



Sunday 23 January 2022

Introit – Be Still for the Presence of the Lord – tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-yBLNgQkvY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLsLD2rC&index=5>



Welcome

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well and the worship blesses you

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Call to Worship

Lord our God, you set us free
We give you thanks and praise
Lord, you offer us grace
We give you thanks and praise

Prayers of Adoration, Invocation and Confession

Loving God, you bless us in so many ways that make us whole
You transform our lives
We long to be closer to you
We long to know you

Jesus our Lord
You came to save us, to release us and set us free
to make us whole
We long to be closer to you
We long to know you

Holy Spirit
You fill us with God's love, You empower us for ministry
We long to be closer to you
We long to know you

Come upon us Holy Spirit
 Open our hearts so we may be saved,
 forgiven, made whole, empowered for ministry.
Come Holy Spirit, come upon us

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 We thank you for the gift of forgiveness
 For your grace and release from all that binds us and oppresses us

**Forgive us
 Set us free
 Make us whole
 We ask this in Jesus' name, amen**



Kumbaya my Lord – The Seekers 2009

Judith Durham and the Seekers

<https://youtu.be/bYJMtn6lJeE>

Readings – Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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Hymn - Kneels at the feet of his friends – tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tyNO9QVVK4&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLlSLD2rC&index=21>

Sermon – Rev Tina

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen



By Tissot

Try to imagine what it was like for the people from Jesus' hometown who heard him speak in their synagogue. Nazareth was a small quiet village. Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah and everyone's eyes were upon him. When he said: *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"* it would have had a profound effect upon their lives.

Someone they thought they knew, claimed to be the Messiah, the one they'd longed for. Could they believe?

Jesus came before them in the power of the Spirit. He was filled with the Spirit. Could they see this in him?

Jesus is proclaiming he has come to bring good news to the poor. At this moment in history, the poor were anyone who was excluded and marginalised because of status, power, wealth, education, gender, family heritage, race, religion, or ritual cleanliness. Anyone out of boundaries defined by those who had power. Jesus broke open the rock-hard walls of exclusion and offered grace to all. For all were poor in some way. All outsiders were offered God's grace.

Jesus offered the blind sight, not the physically blind but those who couldn't see spiritually and know God in their hearts and experience God's revelation. In this gospel, sight is a metaphor for receiving revelation and experiencing salvation. It was about people's hearts being opened to know the deepfelt truth that they were loved by God and free.

All were to be redeemed. All captives were to be set free from oppression and released. Released is about being set free from brokenness and sin, from anything that stands in the way of an intimate relationship with God. Jesus comes to save God's people and release them. He comes to offer the gift of grace, God's unmerited love that cannot be earned which is given and accepted freely to all.

Jesus' healing miracles released many people and over the centuries many have continued to find healing.

I was involved in healing ministry with an ecumenical team at St Paul's cathedral for fifteen years and during that time witnessed many people being set free from spiritual illnesses and oppressive thinking. One lady dying from cancer came for prayer several times and just before she died, she drew an image of a fruit tree blossoming and said for the first time in her life she was feeling alive and whole. She passed away peacefully. I've been part of healing services and offered healing prayer throughout Melbourne and as far away as Iona, Scotland. It's a transforming ministry that offers peace and wholeness to many people.

We cannot define who is outside God's grace. Jesus has redefined all human assumptions of who is in and who is out. All are in. All are offered grace. All are released. All are forgiven. Jesus saves us all.

Jesus' good news has transformed the entire world.

Quiet Moment



YouTube Shine Jesus Shine - Graham Kendrick Music 2019

<https://youtu.be/wAFcwns4uHc>

Offering Prayer

(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

**Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom
all for transformation through your grace and love
made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**

Prayers of the People – Elaine Hewson (from the combined service)

We come to the privileged place of prayer, where we hold before the One who is infinite love, our beautiful yet suffering world, our churches, those close to us who are in special need and ourselves.

God of Jesus, in many ways our world is like the wedding at Cana wedding: depleted. And wonderfully, you are here, with us, understanding our concerns, our feelings of helplessness for so many troubled areas of discord, conflict, and natural disasters.

As we hear the news each day, may we be like Mary, coming to you with all our concerns. Like the servants, following your leading, trusting you where the outcome is not clear. Like the wedding hosts and guests, rejoicing, marvelling, and enjoying your gifts. Give us eyes to see the evidence of your presence with us. Evidence seen in all who are working for good, for peace in so many ways, In difficult situations; Aid agencies, Governments, Health workers and all who keep the wheels turning in our societies. We pray for them. For health and strength, wisdom and protection in all their work and difficult decision making.

God of Jesus, we pray for your body the church. Wherever your people are placed, all around the world, may we be faithful and true to you.

This week, we follow the World Council of Churches in praying for the countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

We pray for women and those in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity.

For the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all.

For the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice and respect.

For religious and other freedoms.

Within Australia, we pray for the Armenian Apostolic Church and for the Northern Territory Council of Churches. We pray for all the churches of Whitehorse that we might be faithful and alert for ways we can show the unifying love of God.

God of the Church, we hold before you our Ministers, Tina, Peter and Pete and their families and our 3 congregations working to form the Whitehorse Cluster. Our Gospel story reminds us that, if at times we feel depleted, transformation is the hallmark of your presence and as we faithfully follow where you lead us, we will continue to see something new and wonderful, and we'll rejoice to be your people in our community. May we always be mindful that it's the love we demonstrate that ultimately points others to the God of Love.

God of Jesus, we thank you for our beautiful country. May respect for our land and respect for each person, first peoples and all people, be a growing reality here.

We pray for families and friends, and for each other; for school holiday refreshment, and for those known to us who have a special need of your transforming power in their lives. Many of these we will name in our Candle Prayers.

Before praying the Lord's prayer together, I share a Prayer from Richard Rohr which speaks to me:

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because everything and everyone is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together in all the holy names of God. We offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.*

God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness) Graham Kendrick, Worship and Justice 2016

<https://youtu.be/08utbDFP9AE>

Blessing

We go in Peace

We go in the Love of God

We go in the Power of the Spirit

May the Lord Bless and Guard us

May the Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious unto us

May the Lord Look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen

Dismissal

In all things and at all times remember Christ is with you.

Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God. Amen

Hymn – May the Feet of God walk with you Robin & Dorothy Mann 2016

<https://youtu.be/WfOFIWxGaP8>

Pastoral Care Tips



Leunig – used with Permission

*Rev Tina is taking some time out with her family
this week*

*I'll be praying for you all
Stay safe and enjoy being with your loved ones
Try to get out in nature or watch an inspiring
nature show on TV
Nature is good for the soul
It helps us forget our troubles and de-stress
Blessings to all of you during this challenging
time*