**17th November 2019 Pentecost 25 (Proper 28)**

**A short but structured service**

*(other suggestions and alternatives are below)*

**Gathering**

**Call to worship**

Temples shall fall and lie in ruins,

kingdoms shall rise only to fall into oblivion.

***But the word of our God remains forever,***

***and not a hair of our head will perish.***

More central than the huge rock of Uluru,

is the Creator, God of all things seen and unseen.

***More dependable than friend or loved one,***

***is the Redeemer, the God of our salvation.***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

***And also with you!***

Sing praises to our God who has done gloriously!

Let this news be published in all the earth!

***Shout and sing for joy, citizens of the city of God,***

***for great in our midst is the Holy One, the God of Christ******Jesus!***

**Prayer of Approach** *From ‘Brief Prayers’ Vol 3 © B.D.Prewer & Open Book Publishers.*

Holy, most holy Friend, God of heaven and earth, teach us to adore you without constraint, to serve you without complaint, to be in awe of you without fear, and to recognise you where you near. To the praise of your name.

***Amen!***

**Hymn**

**Prayer of confession and**

My friends, it is good to resign from the ‘excuses game’, and humbly confess our sins to God. Let us pray.

Loving God, we are glad that you are not put off by human silly human pride and sinfulness. We want to be honest in your presence, and need to receive for your hands either discipline or encouragement according to our individual needs.

***Some days we take three steps forward, only to slip one backwards.***

***Other days we take one step forward and slip two backwards.***

***We confess that it is easy to become discouraged,***

***or to start pretending that our sins do not matter.***

***But deep in our hearts we know they do matter,***

***and we need the forgiveness and therapy which your word can give us.***

***Please lift us up from shame or pretence, and make us ready to try again.***

Holy God, Saviour and Friend, we thank you that we are not ignored.

You forgive, cleanse, affirm, strengthen and enliven our hopes.

You lift us up, encourage us to stand straight and dare to believe

in ourselves as your much-loved family.

We praise you for your steadfast love. You are our peace and joy.

***Through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen!***

**Word of Assurance**

People of God, we do not pray as trembling supplicants who hope to find their judge in a good mood, but as those who know the steadfast grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The mercies of God are new every morning. Shake off any lingering fears or doubts, and trust God utterly.

***Amen!***

*(often the Psalm may be used for the prayer and/or the word of grace)*

**Service of the Word**

**Psalm for the day – ISAIAH 12**  *© B D Prewer 2000*

I will give thanks to you, wonderful God,

 even for your saving anger;

anger that has cauterised my diseases,

 preparing for your soothing encouragement.

Look everyone! God is my healing;

 I trust and my fears go away.

God, our God, is my vigour and my song;

 God has become my liberation.

Be happy! Drink from the healing wells

 and you will have plenty to shout about.

Give thanks to our loving Lord,

 call upon the name that is wonderful.

Declare the story among all nations,

 tell the world that God is the greatest!

Sing, sing, sing to God who does wonders,

 broadcast your songs around the world!

Cheer and shout for joy, all in the city of God,

 for the greatness of the Holy One is with you

**Epistle or Old Testament/alternate reading:** **2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 or Isaiah 65: 17-25**

**Gospel reading: Luke 21: 5-19**

**Short reflection and discussion** *(see links below)*

(Hymn)

**Prayers for others**

**Sharing of concerns**

**Sharing of notices**

**Prayers**

Lord of love and loveliness, whenever we come to say our prayers, our thoughts like to run down familiar paths, and reach out to the same familiar list of people and needs.

Today we pray for that same list, seeking your blessing on one and all. Please continue you redeeming work in their lives.

Yet we also want you to stretch our compassion to include many others who either deliberately or unintentionally neglect in our prayers.

We pray for our enemies, whether they be a bully at work or some huckster who tricked us financially, whether they be savage critics of the church or members of terrorist groups like El Quaeda.

***God you are always just and merciful, not judging according to what the eye sees nor the ears hear. Look in mercy on our enemies and bless them according to their true needs this day.***

We pray for the people who disgust us. Those who wilfully litter our parks and beaches, scrawl graffiti on our buildings, get drunk and smash shop windows or beat up a lone pedestrian.. Those who stir up racist hatred, or lust for cruel retribution rather than just punishment or rehabilitation, and the many who sit watching others suffer without lifting a hand to help them.

***Lord in your mercy, bless these unlikeable people, and by your Holy Spirit, work in them, and through others who are not as intolerant as us, enable them to rise above the squalor or brutishness of their ways.***

We pray for those who are thin skinned and easily of fended. Those who are embittered characters, always rehearsing real or imagined hurts. Those who gossip mercilessly, or who with wearisome repetition vent their anger or resentments on anyone who will listen.

***With your patient and generous love, O God, give them the understanding that we knowingly or unawares fail to give them, and bring them into the well being that is intended for your creatures.***

We pray for those people of within this congregation or other churches and denominations, who annoy or frustrate us. Those whose ultra conservative or radically liberal views seem to us to be an attack on the body of Christ. Those fellow parishioners whose attitudes or habits feel to us like an insult to our Lord, and any ministers or priests whose word and deeds may make us want to leave the church in bad grace.

***Merciful God, our Saviour and our only Judge, bless all these forgotten people who today we have deliberately brought to mind, and the many more whom we have still forgotten. Continue to surround them with that costly grace of Christ Jesus, which is the only ground on which the rest of us can dare stand before you without fear.***

***To you who first loved us, long before we ever thought of loving you, be all worship and honour, glory and praise, within this congregation and across all continents, seas and islands, to the far corners of the earth, now and forever.***

***Amen!***

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Sending forth the people of God**

**Offering** (a sharing of our gifts and the call to bless others as we have been blessed)

**Hymn**

**Blessing and commissioning**

There are many tasks to be done,

***but only one Master Craftsman of love: Jesus our Saviour.***

There are many truths to be explored,

***but only one guiding Light: the Spirit of Truth.***

There are many channels of love,

***but only one Living Spring: God our Eternal Friend.***

In the name of Christ Jesus, I have been given the faith to bless you.

***Amen!***

In the name of the Holy Spirit, I have been given the faith to bless you.

***Amen!***

In the name of Almighty God, I have been given the faith to bless you.

***Thanks be to God. Amen!***

\*Note: all prayers and litanies above, are courtesy ©B D Prewer. It was Bruce’s intention that the prayers and litanies be adapted by each user to their own situation. This material can only be used for worship with acknowledgement and not otherwise reproduced without permission. Thank you to the estate of Bruce Prewer for allow us to publish his material here. Contact <http://www.bruceprewer.com> for details.

**A shorter prayer service**

*(may include some of the above material in the following format. Hymns may be included if desired and music is available)*

Greet each other

Prayer (may include invocation, adoration, confession and recognition of grace)

Reading: Psalm: Isaiah 12

Gospel reading: Luke 21: 5-19

Sharing and discussion of the readings

Sharing of concerns

Prayers for others (see above, may involve one or several people praying; may involve the use of symbolic actions as part of the prayers)

(Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer)

Blessing

***Howard Wallace suggests*** *(see****:*** [*http://hwallace.unitingchurch.org.au/*](http://hwallace.unitingchurch.org.au/)*)*

Verses 5-6 make an excellent **call to worship**. Alternatively the whole psalm could be used as a prayer of **adoration** and **thanksgiving**.

You will say in that day:
***I will give thanks to you, O LORD,***
***for though you were angry with me,***
***your anger turned away,***
***and you comforted me.***

Surely God is my salvation;
***I will trust, and will not be afraid,***
***for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;***
***he has become my salvation.***

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
***Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;***
***make known his deeds among the nations;***
***proclaim that his name is exalted.***

Sing praises to the LORD,
***for he has done gloriously;***
***let this be known in all the earth.***

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
***for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***

Howard often uses the NRSV but other versions can be used such as Nathan Nettleton’s paraphrase (found at <http://www.laughingbird.net/LaughingBird/Welcome.html>), The Message, Bruce Prewer’s adaptations (both paraphrases) or the New Living Translation. The Message and New Living Translation are accessible via [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

**Songs which may bring deeper reflection are** – lots to consider:

TIS 687 God gives us a future

TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness

TIS 52/AHB 115 Let us sing to the God of salvation

TIS 467 I am the church! You are the church!

TIS 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you

TIS 568/AHB 476 O for a heart to praise my God

TIS 473 Community of Christ

TIS 681 Lord, let me see

TIS 265/AHB 193 O come, O come, Immanuel

TIS 440/AHB 364 Christ, from whom all blessings flow

TIS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

TIS 746 The heavens shall declare

David MacGregor has a range of contemporary songs. You may like to select one to learn. He often provides a downloadable mp3 file, music and lyrics for songs that are his own. His site is at: <https://togethertocelebrate.com.au/>

**Other Creative suggestions:**

* Visuals are very appropriate for most services. Art works can be used to draw people into the stories. <http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc28.htm> has links to artworks and movie suggestions related to the themes arising from the Bible readings. Some of these are by some of the greats and others by world class contemporary artists.
* Ann suggests 2 video clips. They are from Ice Age and Titanic. She gives guidance as to which parts to use and suggestions for reflection. Check them out via the link below.
* Geoff Shrowder suggests re the **Isaiah 65:17-25 reading:**
*Use again the* ***potted shrub/tree*** *from last week, or another one - without the cellophane wrapping and backlight - symbolising the new creation (v.17ff) and the hope which that creation brings. After worship* ***plant the tree*** *in a suitable place in the church grounds.*
* Seasons of the Spirit is a resource package available through Media Com. They have weekly resources available that can be purchased. They have great resources for all ages, creative ideas and thoughtful suggestions for reflection and sermon development. If you want to check it out, speak to Rev Peter or contact our Romsey congregation who use the material often*.*

**Other resources**

* See the Resources page of our web site for an extensive list of links and other resources.
* Our Romsey congregation has access to Seasons of the Spirit materials. Contact Jay for details as to what is available.
* Bruce Prewer’s web site has sermons and prayers. Go to <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>.
* Nathan Nettleton’s site has paraphrase versions of the readings, sermons and prayers. Go to <http://www.laughingbird.net/LaughingBird/Welcome.html>.
* Ann Scull has some great suggestions for creative worship. Go to <http://seedstuff.blogspot.com.au/>.
* Sacredise is a great web site that has a huge range of resources. Go to <http://sacredise.com/>.
* David McGregor has some great suggestions for contemporary music and songs. Go to <http://togethertocelebrate.com.au/>
* Geoff Shrowder has suggestions for the use of the Psalm, often a thoughtful piece and suggestions for hymns. Go to <http://thebillabong.info/>.
* Many other resources are available on the web site