, care, peace and justice flow like a river to the scattered and displaced bodies, minds and souls. So Jesus invited the disciples to do the same act and service if they want to practise the guiding prayer, the Lord's prayer. He seemed to remind them and us that God calls his people, no matter how old or little we are, how much faith we own, to participate in godly and sacred acts toward neighbours who may miss God's company most, especially during COVID-19 era.

Let us talk about the survey little bit more. From the findings of *the Life during COVID-19* report, Hollands said, "What Australians were missing most is social connection." She continued, "Friends, family and going out for dinner were among

the most common things participants reported missing during isolation.” It is so true, isn’t it? No matter it’s a fine-dine, a fast-food, a street-food, a take-away or an Uber Eats, most Australians during COVID-19 were missing family gathering lunch, dinner or supper. For me, one of joyous ministry moments was to have our church council meetings where I was able to cook and serve Korean dishes, sharing stories of the recipe and ingredients. Unfortunately, since COVID-19 hit, we ceased it. My pure delight in that gathering seemed to be gone. While I was studying about today’s passages, I thought that I should ask the council members and future council members to re-join the leadership gathering and table fellowship. I imagined that the table would be full of joy and laughter, hopes and dreams, future and life eternal in Christ Jesus. Then I found the word of encouragement from verses 9 and 10 that I could gain confidence to re-imagine the flourishing life that we may find in our gatherings and reaching out to Boronia Park community and beyond. Jesus seemed to claim that we should have confidence in him who is boundless and never lack. “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (vv. 9-10) He encourages us to ask right now, seek right now and knock right now. Not because we don’t know what will happen tomorrow, but because the time is now like the heaven is here when we believe in Jesus our Saviour and the Son of God today. He gave this promising word to the disciples and us, saying, (v. 13) “... How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Jesus placed the most important thing first. The power of the Holy Spirit takes priority over all other things that we may need. I believe that the Holy Spirit that we ask, seek and knock will enable us to bring the company of God at work, in family and friendship, and in the neighbourhood that we live and love. Many Australians may need social connection today that we never had in the past. Wondered there is a tiny room for God’s divine and godly intervention. In God’s eye and heart, He needs sacred connection with us all through his Son Jesus Christ. Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, go your days given with confidence in Christ who brought already God’s divine and godly intervention in and among us. “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

We are now enduring a cold, windy and wet winter than the past few years. What we need more is to have each other’s company in our prayers, thoughts and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Let us hold Christ Jesus through the promise of God witnessed in today’s passage. Let us hold each other this moment as we are able to gather, see and talk with each other. Then we remember that we are called to long

for God's love, care, peace and justice and bring them to our family and friends. Because of our consistent relationship with God and our neighbours, during this challenging time in human history, let God's presence and company be real and touch many lives who we love and live with.

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

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church
BSB: 634-634
Account: 100023784
Reference: Offering

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or
robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

Let us pray:

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.

Quentin Chin

Song

By Gentle Powers

Surrounded by such true and gentle powers.
So wondrously consoled and without fear,
Thus will I spend with you these final hours
And then together enter a new year.

The worries of the old year still torment us,
We're troubled still by long and wicked days.
Oh Lord give our frightened souls the healing,
For which you've chased us in many ways.

*By gentle powers lovingly surrounded,
With patience we'll endure, let come what may.
God is with us at night and in the morning
And certainly on every future day.*

And though you offer us the cup so heavy,
So painful, it's the most that we can stand.
Not faltering, with thanks we will accept it
And take it as a gift from your good hand.
By gentle powers lovingly surrounded ...

And should it be your will once more to grant us,
To see the world and to enjoy the sun.
Then we will all the past events remember
And finally our life with you is one.
By gentle powers lovingly surrounded ...

Let the candles blaze today warmly and brightly,
which You brought into our darkness;
let's again follow together, if it can be.
We know that Your light shines in the night.
By gentle powers lovingly surrounded ...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
English trans. Ulrich Schaffer

Benediction

God who is with us here and now –
Give us the perseverance and courage
to seek out and approach you
wherever you are to be found in this coming week.

Grant us the vision and understanding
to see and recognize you
whenever we might meet you in our neighbourhood.

Gift us the grace and generosity
to respond freely and fully
whatever you might ask of us in our everyday life.

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

Sung Blessing

Then Will Your Blessing (TIS 627)

Then will your blessing reach every people;
each one confessing your gracious hand;
where you are reigning no one will hunger,
your love sustaining fruitful the land.

Albert Frederick Bayly

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