

# **ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS**

**30 July 2023**

**PENTECOST 7**

***THE KINGDOM - NOW!***



Parable of the hidden treasure c. 1630 - Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn or Gerard Dou

## **WELCOME**

*Lighting of Candle and pouring water into bowl*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

In the spirit of reconciliation and support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart:

-We give thanks for the opportunity to live among First Nations people.  
-We acknowledge that we gather on the land of the Kurna people whose spiritual sovereignty flows through the generations. -We pay our respects to their elders who were and who are, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Kurna people today.

## CENTRING WORDS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing God's praise.

**Give thanks to the Lord above**

Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.

**Proclaim God's wonderful works.**

Live in the Spirit of love and grace

**Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**SONG: TIS 474 Here in this place.**

1

Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of your name.

2

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

3

Here we will take of the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt of the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us for ever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## **PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND YEARNING**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**The one who frees us from selfishness**

**Fills us with God's selfless love.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Amen**

**SONG: TIS 468 We are your people.**

1

We are your people;  
 Spirit of grace,  
 you dare to make us  
 to all our neighbours,  
 Christ's living voice, hands and face.

2

Joined in community,  
 treasured and fed,  
 may we discover  
 gifts in each other,  
 willing to lead and be led

3

Rich in diversity,  
 help us to live  
 closer than neighbours,  
 open to strangers,  
 able to clash and forgive.

4

Glad of tradition,  
 help us to see  
 in all life's changing,  
 where you are leading,  
 where our best efforts should be.

5

Give, as we venture  
 justice and care  
 (peaceful, resisting,  
 waiting or risking)  
 wisdom to know when and where.

6

Christ, as we serve you  
 in different ways,  
 may all we're doing  
 show that you're living,  
 meeting your love with our praise.

**OT READING** Genesis 29:15-28**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**REFLECTION ON THE WORD**

**SONG:                    TiS 650 Brother, sister let me serve you.**

1  
 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
 let me be as Christ to you;  
 pray that I may have the grace to  
 let you be my servant too.

2  
 We are pilgrims on a journey  
 and companions on the road;  
 we are here to help each other  
 walk the mile and bear the load.

3  
 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
 in the night-time of your fear;  
 I will hold my hand out to you,  
 speak the peace you long to hear.

4  
 I will weep when you are weeping;  
 when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
 I will share your joy and sorrow  
 till we've seen this journey through.

5  
 When we sing to God in heaven  
 we shall find such harmony,  
 born of all we've known together  
 of Christ's love and agony.

6  
 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
 let me be as Christ to you;  
 pray that I may have the grace to  
 let you be my servant too.

**OFFERING PRAYER****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

...lighting of reflective candles

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins ,  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us in the trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory**

**For ever and ever. Amen.**

**SONG: TIS 717 Give thanks with a grateful heart.**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ his Son.

*Repeat*

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',  
let the poor say, 'I am rich  
because of what  
the Lord has done for us.'

*Repeat*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ his Son.

*Repeat*

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',  
let the poor say, 'I am rich  
because of what  
the Lord has done for us.'

*Repeat*

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

**BLESSING**

If God is for us, what more do we need?

**Nothing can separate us  
From Christ's gracious love.**

If Christ is with us, what can stop us?

**Nothing can keep us from sharing  
Christ's gifts of love and strength.**

Go with love as our guide.

**God is our constant companion.**

**We believe in a God of new beginnings!**

**May the grace of Christ, the love of God**

**And the communion of the Holy Spirit**

**Bring hope to our hearts**

**And peace to God's world. Amen.**

**SONG TiS 779 May the feet of God walk with you**

Verse 1.

May the feet of God walk with you,  
and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,  
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,  
and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,  
and his love bring you home.

## Verse 2.

May the waking sun delight you,  
 and its evening call to prayer.  
 May the moon and stars surprise you,  
 spin your heart to worlds unseen.  
 May the storms with all their wildness  
 bring you courage, call to strength.  
 May the darkness be your comfort,  
 soft preparing for today.

## Verse 3

May the trees and flowers greet you,  
 sing of life that's all around.  
 May the weeds bring you compassion,  
 loved by God and His hand.  
 May the bird songs tell of freedom,  
 save you from your foolish chains.  
 May your heart spill out with loving,  
 bless the whole wide universe.

Verse 1 is TIS  
 Verses 2&3 are  
 Music by Robin Mann  
 Words by Aubrey Poldich  
 NCYC song book 1989

[you are invited to light a candle as you leave the sanctuary]

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**PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Rev Carol Chambers**

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