



## **St Stephens Williamstown UCA –**

Worship at Home and on Zoom 9.30am Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **Opening Song TIS `156 Morning has broken**

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.

Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965

Words and music from *Enlarged Songs of Praise* 1931 by permission Oxford University  
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### **Opening Prayer**

We thank you, our heavenly parent, that you are to be trusted,  
that you are faithful and provide for all our needs.

When we feel alone in the desert,  
that is where we meet you.

Merciful God, In the wilderness of our lives,  
we can turn to you and know that you will sustain us.

We worship you, and we thank you that in you there is always hope. **Amen.**

### **Acknowledgement to Country**

We acknowledge that we gather on the land and waterways of the Yalukit-willam and Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of this country. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

### **Greetings**

**Good news    Bad news**

**Songs: We have a friend we can trust (tune: Hickory, dickory dock) Sing 2 times**

We have a friend we can trust  
Who shows us that faith is a must  
When things get tough and life feels rough  
Walk even closer to God.

**Song: I will always love you (tune: Eensy Weensy Spider) Sing 2 times**

"I will always love you," the Lord has said to me,  
I will not worry 'bout anything today!  
He promised me that he will never leave.  
I'll try to be more like Him and be less like me.

Words: Dylan & Destry Witcher

### **Bible Readings**

**1 Samuel 17:1-50 Goliath Challenges the Israelites, David Defeats Goliath**

**John 6:1-15 Jesus Feeds Five Thousand Men**

**Message:** I have not chosen the bible readings, for this week's worship by zoom or worship at home, to highlight the message that God only cares for his own, so he made it possible for David – an Israelite, one of the chosen - to seemingly miraculously hit Goliath – a Philistine and enemy of God's people - with a stone from his slingshot and kill him outright, thus defeating the Philistine army single-handedly. Neither did I choose Jesus' miraculous feeding of Five Thousand Men to highlight the amazing powers that Jesus was exhibiting during his ministry.

I will leave it to each one of you to make of these stories what you will.

What I do wish to highlight, keeping in mind that today was to be our intergenerational service, is that the young people in each bible story, David with his slingshot and the boy who offered his 5 loaves and 2 fish, made a significant impact.

At St. Stephens we are indeed mindful of the importance of our young people and we want to encourage them to feel that they matter, and remind them that they do have a special role to play, both within our church family, in their local community, their extended families and the wider world.

My theme is “no matter how young, or old, how small or how powerless any of us may feel, we are all able to take steps to make the world a better place - even if they are only seemingly small steps.”

So it's the “little bloke” versus the mighty giant. I am not suggesting that any of you should go out to fight any 3 metre tall giants, but there are many large challenges out there that each of us have to face: an obvious one of course is climate change – a challenge to the sustainability of life on our planet; the Covid-19 pandemic is a major foe that all the world is wrestling with; health issues can confront us and make us fearful and vulnerable; financial difficulties beset some; family conflicts challenge others; the future may daunt us: – and so on

Sometimes we can fight these “villains” in a big way, but mostly we have to be content with one small step at the time and this is what I am encouraging you to pursue. Don't see yourself as ineffectual, powerless or unimportant. Positive steps taken: Identifying the issues, asking for advice or assistance when needed, having the courage to challenge assumptions, and making small changes to lifestyle are empowering. Every small contribution to the wider good is valuable and we can each play our part.

So - go boldly into the coming week, and God bless you all in your endeavours.

**Song: About Bravery (to tune Happy Birthday)**

1. You might think we are small,  
just because we're not tall,  
We can still make mighty giants fall –  
It takes courage that's all!

2. We can start with 4 **p**'s:  
**p**rayer and **p**lanning , and please!  
add **p**ersistence and **p**assion –  
Bring monsters down on their knees.

3. So step up – make a start,  
We can all play our part  
When problems come to scare us  
We'll stand tall and take heart.

**Challenge** My challenge for you this week is to write another verse for our “bravery” song. Email it to me before Wednesday and I will include your verse in the September Diary.  
email: [elainepeck412@gmail.com](mailto:elainepeck412@gmail.com) or phone me on 9391 1109

**NOTICES: Happy Birthday to Dylan Whitcher Ten years old today.**

### **Prayer for Ourselves and Others**

Lord, you know each of us inside and out. You know our deepest failings, yet still you love us. We are sorry for the times when what you see on the inside just doesn't match up to what we show to the outside world. You also know our deepest needs and our deepest hurts. We ask you to give us the courage to face these places of pain and difficulty, give us the wisdom to ask for help from others and the grace to accept it. And we ask you to give us the insight to see where others need our support and to be prepared to go that extra mile for them. We lift to you now any amongst our family, friends and church whose needs we know, especially.....

Lord, we thank you for this church community. Inspire us to live faithfully under your leadership. We thank you for each encouragement that someone from this church has brought to us this week. We pray for any decisions that our church leaders need to make in the near future

Loving God, We ask for your wisdom to fill our minds, and your love to fill our hearts, as we interact at a distance with family, friends and colleagues. May our words be carefully chosen and our actions always be kind and loving. We pray for an end to lockdowns and separation from our loved ones. We pray for essential workers all over Australia and give thanks for their sustained efforts to keep us safe.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our world. We know that there are many places where your values of justice and mercy are not upheld: we lift before you Fairtrade organisations, those fighting for climate justice, those seeking to rid the world of racism and inequality. Help us to think of small or larger actions that we can do this week, as individuals, families or a church, that will enhance the extension of your values in the world. We pray especially for those facing persecution in Afghanistan, suffering the aftermath of earthquake and storm in Haiti and all who are dealing with the Pandemic in third-world countries where vaccines are in short supply and medical assistance difficult to access.

We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen**

### **Song: 561 Who would true valour see**

1. Who would true valour see, let them come hither;  
those here will constant be, come wind, come weather.  
There's no discouragement shall make them once relent  
each from a vowed intent to be a pilgrim.

2. Those who beset them round with dismal stories  
cannot the brave confound: their strength the more is.  
No lion can them fright, they'll with a giant fight,  
but each will have a right to be a pilgrim.

3. Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt their spirit:  
they know they at the end shall life inherit.  
Then fancies fly away;  
they'll scorn what people say,  
and each work night and day to be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan 1628-88 *alt.*

Adaption and arrangement from the *English Hymnal* by permission Oxford University Press

### **Blessing Song: (Tune You are my sunshine) Sing 2 times**

The love of Jesus, the Holy Spirit,  
Come now upon you, and every day.  
I pray you know friend, the love of Jesus,  
And let him guide you each step of the way.