

Sunday Worship Service
Pentecost 11, Sunday 21 August 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

God alone is our refuge and hope,
our shelter and protection.

From our very first breath to our last,
God's love and compassion never fails.

So come, lift your voices in praise to God.
Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love.
Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

Let's worship God together.

Hymn God Himself Is Present (TIS 121)

God himself is present,
let us now adore him
as with awe we come before him.
God is in our midst, now
in our hearts keep silence,
worshipping in deepest reverence.
Him we know,
him we name,
come and let us make him
our renewed surrender.

O majestic Being,
I would praise you duly
and my service render to you
in the selfsame spirit
as the holy angels,
ever standing in your presence.

Grant me now
so to strive
evermore to please you,
dearest God, in all things.

Let your glorious light, Lord,
permeating all things,
reach my face and eyes to touch them;
as the tender flowers
open out their petals,
to the sun their hearts unfolding,
So may I,
calm in joy,
hold your rays from heaven,
power within me working.

Lord, make me your dwelling,
let my heart and spirit
be for you an earthly temple:
come, Immediate Being,
my whole life illumine,
so I'll always praise and love you,
so where'er
I may be
there I may perceive you,
ever bow before you.

Words © M. R. Thwaites

Prayer of the Day: Prayer to Jesus for Healing

O Jesus,
I am grateful for

your mercy and compassion.
You healed all those,
that approached you in faith.
In your suffering and death,
you redeemed my infirmities
and those of the human race.
I join my suffering to yours,
and ask for your healing mercy.
Give me the strength and courage
to overcome all adversities.

David Bennett

In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

Song In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;

For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in *us*;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands *our* destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck *us* from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls *us* home,
here in the pow'r of Christ *we*'ll stand!

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Scripture Reading

Psalm 71:1-6 (Jewish Publication Society)

- 1 I seek refuge in You, O LORD;
may I never be disappointed.
- 2 As You are beneficent, save me and rescue me;
incline Your ear to me and deliver me.
- 3 Be a sheltering rock for me to which I may always repair;
decree my deliverance,
for You are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 My God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.
from the grasp of the unjust and the lawless.
- 5 For You are my hope,
O Lord God,
my trust from my youth.
- 6 While yet unborn, I depended on You;
in the womb of my mother, You were my support;
I sing Your praises always.

Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Minister's Sharing of a Reflection on Psalm 71

The Psalms in the Bible see us all as a people of God who may have prayers and songs everyday. They allow us to offer prayers and sing songs anytime if we could do. The Psalms invite us to express without hesitation our emotion and feeling whenever and wherever we need. They remind us that we can always come to God no matter what circumstances we face right now. Next five Sundays I will share my reflections on five psalms from the lectionary readings – Psalm 71, 81, 139, 14 and 79. I am so excited to do this commitment for us all because it will be my first attempt to preach on the Psalms that reveal the true character of God in *us*.

Psalm 71: Eternal courage in God

Have I told you about my grandmother before? If I recall correctly, I have told you two things about my grandmother: First, she was illiterate so that she scribed the bible passages and words of her favourite hymns instead of reading and singing them. To be honest, it wasn't scribing of words but drawing of letters like a little one does. She saw with her eyes and copied them, and then drew in lined notebook. She had done many chapters from the Bible and the hymn book. Second, the last page of the notebook where she scribed, contained the lyrics of hymn titled "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Am I correct in remembering what I told about her? If you haven't heard about my grandmother, this sharing is how I live with her story, celebrating her faithful life that is still alive within *me*.

I would like to talk little bit more about my grandmother's drawing of letters from the hymn. I don't know why but the Korean hymn book has its fourth verse which is not included in either Together in Song or the Australian Hymn Book. I needed to find other English versions where verse 4 is included. Yes, I found it from *the Baptist Hymnal*(1991). It says,

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
If I love him, when I die,
He will take me home on high. [Baptist Hymnal 1991, 344 Anna B. Warner\(1820-1915\)](#)

Although the chorus follows, my grandmother stopped there her scribing. No one knows the reason why she stopped there. But what I know is that it was the last work of her life because a few weeks after she died by a car accident when she was coming to visit us. It was a tragedy so that my father only viewed her body in the hospital. In the end, it was not allowed for me to see her face. I was only 18 years old and didn't really understand why

my father did so. I was angry and I could cry throughout the funeral. I was collapsed when I saw her memorial photo placed on the coffin. It was a winter day in 1993.

Later, my father found her notebooks and prepared for us to have a look. I didn't understand what it means for her to scribe the bible passages and lyrics of hymns like "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." He invited us to give thanks to God for what she had done for herself and for us all. He said that this is her wishful prayer that she offered to God by scribing the lyrics of verse 4, wishing she wants to go to the heaven when she would die. That's her psalm where she found her God in prayer and song. That's her refuge and a sheltering rock where she was able to seek to find comfortable presence of God in her tired life. She ran a long and tough race in her entire life but finished strong in the faith of God. That's where I still find my grandmother's faith in Christ, reminding me that I can always come to Jesus who is Founder and Perfecter of faith in my life.

This hymn 71 has its subtitle called "Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help." Steadfast endurance in one's final years is the theme of this psalm. In reading and meditating on Psalm 71:1-6, I would like to ask you to remember 2 things about God.

First, finishing strong in the faith of God is a call of God in life. In order to finish every aspect in life strong in the faith of God, what we should remember is that God can only control our future. We are never sure how our circumstances will change. Psalm 71 begins with the description of the author's need. The author needs protection and a safe place to hide in changing circumstances. In verses 1 to 3, the author seems to have full trust in God, offering the prayer sincerely with a declaration of the faith. It begins, saying, "I seek refuge in You, O LORD." This act to call God's name, O LORD, is like anchoring ourselves in times of distress. By calling God, and declaring who God is for us, as a sheltering rock and fortress, the author expresses his faith in God, proclaiming there is no other names than LORD God almighty. We read verses 1 to 3 together.

- 1 I seek refuge in You, **O LORD**;
may I never be disappointed.
- 2 As You are beneficent, save me and rescue me;
incline Your ear to me and deliver me.
- 3 Be a sheltering rock for me to which I may always repair;
decree my deliverance,
for You are my rock and my fortress.

For the author, it is clear that God must have been good in the entire life. Likewise, God is good all the time for us all. God never changes. There is none like God who continually protects, saves and rescues us. God is our source of protection and strength. God is the stability and strength of life. Because of God, finishing strong in the faith is possible. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 encourages us by saying:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Second, God saves the best for last. We know God doesn't always come through for us in the way we expect or want him to. For my grandmother, I believe that she saw God's faithfulness in her later years whenever she scribed the bible passages that she couldn't read. Her humble commitment toward God helped her to trust in God, follow God's ways, speak of God's works to her children and grandchildren and worship God no matter what circumstances she faced. No other gods could satisfy her in times of loss, poverty and hopelessness. Her scribing, "If I love him, when I die, He will take me home on high," was her final and ultimate praise to God because she found the God she longed to look for was always near with her.

- 4 My God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.
from the grasp of the unjust and the lawless.
- 5 For You are my hope,
O Lord GOD,
my trust from my youth.
- 6 While yet unborn, I depended on You;
in the womb of my mother, You were my support;
I sing Your praises always.

God is just and fair. He always cares for all God's children. Since his youth, the author had put his trust in God and never been disappointed. The author had every reason to praise God in this twilight years. There is none like God who is present all the time. So, we can give praise to God this moment and until our final breath.

Although my grandmother was illiterate, she was a strong woman who raised her family by her blood and sweat in her entire life. And for the last

time, she left her last words for us like she cared for her family when we were all struggling with her absence. That's how I remember my grandmother. And now I am 47 years old that was my father's age when my grandmother passed. I am fully grown up, getting mature both in life and faith so that I can read the verse 4 of "Jesus Loves Me" with thanks and gratitude. Because in those simple words, it gives me a hope that I live today and one day I will live forever in Christ who died for me and prepared room for all believers in the heaven. I believe that she found the way in Christ to follow after spending her entire life to seek the meaning of life. She finished her journey strong in the faith of God. For her, God saved the best for last. And I believe that she is now in the heaven where she would live with Christ, as she prayed. I sing this hymn by myself, giving thanks to God for her long and winding faith journey where now I can find the hope in Christ. My grandmother gives courage to her grandson who live in Australia today.

Dear my friends in Christ, I believe that the most important reality in our relationship with God is courage. Courage at the time being with God is the courage not to leave the relationship between God and us as a fixed form or a permanent contract. The courage of God is always constant creation where God may continue his work of reconciliation and covenant anew today in and among us. So we can create and live our relationship with God daily, renewing our commitment to God and all God's people. To be alive is to be in a relationship, and if we are living in a relationship with God who created us in his image, we are alive. Psalm 71 encourages us to give thanks because of who God is in changing circumstances. God is the same for us from the beginning to the end. We are his people all the time. This never changes. God is continually faithful. And we sing our praises all the time.

The people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.

[Isaiah 43:21](#)

Amen.

Note: Next week, we will study about Psalm 81:1, 10-16. Please read once if you can.

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father,
bring stillness to our hearts,

empty our minds of other things
and direct our thoughts to those who especially need our prayers.

When we reflect on how you have supported and cared for us in the past,
we cannot fail to give you thanks.

When we consider the way you give us courage and help for each new day,
we are filled with a sense of gratitude and praise.

When you lift us from the pit of doubt and despair,
our whole being feels renewed and refreshed.

What a comfort it is, to know the love and support you bring to us
through your Son and by your Spirit.

In our joy, let us not forget those this morning
who know little else but sadness.

In our sense of gratitude and praise,
let us not forget those whose lives are filled with regrets and heartbreaks.

In our feeling of support and guidance,
let us not forget those who feel they
have struggled against life's difficulties and disappointments
alone and uncared for.

In our desire to give You praise,
do not blur our vision of the hardship in this life.

The despair of the homeless in our cities.

The feelings of guilt by parents who cannot feed their children.

The worries and fears of those in hospital.

The isolation of the lonely.

The deep sense of loss to those in bereavement.

Heavenly Father,

you are not only the God of this world,

you are the ruler of your heavenly Kingdom.

Strengthen us while we live out our life on this earth,

to show the compassion and the caring of Jesus.

Hold before us the reality of your Kingdom,

where there is no suffering, pain or regret,

so that we may share it with those who are without hope.

For we ask all these things through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Retrieved from (15 August 2022): <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

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:

Loving God,
we come to you in thanksgiving,
knowing that all we are and all we have
is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help us to do your will.
We are listening, Lord God.
Speak your words into the depths of our souls,
that we may hear you clearly.

We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.

Give us the wisdom and insight
to understand your will for us
and the passion to carry out our good intentions.

We offer our gifts of time,
talent and possessions to you
as a true act of faith,
to reflect our love for you and our neighbour.

Help us to reach out to others
as you our God have reached out to us. Amen.

Song Lord, I Come to You (TIS 685)

Lord, I come to you:
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace
that I found in you.
And, Lord, I've come to know
the weakness I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

*Hold me close,
let your love surround me;
bring me near,
draw me to your side:
and as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you:
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love
as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind
as your will unfolds in my life,
in living everyday
in the power of your love.
Hold me close ...

Geoffrey William Bullock

Benediction

It's time to go.

Time to re-engage with the world where we live.

Time to put the faith into deeds .

Time to practice un-calculating love.

Time to meet the Christ who waits for you.

Time to share his boundless hope.

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. *Bruce Prewer*

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

Sung Blessing

May the Feet of God Walk (TIS 779)

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

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