



St Stephens Williamstown Uniting Church in Australia
Service of the Word at Home - during Coronavirus Lockdown
Pentecost 2A, Sunday 14th June 2020 & Refugee Week (14 -20 June)
Prepared by Rev S. Juliette Maua'i



*Place a cross and Bible on a table (if possible) with a **Green** cloth - today's Liturgical Colour.
Prepare reflective music or hymns. Open YouTube - copy then paste link OR click on link.*
Readings: Exodus 19:2-8; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this Land, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. I pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

(Choose your hymn/ song to play and sing along... you might have a hymn/ song ready to play on YouTube)
Song: TIS 99 God we praise you, God we bless you... <https://youtu.be/CJ6a0nGgIdo>

Call to Worship

God of Love and Creation,
Be present in our daily worship; be present with us now.
As you called Moses, and the Israelites to your mountain
we call you to our place in our world of global restrictions.
Come enter our lives and our communities
For you are our God, steadfast in abundant love.
In our joyful noise to you O Lord we worship you this day. **Amen.**

(Choose your hymn/ song to play and sing along... you might have a hymn/ song ready to play on YouTube)
Song: TIS 99 O for a heart to praise my God... <https://youtu.be/MdhWiFBAeNk>

Opening Prayer

Creator God,
You call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts this blessed day to receive you in worship
that we might be transformed in new sustaining ways
and let go of old ways of being your people in our changing times.
Amaze us with your Spirit power to face our post-pandemic life and ministry in hope.
In the name of Jesus Christ who leads us on the Way. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Like Moses and the Israelites, like Sarah and Abraham, we may be discouraged,
tired of waiting.
Lord, have mercy.

Blessed God, you call us to seek you at all times and in all places and situations,
to work as the Body of Christ for your kingdom on earth for your kingdom in heaven.
Often, we focus on our individual faith and needs for our own agendas,
rather than collectively in the Trinity for the good and safety of all.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy God, you call us to rejoice and be joyful in humble confidence
to prepare the way for your kingdom and kin-dom,
yet we allow our doubts and burdens to hinder our witness to your living gospel.
Forgive us, dear Lord!
Lord, have mercy.

Song: TIS 759/760 Lord have mercy, Kyrie eleison... https://youtu.be/68gDTyy_lwI

Words of Assurance

Friends in Christ,
Moses was often reluctant and burdened, when God called,
Sarah laughed at first, doubting God's promise.

But God was faithful, delivered his promises, endured in steadfast love and grace.
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Time with our Yong Ones – Watch with your children suggested “Song” & “Story”

Song: Psalm 100... <https://youtu.be/3ixtM-mTJj4>

Children’s Story – Matthew 9:35-10:8 Few labourers for the harvest... <https://youtu.be/r-CjPaXgbaU>

Song: TIS 667 How shall I sing to God... <https://youtu.be/2Bk6DIYMvxQ>

Reflection Focus: Matthew 9:35-1-8, (9-23)

Refugee Week 2020 <https://mailchi.mp/nat/2020week19?e=6e69814807>

In your reading and discernment of the gospel today might we ponder this passage in the light of Jesus Christ and our own discipleship, post-covid19. That is, practicing discipleship in community. The demands on the people of God is not always easy. No doubt we will face the difficult questions on our demands to be the church, and to a church in Williamstown.

This unusual space we are currently restricted to and are slowly slowly rising out of with the ease of restrictions that have affected every corner of our lives impacting families, the church universal, children and young people, the homeless, local businesses, governments, leaders etc. How might we be contemplating our bringing ‘healing to the nations’, and to ourselves?

As we discern the roll-out in preparation of the easing of restrictions, and our looking to gather for worship in community when advised, having fasted in isolation and lockdown, having experienced limitations - loneliness, depression, changed family circumstances, reduced income, death of family and dear friends, anxiety about how we return to work, school, university, volunteering, to worship – will the labourers be fewer? Possibly. But our discipleship and faith is not ours alone to carry into the harvest.

Perhaps the end goal should be our focus and how we might equip our thinking, our actions, our whole being:

- how shall we minister?
- what have I learned or taught myself to upskill whilst in lockdown that will enable our labouring of the harvest?
- why will being disciplined enough to stay 1.5metres away constantly from friends and others, other than my family members?
- how might we respond in this changed and charged world?
- will we be wine in old wineskins, or might we be ‘the labourers/gospel news’ Jesus calls us as “wine in transformed wineskins post-covid19”, sent out into the world and in our community?

Friends in and of Jesus Christ, perhaps this current season is the harvest we are called to labour and witness to, more so than before Covid-19. God is at work in and through us, in and through situations we face as the church, and in the life of our church. God has equipped you and equips you when in need for God’s purpose in the world of post-covid19. How will you respond? How shall we respond together?

Song: Take my healing to the nations... (Bob Fitts) <https://youtu.be/EkLr2VbtPGg>

The Lord’s Prayer... *pray in Silence, pray aloud, or sing the Lord’s Prayer in your cultural language.*

Call for Offering

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)
Your offering will be gratefully received.

Thanks be to God.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God,
accept these gifts for your service and glory,
bless and multiply them so that the wonder of your love, justice and peace,
may be known throughout the world.
In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**



our

Song: TIS 658 I, the Lord of sea and sky... <https://youtu.be/EcxOkht8w7c>

Benediction

Go forth from this time together in the Spirit of the Lord,
with hearts open to the surprising and inexhaustible love of God.
Greet friends and strangers with the gifts of Christ:
Mercy, justice, joy and love.
Expect the spirit to meet us wherever we are, in struggle, in grief, and in peace.
Ponder dear friends – is anything too wonderful for God? **Amen.**

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always! May you know the Spirit of the Paraclete walks alongside you with joy!

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Henri J.M. Nouwen, 20th Century (Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian) –

*“Compassion asks us to go where it hurts,
to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish.
Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely,
to weep with those in tears.
Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless
with the powerless.”*

