

Community Worship

of Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest
25 July 2021



Gathering the People

Greeting: May the peace of Holy One, Holy Three be with you all:
And also with you.

Welcome and News

Acknowledgement of Country & Lighting the Community Candle

Call to worship: 'with Jesus' (John 6:1-21)

(Sarah Agnew)

Sing ATOK 334 Wa wa wa emimimo

Wa wa wa Emimimo
Wa wa wa alagbara
Wao wao wao

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.
Come, Almighty Spirit, come
Come, come, come

Repeat verse 1

Words and music: Anonymous. Nigeria.
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Prayer of thanksgiving: 'Defiant praise'

John van de Laar

There are many doorways to cynicism, Jesus,
many reasons for despair,
many causes for fear;
but there is no excuse for giving them ultimate power;
not if we really believe what we claim to believe.

Resurrection is real, Jesus;
we have touched it, and seen it;
our own lives bear witness to it,
and it constantly reveals itself in our world.

And so, in spite of the fear that nags at us,
in the face of the despair and cynicism that taunts us,
in denial of all that would seek to steal life away,
we offer you our love,
our devotion,
our lives,
as an offering of resurrection faith
and defiant praise.

Amen.

Time for reflection: ATW 494 For you, deep stillness

First time through band only.

Second time, congregation to sing.

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ, in the name of Christ.

Second time, repeat the last line.

Words: Julie Perrin. Music: Robin Mann.
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Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Grace

(‘We cry shame’, Sarah Agnew)

2 Samuel 11:1–12:15

Confession

We hear the stories of thieving folk,
those who take what belongs not to them,
and we cry shame! the effrontery!
Until your word reminds us
'you are the one.'

When we are the thieving folk,
our God, call us to turn from wrong,
put away our sin,
let us begin again.

We hear the stories of powerful folk,
abusing their forced for their own ends,
and we cry shame! the effrontery!
Until your word reminds us
'you are the one.'

When we are the overbearing folk,
our God, call us to turn from wrong,
put away our sin,

let us begin again.

We hear the stories of manipulative folk,
twisting, deceiving, others like pawns in a game,
and we cry shame! the effrontery!
Until your word reminds us
'you are the one.'

When we are the manipulative folk,
our God, call us to turn from wrong,
put away our sin,
let us begin again.

We hear stories of self-righteous folk,
so sure their harm is justified,
and we cry shame! the effrontery!
Until your word reminds us
'you are the one.'

When we are the self-righteous folk,
our God, call us to turn from wrong,
put away our sin,
let us begin again.

Assurance of Grace

Come to God with your contrite heart,
your willingness to turn from wrong.
God will welcome your confession,
and will, and has, put away our sin.

**Look up with thanksgiving,
God will indeed let us begin again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Entering the Story

Chat with children

Reading of the Bible

Gospel: John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

Letter: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Response: In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Preaching 'In our trials'

Sing ATGFG 540 We belong to God

*Pues si vivimos, para El vivimos,
y si morimos, para El morimos,
sea que vivamos o que moramos
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.*

When we are living, we are in the Lord.
When we are dying, we are in the Lord.
For in our living, and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Each day allows us to decide for good,
loving and serving as we know we should;
in thankful giving, in hopeful living,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Sometimes we sorrow, other times (we) embrace;
sometimes we question everything we face.
Yet in our yearning is deeper learning;
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Till earth is over may we always know
love never fails us; God has made it so.
Hard times will prove us, never remove us;
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Original words & melody: Mexican source.
Trans. & arr.: John Bell, Iona Community.
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Sent into the World

Prayers for our offerings

(Sarah Agnew)

Prayers of the people: 'Fear is a terrible thing'

(John van de Laar)

Fear is a terrible thing, God.

So many people have been scapegoated and injured
just because we are afraid of difference;

We pray for them now

So many go hungry
just because we are afraid of not having enough;

We pray for them now

So many have been abused and displaced
just because we are afraid of powerlessness;

We pray for them now

So many have been turned away from Your life
just because we are afraid of being judged ourselves;

We pray for them now

Forgive us for giving our fear such power;
Teach us the faith of the sparrow,
Teach us the love that drives out fear,
And teach us to stop clinging to our lives,
but to find life by giving ourselves up for Your kingdom.
Amen.

Sing: ATOK 405 Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there our sleeping and give us, we pray.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Joyce Placzek (Jan Struther) 1901-53.
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**Commissioning
&
Blessing**

(Elizabeth Raine)

(Sarah Agnew)

Reprise as we leave: For you, deep stillness



Liturgist and Preacher: Andrew Wright
Piano: Nancy Yan

With thanks to our flower, A/V and steward teams

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