**Worship Liturgy for Trinity Macedon Ranges Partnership**

**6th – 7th June 2020**

You may like to follow our service on our video. You can find it on our Worship Services page on our website at <https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/worship-services> or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/8nkHlGd-gfY>.

Our service invites you to read the scriptures, pause, meditate and pray. Allow the stories told to lead you. We suggest reading the passages when suggested below. We are touching on several of the scripture readings in one way or another this week.

This week comes just after Reconciliation Week and during the riots in the USA protesting the killing of black Americans. You may like to keep in your prayers all those who suffer oppression at the hand of another.

We acknowledge all the Aboriginal Groups who have cared for and nurtured the land on which we meet: the Wurundjeri; Woi Wurruung; Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung.

We acknowledge their leaders: past, present and emerging for it is in them that Australia’s future lies.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** by P Cannon

Listen…

In the quiet…

In the rough and tumble of living…

Do you hear the rumble?

Do you hear the whispers?

Look…

In the dark…

In the bright light of the day…

Do you see the dance?

Do you see the movement?

For creation declares!

All life moves in an interweaving dance of joy and celebration!

It is good.

And comes together in worship in grace, love and fellowship.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH** by © B D Prewer

Most wonderful God, forever beyond our grasp yet by grace always within our reach;

 ***we approach you with joy*.**

Most wonderful Christ, forever ahead of us in wisdom and love yet by grace always beside us,

 ***we approach you with joy.***

Most wonderful Spirit, forever larger than the whole universe yet by grace living in our hearts,

 ***we approach you with joy.***

Please enable our worship to rise far higher than our intellect and let our love to go much deeper than our feelings.

***To your praise and glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God to be ever loved, adored and served!***

***Amen!***

**PAUSE TO READ THE READINGS FOR TODAY BEFORE PROCEEDING. They are:** Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a; Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16 – 20; 2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13

**CREATION BEGINS** – a poem by P Cannon

The beginning

Word

Spirit

Life

The dance begins

Interweaving between chaos and order

Movement and community giving birth

And it is good

Ah, very good

Wonder

Delight

Joy

Love

Brush strokes full of colour

The story teller bringing meaning

A conversation of change and dynamism

Journey begun

Ah, very good

**REFLECTION** by Ps A Buckley

Today is celebrated in the Church Year as Trinity Sunday. It’s a day that some worship leaders dread, others struggle with, others just avoid. We have not said all that much about it in our reflections on the video today, not because we wanted to avoid it, but because other things in the readings drew our attention.

In our conversation earlier in the week, the ministry team agreed that, when approaching the idea of the Trinity, trying to explain it or say anything about it was fraught….perhaps our only real response is use poetry or art or music or maybe even dance (we didn’t quite get that far on the video!)

It’s so difficult, because it is so much at the heart of my faith to understand the relational community of love that is God – Three in One, One in Three – that I yearn to be able to express what it means to me. And I fail almost every time.

I understand that it’s not necessarily something that some people of faith think about deeply, if at all. I distinctly remember being at an NCYC in Ballarat and having no-one less than Archbishop Desmond Tutu describing the cosmic, ceaseless, timeless relationship of God, constantly loving, constantly reaching out and inviting us to be part that love….and just shrugging my shoulders and thinking “that’s nice.” It wasn’t until many years later that I understood, as much as one ever can, how finally seeing God in that way is a key to living out of and into a faith that reflects that love, community and invitation.

When my understanding of God shifted, something in me shifted too. In a strange way, it means that I can now never think that I’ve ‘got it’. There is always more to God than I can possibly imagine. There is always, though, the invitation to join in the dance, to take God’s outstretched hand and, in turn, be part of reaching out to invite others.

Let’s dance! Let’s actually dance…something we’d mostly be too embarrassed to do if we were in church together. As an act of prayer and celebration today, put on some music in the privacy of your own home, grab a partner if you have one, and let the Spirit lead you in a waltz, cha cha, go-go, or just sway to the rhthym….What does it feel like to think of your life of faith as a dance?

**A PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

No pretence is needed in the Presence of God; it is good to admit our sin. Let us pray.

Father of the lights of heaven, loving creator and sustainer of all things,

if we take you for granted or turn our backs on you,

please forgive us and save us;

***and restore to us the joy of salvation.***

Christ Jesus, Son of God and son of humanity,

if we neglect you or follow you timidly from a long way behind,

please forgive and save us;

***and restore to us the joy of salvation.***

Holy Spirit, Source of birth and rebirth, nurturer of the family of God,

if we reject your friendship to curry favour with the gods of contemporary fashion,

please forgive and save us;

***and restore to us the joy of salvation.***

Most loving God, origin and goal of communal love, please gather all your wandering children back to your side, restore to them their senses, and forgive their many sins. Reinforce within us the desire to do your will, and to participate in both your travail and joy as you bring nearer the fulfilment of your new creation. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.

***Amen***

**FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I proclaim to you the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting!

***Thanks be to God!***

**PRAYER FOR OTHERS** © B D Prewer

Our intercessions today centre around the theme of community. Let us pray.

Holy Friend, for that small community we call our family, with its strengths that nurture or its faults that hurt and inhibit its unity, we ask for a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for that community we call the church universal, with its many graces and its numerous failures and even its scandals, we ask for a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for that community we call our circle of friends, with its times of harmony and mutual joy and its incidents of misunderstanding or neglect, we ask a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for those communities we call health centres, and hospitals and hospices for the dying, with their skill and compassion yet also their pride and folly, we ask a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for those communities we call schools and universities, where much knowledge is imparted but love is not on the syllabus, we ask your special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for that multi-ethnic community called our nation, with virtues that make us proud to be Australian. yet also with its prejudices and hurtful ways, we ask a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Friend, for that teeming community we call the world, rich with achievements for the good of all yet riven by greed, hatred, intolerance, injustice, arrogance, and war, we ask a special blessing.

***Three-person’d God, join together your separated children.***

Holy Father, thank you for sending your true Child Jesus to reconcile all things. By your Holy Spirit incite all people of faith and goodwill to strive untiringly for that communal harmony where the value of no one is denigrated, and where the gifts and successes of each person are celebrated with unstinted gratitude and joy. For your name’s sake.

***Amen!***

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING** *(adapted from selections of Psalm 8 courtesy © B D Prewer, 2 Corinthians 13 courtesy © Nathan Nettleton)*

I ask myself what is it about human beings

 that God has time for our worries?

what is it that is precious enough

 for God to take such care of us?

It seems we have been made almost like gods,

 crowned with honour and responsibility.

We have been made stewards of God’s handiwork;

 the health of all creatures depends on us…

So take courage
seek consensus;
live in peace.

May the extravagant generosity of the Lord and Messiah Jesus,
and the love of God,
and the tender solidarity of the Holy Spirit
be within and around you all.