



# **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Order of Service**

**11 October 2020**



Worshipping at Home with family and friends  
of the Wesley UCA, Wagga Wagga

Dear sisters and brothers in faith,

Last Sunday evening, I received a most unexpected text message. It read:

“Good afternoon Janice, It’s been a long time, how are things with you and your husband? Hope everything is going well for both of you. We thank you for everything you did for us. We always talk about our wedding day at the RAAF base and what a joyous occasion it was ...”

It took me back to that special day. I remembered the ceremony was delayed by a guest who’d forgotten their security pass for the base.

I’ve officiated at so many interesting weddings throughout the years. There are plenty of memories to share - like the one with a Dr Who theme, and another with Harry Potter. Earlier this year, I performed the wedding rites for two ‘superheroes.’

Each wedding was distinctive, and most guests made a special effort to dress up for the occasion.

Before you take part in our *worship-at-home* service this morning, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your own memories of a special wedding celebration.

*Janice*

## *Acknowledgement of Country*

*From before recorded time,  
the First Peoples cared for this Land.*

*We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those  
who have offered themselves in tending it.*

*We acknowledge the Elders and communities  
of the Wiradjuri People who have told the sacred  
stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.*

*We ask God's blessing  
on those who continue to work  
for the healing and restoration  
of the Land and Her Communities.*

## Preparation for Worship

### *Prelude - Hallelujah what a Saviour*



With nature in its power and beauty  
with rain and wind and sunshine  
with the ancient rocks and the budding flower  
we gather in praise of God.

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,  
with people in every land,  
and speakers of every language,  
we gather in praise of God.

With Jesus who promises his presence  
and the Spirit who showers us with blessings,  
we gather in praise of God.

Here let heaven and earth embrace  
here may God's people find home.

### *A short time of silence*

## Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone,  
The Lord is near.

*Phil 4: 4, 5 NRSV*

Let us joyfully, praise and worship God.

## O worship the King all glorious above

### **Psalm for today    Psalm 106: 1-6**

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,  
or declare all his praise?

<sup>3</sup> Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.

<sup>4</sup> Remember me, O Lord,  
when you show favour to your people;  
help me when you deliver them;  
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory in your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our ancestors have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

### **Prayer for Forgiveness**

Eternal God, maker of the skies above,  
lowly Christ, lover of the earth and its people,  
unfettered Spirit, giver of gracious gifts,  
you are present among us.

O hidden Mystery,  
sun behind all suns,  
souls within all souls,  
in all we touch, in all we meet,  
you are present among us.



As bearers of your image,  
we come to be reshaped:  
dependent on your mercy,  
we ask to be made new.

### ***A short time of silence***

For the right roads we avoided travelling,  
and the kindly words we refused to share;  
for the false gods who received our worship  
and the true selves we have starved of love ...

*God, by your grace, forgive us.*

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,  
and the promises which we never kept;  
for the careless use of our time and money  
and the lame excuses we should never have made,

*God, by your grace, forgive us.*

For all we should be and all we can amend,

*God, in your love, renew us.*

For all you have in store for us,  
and all you may demand of us,

*God, in your love, prepare us.*

For the life of the world and the love of its people,  
*God, in your love, commit us.*

God have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us,

God have mercy on us.

## **The Lord's Prayer**



Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

## **Assurance of God's Grace**

Hear and believe these words of Jesus:

Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.

Come and follow me.

Glory to the Creator who gives us life.

Glory to Jesus whose loves remakes us.

Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.

Glory be to God. Amen.

**[Alleluia, praise the Lord](#)**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

We open our hearts and minds to listen for God's word coming to us in Scripture.

### [A 'wee' word for the young at heart](#)

#### **First Reading**

#### **Philippians 4: 4-9**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.  
<sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### [Musical Interlude - Rejoice in the Lord, always](#)





22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

God be in our listening,  
God be in our understanding. Amen.

Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for inviting us to your wedding feast.  
make us acceptable and grateful guests. Amen.

## [Musical Interlude - The King of love my Shepherd is](#)

### [Short Reflection](#)

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God above us,  
Maker and Sustainer of all life.  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of male and female.



We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;  
he descended into the earth  
to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb;  
he ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present;  
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

We join our hearts and voices to offer our prayers  
to God.

Maker and Lover of all,  
in the mystery of your kindness  
you have bound us to each other,  
and called us to serve the earth and its people.

So hear us, as in our homes  
we pray for the churches to which we belong  
that they may ever be centres of faith, hospitality and  
imagination, modelling the future  
rather than lamenting the past.

*Lord of life and love, grant us the joy of your kingdom.*

Grateful for the life in our bodies,  
we pray for those whose lives are diminished  
by ill health, depression, grief or rejection,  
asking for the healing, the affirming, the listening  
which will encourage and restore them.

*Lord of life and love, grant us the joy of your kingdom.*

Conscious of the peace in our land,  
we pray for those who have no peace  
because of war or the fear of war,  
or the threat of violence,  
or the grip of hunger,  
or the loss of hope.  
May the voice of the victims be heard  
and the work of the peacemakers be blessed.



*Lord of life and love, grant us the joy of your kingdom.*

Surrounded by the beauty of this country,  
we pray for the earth,  
especially where it is damaged by human carelessness  
and threatened by human greed;  
may we learn to care for the earth as you do.

*Lord of life and love, grant us the joy of your kingdom.*

### **Invitation to the Free-will Offering**

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering.

### **Offering Prayer**

All that we have and all that we are, are God's gifts to us.  
So here in return is a token of our wealth,  
asking that it and all we possess be used to God's glory.  
Blessed be God forever. Amen.

[I, the Lord of sea and sky](#)

## BEING SENT ON GOD'S MISSION

### The Blessing



May the everlasting God shield you  
wherever you go.

And the blessing of God be upon you.  
The blessing of the Giver of life.

The blessing of the Christ of love.  
The blessing of the Spirit of peace.

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you  
now and evermore. Amen.

We go in peace as faithful servants of our God.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

### Three-fold Amen

### Postlude

*Today's service is taken from  
the Iona Abbey Worship Book 2017*