

Easter Season – week 7

Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest

16 May 2021

Gathering the People

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome and News

Greeting

May the peace of Holy One, Holy
Three be with you all.

And also with you

Call to worship:

We delight in the law of God

We are enlightened by the teaching of Wisdom

We fan the flame of hope with the Spirit

We meditate, cultivating trust in our Maker.

Source of life and light,

in you we trust:

in you we trust.

Sing as a round: TiS 747

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.

In God I trust, in God I trust.

Words and music Jacques Berthier. From the Taize Community

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Lighting the Community Candle

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Thom Shuman)

Confession – The Family You Have Given (John van de Laar)

*Including a time of silence and singing **in unison one time** through:*

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.

In God I trust, in God I trust.



Assurance of forgiveness

God *has* welcomed us, with forgiveness,
reconciliation, healing.

**We enter this grace with thanksgiving,
and embrace God's light of hope. Amen.**

Entering the Story

Prayer-Poem 'Joy is yours' (Psalm 1)

Chat with the children – Jules

Sing ATOK 313

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

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Readings – Phil Freeman

Acts 1:15-16, 21-26 (NRSV)

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his

resurrection.’²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.²⁴ Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen²⁵ to take the place^[a] in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17:6-19 (The Message)

I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; and they took it, and were convinced that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I’m not praying for the God-rejecting world, but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I’m no longer going to be visible in the world; they’ll continue in the world while I return to you.

Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind.

As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a lookout. And not one of them got away, except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture). Now I’m returning to you. I’m saying these things in the world’s hearing so my people can experience my joy completed in them.

I gave them your word; the godless world hated them because of it, because they didn’t join the world’s ways, just as I didn’t join the world’s ways. I’m not asking that you take them out of the world but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I’m consecrating myself for their sakes so they’ll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

Preaching

Hymn : TiS 569

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams. Music: John Hughes.
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Sent into the World

Prayer for the offering

A prayer for the church and its leaders: 'Our living, growing church'

Sing as a round: TiS 747

The Lord is our light,
our light and salvation.
In God we trust,
in God we trust.

A Wisdom Blessing *with Psalm 1, Prov 31:10-31*



Liturgist: Rev Dr Sarah Agnew | Preacher: Andrew Johnson
With thanks to our flower, A/V and steward teams
Prayers composed by Sarah Agnew unless otherwise stated

Image: 'Awake my soul', Mike Moyers. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57138>
"An abstract depicting the light of The Word shattering the darkness."

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