

**Eastwood Uniting Church 25 July, 2021**

**Praying for the whole family**

Leader: Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

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*We continue in our community reading of the Letter to the Ephesians.*

**Creating Community with God**

***Preparation Song- Heart full of Praise*** <https://youtu.be/AJpf0auYooY>

I was lost and could not see but You did not give up on me  
To save me from my guilt and shame You stepped into the world You made  
And on the cross of Calvary You gave Your life to set me free  
Forever I will sing Your Name Hands high heart full of praise  
  
The King of glory once enthroned was laid to rest behind the stone  
But death would not have final say Jesus You rose from the grave  
Now standing in Your victory Your Spirit is alive in me  
Forever I will sing Your name, Hands high heart full of praise   
Heart full of praise   
  
After all is said and done and after every race is run  
I will see my Saviour’s face, hands high heart full of praise  
For You are crowned the King of Kings and You are robed in majesty  
Forever I will sing Your name, Oh hands high heart full of praise   
Heart full of praise   
  
Hallelujah – Hallelujah - All glory to Your name  
Hallelujah – Hallelujah - Hands high heart full of praise

***Lighting the candles and Remembering Baptism***

[John 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A12&version=NLT) 요한복음 8:12 约翰福音 8:12

Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me,

you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

후에 예수님은 사람들에게 다시 말씀하셨다. “나는 세상의 빛이다. 나를 따르는 사람은 어두움에 다니지 않고 생명의 빛을 받을 것이다.”

耶稣又对众人说：“我是世界的光，凡跟从我的，必不会走在黑暗里，必要得到生命的光。”

***Acknowledgement of Country and Greeting***

Let us remember we meet in different places on the Country of the Darug-speakers.

We give thanks for the Wallamettegal People (on which the Eastwood Church stands),

and their elders, past, present and those yet to come,

who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land and living in harmony with it.

May God honour and bless them - Now and to eternity.

Together we meet in God’s own country

**Called to care for the earth**

**Called to be reconciled to all people**

**Called to become sisters and brothers in Christ, God’s beloved family**

*(Adapted from Acknowledgement of Country used at Enfield Uniting Church)*

Cooee Warami mittigar Come – you are welcome here

欢迎来到这里 오신 것을 환영합니다

nǐ hǎo 你好 Anyong haseyo 안녕하세요

**Call to Worship:** *Based on Ephesians 2:19-22 (by Susan Hamilton, from ‘Before the Amen’ Pilgrim Press)*

No one can build a home with any greater material than the love and grace of God

Our home is built on the foundation of Christ. Christ stands as the door to a holy and sacred life.

Through Christ we are built into a dwelling for the Spirit of God.

So we are no longer foreigners and strangers.

We are citizens with the saints - We are members of God’s household.

Our house is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets and Christ is the cornerstone.

***A Prayer of Approach*** (based on Ephesians 3)

O Mysterious One, your riches seem unattainable and unsearchable for us!

Yet, your Spirit moves to help us to see things that were once hidden.

You invite us into wisdom, even when we fear to approach You and your wonders.

Show us the way to approach you.

Give us the desire to soak ourselves in your presence.

When we are discouraged and feel unable to claim our faith,

May we learn us to encourage each other and take courage from each other.

Give us freedom and confidence.

***A Prayer of Confession*** (words by Rev Dorothy Macrae-McMahon, read by Rev Ann Perrin)

Our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

**Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ**

***A Time for Everyone –*** rites and rituals

***A Prayer from the Bible - Psalm 14*** (read in English and Chinese)

1 Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;

there is no one who does good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind

to see if there are any who are wise,

who seek after God.

3 They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;

there is no one who does good,

no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers

who eat up my people as they eat bread,

and do not call upon the Lord?

5 There they shall be in great terror,

for God is with the company of the righteous.

6 You would confound the plans of the poor,

but the Lord is their refuge.

7 O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,

Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

***Sacred Story from Scripture - Ephesians 3:14-21***

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.  
I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,

he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,  
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints,

what is the breadth and length and height and depth,  
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.  
Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish

abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

For the letters that teach us about God’s peace and promises - **Thanks be to God!**

***Message – Amelia Koh-Butler* Praying as a form of loving**

***Offering – Every time I feel the Spirit*** <https://youtu.be/lJxTxWlCv5k>

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke  
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke  
And all around me, it looked so fine  
I asked my Lord if all this is mine.

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Jordan river, is chilly an’ cold  
It chills the body but not the soul

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

*Traditional*

**Empowering the Community’s Spirit**

***Meditative Response – Love Comes*** <https://youtu.be/5ZYydbtVe1A>

**“For the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE.............” (Galatians 5:22)**

**God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us.**

**Well-formed love banishes fear.**

**Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.**

**We, though, are going to love—love and be loved.**

**First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first. (1 John 4:17-19) The Message**

**Love is the touch of intangible joy;**

**love is the force that no fear can destroy;**

**love is the goodness we gladly applaud:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

LOVE comes laughing, bringing joy, lightness, light.

LOVE comes laughing in the face of fear, saying, “Listen! There is nothing more powerful than me.

LOVE comes laughing when generosity is offered, and where sharing is gratefully received;

Where neighbour helps neighbour, and friendship is honoured in sacrifice.

LOVE comes laughing, for love lives there, for God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;**

**love is the hope that can make us rejoice;**

**love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

LOVE comes lightly, in affirming tones which encourage and hearten;

In gentle silences that say clearly: “I care for you”

In simple acts of kindness that often go unnoticed; in cuddles of comfort that say: I am here for you”

LOVE comes lightly, for love lives there, for God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;**

**love is the will to be whole once again;**

**love is the trust of a friend on the road:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

LOVE comes powerfully, bringing healing, releasing possibility, instilling hope:

When open hands are held out as a sign of reconciliation;

When embracing arms say: “I’ll help you, for this road is hard”

When solidarity with those who are powerless creates new vision and births a brand new purpose;

When troubled brows are soothed, and tear soaked tears are dried, and worries are put to bed.

LOVE comes powerfully, for love lives there, for God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;**

**love is the kingdom their will has begun;**

**love is the pathway the saints all have trod:**

**God is where love is, for love is of God.**

LOVE Divine, living love among us, give us the grace to be like you.



*(Hymn words by Alison M Robertson, meditation words by Glendon Macaulay, from Dirt, Mess and Danger)*

***Physical Prayer*** (this prayer is on the supplementary sheet)

***Sending Song – Amazing Grace*** <https://youtu.be/BA7pdABvpnc>

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear   
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grave appear  
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares

We have already come

Twas grace that brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home

When we’ve been there ten thousand years

Bright shining as the sun

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise

Than when we first begun.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

**Physical Prayer for Zoom**

God cares for us as whole people, and the Bible asks us to bring our physical selves to him.

We suffer from a lack of the physical at the moment,

unable to meet in the same room, unable to shake hands or hug our friends.

So, when we pray now, we want to pray in a physical way, using our hands and bodies.

Of course, we are all different when it comes to mobility,

so I just encourage you to engage with this to the extent that you can.

Feel free to substitute a movement for something else that works for you.

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Let’s start by grasping our hands into fists in front of us.

Think about what is distracting you right now –

concerns you have, items on your to-do list, deeper worries about the future.

Whatever you come with today, imagine that you hold it in your hands.

Feel the tension of holding on to all these things and the effort needed to keep your hands in fists.

In 1 Peter 5:7, we read: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Let’s slowly open our hands and let go of our anxiety,

allow him to carry our burdens today, because he cares for you.

Next, spread out your hands wide in front of you.

Psalm 143:6 says: “I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.”

Our hands are so empty, so full of need!

Like the parched land cries out, we cry out: Oh Lord, we are thirsty, we are needy!

Come and rain down on us, fill us today with all that we need.

Now, if possible, move so your feet are touching the ground.

Imagine that this is your root, receiving the life-giving love of Christ.

As I read this famous verse from Ephesians 3,

use your arms to show how immense Christ’s love is for us

[demonstrate the wide, long, high and deep as you read]:

“I pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how WIDE and LONG and HIGH and DEEP is the love of Christ.”

Now, church, you in whom the Lord dwells, let’s raise our arms in praise to God to end.

Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord. (Psalm 134:1-2)

[This prayer is from Sara Hargreaves. More resources like this from engageworship.org]

***Extra links for Devotional times at home***

**Bible study – continuing notes on Chapter 3 of Ephesians**

Paul goes on in chapter 3 to marvel at the unique role that he got to have

in spreading this good news to non-Jewish people. Even though he is in prison, he is thanking God for the chance he has had to see this covenant family grow so huge.

So Paul closes the first half of the letter with another prayer.

This time he prays that Jesus' followers would be strengthened by God's Spirit to simply grasp and comprehend the love that Christ has for his people.

Goodness of God <https://youtu.be/l5vn2oLEPUg>

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me

All my days, I’ve been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful - and all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able - Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice - You have led me through the fire

In the darkest night You are close like no other

I’ve known You as a Father. I’ve known You as a Friend.

And I have lived in the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful

And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able - Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

‘Cause Your goodness is running after - It’s running after me

With my life laid down, I’m surrendered now

I give You everything, ‘cause Your goodness is running after - It’s running after me

And all my life - You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able, Oh, I’m gonna sing of the goodness of God

Psalm 14 诗篇 14

1 Only fools say in their hearts,    “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, and their actions are evil;    not one of them does good!

1 愚顽人心里说：“没有　神。” 他们都是败坏，行了可憎的事，没有一个行善的。

**2**The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race;  
he looks to see if anyone is truly wise,   if anyone seeks God.

**2**耶和华从天上察看世人，要看看有明慧的没有，有寻求　神的没有。

**3**But no, all have turned away;  all have become corrupt. No one does good,   not a single one!

**3**人人都偏离了正道，一同变成污秽；没有行善的，连一个也没有。

**4**Will those who do evil never learn?  
    They eat up my people like bread  and wouldn’t think of praying to the Lord.

**4**所有作恶的都是无知的吗？他们吞吃我的子民好象吃饭一样，并不求告耶和华。

**5**Terror will grip them,  for God is with those who obey him.

**5**他们必大大震惊，因为　神在义人的群体中。

**6**The wicked frustrate the plans of the oppressed,  but the Lord will protect his people.

**6**你们要使困苦人的计划失败，但耶和华是他的避难所。

**7**Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue Israel?  
    When the Lord restores his people, Jacob will shout with joy, and Israel will rejoice.

**7**但愿以色列的救恩从锡安而出；耶和华给他子民带来复兴的时候 雅各要快乐，以色列要欢喜。