

Sunday Worship Service
Pentecost 8, Sunday 31 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.**

Call to Worship

Are you awake? Are you alert?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.

Christ has extended the invitation:

let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

[Retrieved from rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org)

Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
Open the eyes of my heart Lord ...

Paul Baloche

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (based on Psalm 107)

Eternal God,
by your word you create
and by your breath you give life.

We worship you with joy and thanksgiving,
praising you for the fullness
that your presence brings to our lives,
and our life together.

We praise you that by your word you feed us;
we are satisfied, and there is always more.

Your goodness is displayed in your wonderful works
for all humanity,
and in your perfect love.

In our humanity we are rebellious,
and sometimes follow after foolish ideas;
going ways which lead away from life with you.

And yet, when we cry out you are there,
your word healing our inner emptiness and pain,
embracing us, leading us in your life-giving ways.

For your unending faithfulness, revealed to us in Christ Jesus,
and made present to us in your Holy Spirit
we praise you, Lord God. Amen

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Scripture Reading

Christy Kim

Luke 12:13-21 (New Living Translation)

Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” ¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!””

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Kids Talk Alan Keast

God, Moses and Joshua – *A Succession Plan*

MOSES: GOD, GOD, are you around? Hello, anyone here seen God recently?

GOD: Hello Moses, I’m here, how can I help you today?

MOSES: Well God, I have been thinking...

GOD: Oh dear, this bit always worries me. Well here we go. What have you been thinking?

MOSES: WEEELLLL, as you might have noticed, I am not getting any younger, in fact I am getting older day by day. Ha Ha, that was a joke. Get it?

God: Yes Moses, I got it.

MOSES: SOOOOO, I have been thinking that you might need to start planning for my retirement, you know, "Succession Planning". All the modern countries have succession planning now and I thought that would be a good idea. What do you think?

GOD: You might be surprised to know, Moses, that I have had plans and directions for my people for far longer than you could ever imagine. Let's hear your thinking and I will tell you if you are on track or way off the beat.

MOSES: There are a huge number of younger generations among my people. Some were born in Egypt and then escaped with their parents. Some were born in the wilderness while we are journeying. All are faithful to you, LORD and obedient to their parents. I would like to call upon them and then invite them to discern where your *call* is. ...

GOD: YES Moses, I understand that. So what are your thoughts?

MOSES: If you thought there are good leaders among them, I could introduce you to them, get them to do a curriculum vitae (Other countries do this now too) and then we could hold interviews for the position of Deputy Leader.. If suitable, you could appoint them ...

GOD: OH Moses, your ideas and plans are excellent! I have had my eye on them for some time, but I already KNOW them and more than that, they KNOW ME!

MOSES: WHOOPS. Didn't see that coming.

GOD: (sort of under his breath) Over the years there are quite a few things you have not seen coming, Moses. Anyhow, Moses, shall we call them 'JOSHUA'? יהושע (Yeho-shua, **GOD IS SALVATION.**), reminding of the coming of my Son Jesus?

MOSES: So I will call him over. (Calls) JOSHUA, JOSHUA. Are you there? Perhaps I might text him?

JOSHUA 1 (Emily): Here I am Moses. Oh, hello God, didn't see you there.

GOD: Hello Joshua?

MOSES: Wow, sooooo you really do know each other????

GOD: Yes Moses, I know all my young people by name, including all those ones at the Boronia Park Uniting Church that you often talk about. They are a great bunch of young people. Hey Joshua, there is even one young man there with your name.

JOSHUA 2 (Heather): Yes God, I have noticed him. He is a member of that Yeon family, the dad is a minister, the mum a musician and there are two other children, and a dog.

MOSES: That's right. Their names are Daniel and Heather and the dog is called Arong. Now, about that CV and a possible interview. God, do you have a panel selected?

GOD: Oh Moses, for such a great leader, sometimes you really do goof off a bit. I do not need Joshua to do a CV or to have an interview. I know from my dealings with him over his lifetime that he is the one to lead my people to the promised land.

JOSHUA 3 (Zachary): What? Say that again? "Lead my people"???? Wow, I thought Moses just called me over to have a chat. That is a big call. Do you think I could do it God?

GOD: Of course, you can. With my help, you can do anything. Moses will not be our leader forever. He has led my people bravely and courageously over many years, from the time in Egypt until now. Even he said he was getting older day by day. Ha ha, Moses, that was a joke!

MOSES: (sadly) yes, I got it.

JOSHUA 1, 2 and 3: (ALL SAY IT TOGETHER.) Well God, I am prepared to give it a go.

MOSES: No way Joshua. You are not going to "**give it a go**" but are going to accept the huge responsibility God has bestowed on you and with His help, lead His people, not yours, into the future with love, courage, wisdom and above all else trust in God. By the way, that is the SAME offer God makes to his people, young and old, at that Boronia Park Uniting church. He doesn't want them just to "give it a go" but to accept with the authority and strength found in Him and move forward. None of this half-hearted "***give it a go***" stuff. Do you read me Joshua?

GOD: Wow Moses. Couldn't have said it better myself. Yes JOSHUA, that is the commission which is for you. To take charge of my people when I tell you and to lead my people into the future.

JOSHUA 3 (Zachary): A bit scary.

MOSES: Often when God calls us to take up a plan He might have for us, we could be scared or frightened, just like when God told me to go and see Pharaoh and ask him to let God's people go. I was maybe just a little scared.

GOD: I was super proud of you and your people paying your full trust in me. And I have such a huge confidence in all of you. You are doing very good in this challenging space and time in wilderness. YOU ARE MY PEOPLE! So let's finish up now and we can chat more later.

MOSES: Thank you God for helping with the succession planning.

JOSHUA 1 (Emily): Thank you God but know that I will need to rely on you heaps when Moses goes into retirement.

GOD: I am with you always so no worries JOSHUA. Yes, and goodbye.

MOSES: (He invites the whole congregation to join his concluding prayer. Leading the prayer, he may ask the congregations to extend their arms toward young people of the congregation.

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision (TIS 547)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my thru word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
thou my inheritance, now and always:

thou and thou only the first in my heart;
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Minister's Reflection on Today's Passage – Luke 12:13-21

Temperature measures energy. If you measure a matter's temperature, you will be able to find how much energy you use. An example is a fire. A bonfire can reach internal temperature of 900 degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$). Campers could use its energy in form of light to light and heat to cook or boil water. What is the sun? What is the real temperature of the sun and the energy level of the sun. According to NASA, the temperature of the sun varies from around 15 million $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at the core to only about 5,500 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at the surface. The sun has huge amount of energy. But we don't get much energy from the sun at all because there is too much vacuum between the sun and us. What we get from the sun is light during the day, and sun light delivers heat when they fall on the Earth's surface. Thus we feel warmed-up and all natures live and produce by the sun. That is the energy level of the sun that all God's creation could measure.

What about hot drinks like tea or coffee? At your favourite café, your barista wants to ensure your coffee temperature is around 60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ when you enjoy it. If you love to drink a cup of cappuccino, heating the milk to a specific temperature is such a crucial ingredient to your coffee experience. If you are a real perfectionist for drinking tea, most white teas and green teas are best at 70 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. For black tea uses water around 85 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. For herbal infusions use 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ water, and 70 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for chamomile. Temperature means energy and also everything that makes you enjoy drinking hot beverages. Temperature is so important in most aspects of daily life as well as all fields of natural science, mechanical engineering and geography.

Temperature can be measured with a thermometer. The matter such as mercury inside a thermometer expands as its particles gain thermal energy and move. Nowadays, digital thermometers are used commonly and widely. There are three scales for quantifying temperature: Degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$),

Degrees Celsius (°C) and Kelvins (K). The scale in use is Degree Celsius. Freezing and melting point of fresh water is occurring at 0.00°C. At 99.98°C water boils. 21°C is room temperature which makes people comfortable to stay and work. At 70°C food is well done. Popcorn pops at 180°C. I wonder what if there is a spiritual thermometer that we can measure temperature of our faith journey here at Boronia Park. Can we measure the call of God that we live with today? Can we measure the importance of life in Christ Jesus who we care for?

“I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer.” – Charles Spurgeon

There are many things that we use in life to measure other things. As a thermometer measures temperature, a barometer measures atmospheric pressure, a speedometer measures speed, and a pedometer that tells you how many steps you have walked. But is there a device that measures one's life temperature? Is there a life thermometer? Luke tells the parable of the rich fool to the questioner and his followers, reminding them of temperature of life that may bring meaning of how we live together and energy that is used for many lives. He chose three Greek words for “life” and used one among them. One was *bios*, which referred to *quantitative* life. It is used when we say, “how long one lived?” or “how many goods one has got?” Another was *psychē*, which referred to *qualitative* life. All about our values and relationships. The third was *zōē*, which referred to *quintessential* life. The life offered to humanity in the call to follow Jesus, and through him to live in a personal relationship with the Father. It is all about our faith in Christ. The first form of “life”, *bios* could be measured by one's possessions. However, Luke doesn't use *bios* here, but *zōē*, the word that describes God's life and the abundant life in God offered to the world in the gospel. Jesus once said, “The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:10) *Zōē* cannot be reduced to, satisfied by or measured by material and substance of this world. Energy in *zōē* comes on from God who are always giving and forgiving. We do not earn or merit *zōē* but received it freely and undeservedly from God through his one and only Son Jesus Christ. *Zōē* from God is amazing grace! So *zōē* is relational rather than material. “Life” given by God is eternal rather than temporal and fading. *Bios* leaves us restless and limitless, hungering for more

and more. *Zōē* produces contentment, peace and joy. That's why here Jesus says, "Be on your guard," against trying to achieve and satisfy *zōē* with things on earth! In Luke's gospel Jesus alerts us, all human beings and all Christians to discern whether we live *zōē* today, *quintessential* life in Christ.

36.4 °C is average body temperature for a human. Your body temperature and mine are the same. Temperature of our human life is 36.4 °C. Maybe temperature of our faith is the same because we have faith and live within our human form. In our living, loving, believing and giving, we would exchange its energy to each other. 36.4 °C is not hot enough to boil water or cook tea. But 36.4 °C and its energy in our human fellowship and relationship flow from one to another. The energy of human body temperature can change the world. When you hold hands of one next you, your life temperature flows from you to the one, exchanging energy with each other. Your energy is imparted. What if the person next you feel small or weary? Your giving hands may touch his or her life, bringing God's presence to the person. Their cold heart is melting away and then burning again. When two of Jesus' followers were walking to Emmaus and then meeting Jesus on their way, they had a life changing encounter with their Lord Jesus Christ. Their life was changed from *bios* to *zōē*. They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32) What Jesus did to them was a simple action. As they sat down to eat, Jesus took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Jesus gave them his life temperature of 36.4 °C in sharing bread and blessing upon them. Jesus took their pride away and invited them to think that they need God and acknowledge the life is only given by God, life everlasting.

There was the bus trip yesterday. We went to a small garden called 'Bible Garden' in Palm Beach. I, with 7 bus trip members had such a wonderful time being with each other and enjoyed the outing in a lovey sunny winter day. Each and every member shared their 36.4 °C with each other and we got warmed-up by each other's company and their human energy. It was so giving that we exchanged "life" given by God. I thought to myself that God's temperature is also 36.4 °C because we are all made by God's image and his life-giving energy – 36.4 °C.

Dear my brothers and sisters in Christ, our life giving cannot be measured by any standards of this world. So do not afraid of giving and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. And do not worry if you think that you are not in a position to give. In the parable, the rich man rests all his

hopes in materials and substance which can be measured by all earthly standards. If you really want to give anything you have, no matter how it looks like, I encourage you to light a candle and offer a brief prayer for your family, friends, colleagues, peer, or precious ones near and far. Hold them in your prayer sincerely and faithfully. In this coming week, let the Holy Spirit go before you, and spread your life temperature and energy for all.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

No one lights a lamp
and then covers it with a bowl
or hides it under a bed.
A lamp is placed on a stand,
where its light can be seen by all
who enter the house.

[Luke 8:16](#)

Let us now pray to the Father of light
that we may truly become the salt and the light of the world.

Let us say:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more love on earth, Lord,
we ask you to dispose people to be more understanding
and friendlier to one another
and to share more readily with those in need, so we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be greater justice on earth,
dispose governments and public officials
to make room in their priorities and budgets
for the socially disadvantaged and those out of jobs, we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more peace on earth,
dispose all nations to put an end to words of hatred

and threats of revenge, we pray:
Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more joy on earth,
dispose all those who follow your Son
to show sympathy and warmth to one another,
to be faithful in our friendships
and concerned about our communities, we pray:
Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more faith on earth,
dispose all your sons and daughters
to live as children of light before you
and in the sight of people, we pray:
Lord, let your light shine in us.

Lord God, we pray that your light may shine on all the earth.
However limited we are, let our words and actions
reflect the light of your love,
in the name of Jesus the Lord.
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:

May the offerings brought this day
be used as seeds of growth and strength,
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly
so that God's way may be realised anew in this world.
Grant us the humility we need to plant
and then tend your precious *creation in through your ministry*.

Amen.

[Katherine Hawker](#)

Song

Like a Candle

Like a candle burning wildly,
raging soft against the night,
spark that leaps to clear the shadows
sending warm disturbing light.
We are called to live the passion,
hope stands strong against all pain.
For it's only in the burning
that the candle shows its flame.

Like a river running freely,
rapids swirl beside our feet,
swiftly flowing from the high land
comes to rest, still waters meet.
All our journeys rising, falling,
making turns we least expect,
when the Spirit churns within us,
know God's power through the test.

Like an angel walking lightly
on this fragile earth of clay,
touching folk with raw compassion,

laughing, playing on the way.
Freely living ev'ry moment
in the mystery of grace.
Giving, dying, living, rising,
see the beauty of God's face.

See the hope that burns in darkness,
show compassion, strong and kind,
bind the hurt and broken-hearted,
be God's hands and voice and eyes.
Sing a new song ev'ry sunrise,
climb to places out of reach,
walk in freedom of God's Spirit,
as we die so we shall live.

Words: Craig Mitchell
Music: Tim Beale, Roger Imms

Benediction

Happy are they who know where the real treasure is to be found.
Happy are they who take from the treasure and share it.

Friends of God,
prepare to leave this church with spirits lighter than when you came in;
**Trusting Christ to take an intimate interest
in the costly investment he has made.**

Invest in others as his love has invested in you;
Rejoicing in the fellowship of his Spirit.

The blessing of the eternal God is upon you:
redeeming grace,
enfolding love,
enduring fellowship.
Now and forever.
Amen!

Bruce Prewer, retrieved from www.bruceprewer.com.

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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