

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



24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 15 November 2020

Order of Service



*The Parable of Talents, St Mary Abbot's Church
Kensington High Street, London*

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 this Land and her communities.*

Preparation for Worship

Introduction and welcome to the Worship Service

Welcome to Country

Prelude

We bring to you, gracious God, what is yours:
our thanks, our praise, our hearts, our lives.
As we sing, as we celebrate, as we listen and as we pray,
bless each one of us with a sense of your presence
and the reassurance of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 123: 1-2

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.

NRSV

Praise my soul the king of heaven

Call to Confession

Psalm 123: 2-4

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

NRSV

Prayer for Forgiveness

As a church, we have been given many gifts,
many talents, many opportunities, and so we pray:

Loving God,
help us – individually, and as your people together –
to be your witnesses in the world today.

Help us to take risks and not stay in our comfort zones.

Bless us with the courage of your first disciples,
that your kingdom may come and your will be done
in this place and throughout the world.

Forgive us,
when we bury your gifts
in the ground of our fear;

when we bury our responsibilities
in the ground of reluctance;

when we bury your hopes for us
in the ground of our diffidence.

Forgive us,
and free us to be your fruitful servants,
people on whom you can depend and rely.

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

May God forgive us.
Jesus bless us,
and God's Spirit help us to grow in love. Amen.

[Halle, halle, halle](#)

[A 'wee' song](#)



WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

We listen now in the reading of scripture for the Word and Wisdom of God.

God source of all light,
by your word give light to our lives.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5: 1-6

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.



The Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 24: 14-23

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

God, we thank you for your Word,
the story of your grace. Amen.

[Musical Interlude - All good gifts](#)

Short Reflection - Rev'd Janice

Response to the Gospel

God calls you to bring your life before him.

Will you offer your hands to help others?

Will you offer your gifts to encourage others?

Will you offer your resources to share with others?

Will you offer your time to listen to others?

Will you offer your hearts in compassion for others?.

Will you entrust all that you are, and all that you long to be, to the good of others and to the glory of God?

Let us talents and tongues employ

Prayers of gratitude and concern

Gracious and loving God,
we pray for your holy and universal church,
that all your people would use the talents
which you have given, and through them
offer you good and faithful service.

May our church choose wisely
the materials they use for teaching and ministry.

*Giver of all good gifts,
hear us and help us to live to your glory.*

As you teach us to use our talents to your glory,
so help our nation to use the gifts
and produce of this land wisely and justly.

Help our nation to care for the environment,
that resources may be conserved and fairly distributed,
and that damage done may be healed.

Give to our government wisdom, good judgement,
and a willingness to listen carefully
to the concerns of the people of this nation.

*Giver of all good gifts,
hear us and help us to live to your glory.*

In this time of silence we bring our concerns
for your people and your world

***A time for personal prayers
for members of our church family,
for a situation in the news, for countries in the world.***

Giver of all good gifts,
hear the prayers we offer to you, and sustain us in faith
until you finally receive us with the words,
'Well done, good and faithful servants'.
We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

An Invitation to the free-will offering

Your gifts to support the ministry and mission
of the Church are received with grateful thanks.

Your offering can be made on-line or
sent directly to the church office.

BEING SENT ON GOD'S MISSION

[NAIDOC 2020 - Always was, always will be](#)

[Ye servants of God](#)

Closing Prayer

Eternal God,
help me to keep alert, to stand firm in faith,
to be courageous, to be strong.
So that all I do may be done in love
and to glorify your name. Amen.

Based upon 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The Final Blessing

May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and of Christ, who summons me to service;
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires me
with generosity and love,
be upon me, now and always. Amen.

We go in peace to love and serve the the Lord.
In the name of the holy Trinity of Love. Amen.

[Three-fold Amen](#)