

**Wesley Uniting Church**  
**September 29th, 2024 9.00am**  
**Pentecost 19**

**The Gathering of God's People**

**Welcome and Lighting of the Community Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Friends, God's wisdom guides us to reflect, yes, but also to act. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

**We will respond to wisdom's call with our actions.**

God's wisdom may call you to speak when it's safer to be silent, to resist when it's easier to back down. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

**We will respond to wisdom's guidance wherever it takes us.**

God's wisdom may call us to accountability, to recognize and reconcile when we have missed the mark, and to hold others accountable when they do harm. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

**We will respond to wisdom's counsel with humility and grace.**

Beloved, this is the time, here and now and in every moment after, to live out God's uncommon wisdom in the world.

**We will follow the path of God's love with wisdom as our guide. Amen**

**Gathering Song      10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**

Matt Redman and Jonas  
Myrin © 2011, arr. Daniel  
Galbraith

*Chorus: Bless the Lord, oh my soul, oh my soul.  
Worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh my soul,  
Lord I'll worship your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.  
It's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Chorus*

2. You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness I will keep on singing.  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Chorus*

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near and my time has come,  
still my soul sing your praise unending  
ten thousand years and then forever more.  
Forever more!

*Chorus x2*

Outro I will worship your holy name.  
God I'll worship your holy name.

## **Prayers of Adoration**

### **Prayers of Confession**

Today, O God, we ponder what you say to us through scripture and wonder what has changed. In the story of Esther, we hear about the abuse of power and the exploitation of women. We learn about the planned destruction of foreigners in the land. Each of these issues concern the use of power to take advantage of those who are powerless - major causes still of people being denied the possibility of experiencing lives of dignity and worth.

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action, have contributed to continuing powerlessness in people's lives.**

In today's Gospel reading - the disciples want to make decisions about "who's in" and "who's out" among Jesus' followers. It sounds all too familiar as we often make similar decisions on the basis of people's theology; their sexual preference; their cultural background; their political stance.

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action, have contributed to whether people feel welcomed into, or excluded from, our fellowship.**

Jesus declares that those who are welcoming and caring and do not cause others to stumble, are indeed blessed. We are to be 'salted' with the purifying influence of the Holy Spirit, so that we shall not be contaminated by selfishness and self-seeking, by resentment and anger and envy.

**Forgive us if our actions, or lack of action, have contributed to whether we are "salty" followers of Jesus or not.**

Strengthen us all to witness to our faith  
with a freshness that attracts,  
a sincerity that convinces,  
and an integrity which confirms our allegiance  
to Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

James entreats us to “confess our sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that we may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16) We have confessed our sins to one another, and to God, and we believe that prayer is powerful and effective. In that belief, I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are healed and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **The Peace**

# **The Service of the Word**

## **All age message**

### **Song with the Children    A Circle of Love**      Felicia Sandler © 1991

*Chorus:    A circle of love, yes a circle of love;  
              each hand in a hand, a circle of friends.  
              A circle of love that is open to all;  
              we open the circle and welcome each one of you in.*

1. Each person has something to bring:  
a song, a story, a smile, a teardrop,  
a dream, and loving to share.

*Chorus*

## **Prayer for Understanding**

Old Testament    Esther 7: 1 – 6, 9 – 10; 9: 20 - 22 page 390

Epistle:            James 5: 13- 20 page 983

Gospel:            Mark 9: 38 - 50 page 821

This is the Gospel of the Lord - **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Thinking Together**

### **Offering Song    As the Deer Pants**      Martin Nystrom © 1983

1. As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.

*Chorus* You alone are my strength and shield  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship you.

2. I want you more than gold or silver,  
Only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye. *Chorus*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

# **The Sending Forth of God's People**

## **Announcements**

### **Sending Song Now, As You Leave This Assembly of Lovers**

Amanda Udis-  
Kessler © 2019

1. Now as you leave this assembly of lovers,  
carry the gift that your heart has received.  
As you've been treated, go out and treat others,  
sharing the grace that is endlessly free.

*Chorus* Keep on blessing the world as you do.  
Welcome the stranger and offer a feast.  
Work to bring justice, strive to show kindness.  
Surely the Holy will bless you with peace.

2. Center your mind on the things that are precious,  
all that is sacred and worthy of praise.  
Love all the world with a passion so reckless  
you will know wonder the rest of your days. *Chorus*

## **Commission and Blessing**



**Liturgist:** Graeme Brown  
**Preacher:** Rev'd Dr Bruce Stevens  
**Music Coordinator:** Jade McFaul  
**Musicians:** Zoey Haar (guitar), Caitlin Launt and Sonia Di Mezza (vocals)  
**Bible Readers:** Chris and Harold Small

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