

**Eastwood Uniting Church 29 August, 2021**

**Working out faith**

Leader: Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler

Zoom from computer or tablet: Eastwood Uniting Church - Worship Services

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

From a mobile +61280156011,,5450786355# Australia. Meeting ID: 545 078 6355

Landline - Dial by your location. +61 2 8015 6011 Australia. Meeting ID: 545 078 6355

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**Creating Community with God**

***Preparation Song-*** GATHER TOGETHER APART by Ferg <https://youtu.be/7XHmNkDU7sU>

As we gather together Apart

Separated by distance

But intertwined in heart

You will never leave or forsake

Reveal Yourself afresh to us In unexpected ways

Come nurture hope in our hurting world Today

As we gather together Again

Full of unanswered questions

Deep sadness and lament

Struggling to know how to pray

Remind us of Your presence now In unexpected ways

Come nurture hope in our hurting world Today

As we gather together Anew

May your Spirit restore us

And draw us close to You

Speak into these strange, stressful days

Revive our anxious, aching hearts In unexpected ways

Come nurture hope in our hurting world Today

© 2020 Heavy Happy Music CCLI [#7148627](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/7148627)

***Lighting a candle***

Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ our God  
So that in its flame we may love you with all our heart,  
With all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength,  
And our neighbours as ourselves. Amen.

用對神你的愛來點燃我們的心，我們的主基督 好讓我們在祂的火焰中、全心全意地愛你， 用我們全部心思、全部靈與魂、全部力量，我們和我們的鄰居一起。 阿門。

너는 마음을 다하고 정성을 다하고 뜻을 다하고 힘을 다하여 주 너의 하나님을 사랑하라.’

***Acknowledgement of Country and Greeting -*** Gathering  <https://youtu.be/ouJCm43JTKY>

From before recorded time, the First Peoples cared for this Land.  
We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land  
and honour those who have offered themselves in tending it.  
We acknowledge the Elders and communities who have told the sacred stories  
and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.  
We ask God’s blessing on those who continue to work  
for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

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:** by Rev Ann Perrin

We search these days for strong armour to defend ourselves against the daily struggles of life:

**Yet as we journey, we find God with arms stretched wide in vulnerable hope.**

We long to be saved from the uncertainty and ambiguity on our journey:

**Yet as we journey, we see the Christ walking ahead, straight into all that we experience.**

We wait for simple answer to our questions:

**And we receive the call to follow in faith.**

**This is the life of the pilgrim people of God.**

***A Prayer of Invocation***

Come to us, Prince of Peace. We wait here to meet your life

so that ours may be guided and guarded by all that you offer to us.

**Equip us now with your courage, wisdom and daring**

**to face all that lies in our journeying. Amen**

***A Song of Confession and Mercy – Even If*** <https://youtu.be/B6fA35Ved-Y>

They say sometimes you win some, sometimes you lose some  
And right now, right now I'm losing bad

I've stood on this stage, Night after night  
Reminding the broken it'll be alright  
But right now, Oh right now I just can't

It's easy to sing when there's nothing to bring me down  
But what will I say when I'm held to the flame like I am right now

I know You're able and I know You can  
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand  
But even if You don't my hope is You alone

They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain  
Good thing a little faith is all I have right now

But God when You choose to leave mountains unmovable  
Give me the strength to be able to sing  
It is well with my soul I know You're able  
And I know You can save through the fire  
With Your mighty hand, but even if You don't, my hope is You alone

I know the sorrow, I know the hurt would all go away if You'd just say the word  
But even if You don't, my hope is You alone

You've been faithful, You've been good - All of my days  
Jesus, I will cling to You, Come what may  
'Cause I know You're able, I know You can

Save through the fire with Your mighty hand  
But even if You don't, My hope is You alone

I know the sorrow, I know the hurt  
Would all go away If You'd just say the word  
But even if You don't my hope is You alone

It is well with my soul…

Songwriters: Ben Glover, David Garcia, Tim Timmons, Bart Millard, Crystal Lewis

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

***Passing of the Peace*** [in auslan]

**Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ**

***Sacred Reading from Scripture***

**Psalm 15** [Sung version <https://youtu.be/tkkuDXb2zDE> ]

O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbours; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honour those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**John 6:56-69** [read by Janelle Dodd]

**James 1:17-27**  
Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

***Song – All good gifts (Godspell)*** <https://youtu.be/KnUs7R9oFkU>

We plough the [fields](https://www.definitions.net/definition/fields) and [scatter](https://www.definitions.net/definition/scatter) the good seed on the land

But it is fed and [watered](https://www.definitions.net/definition/watered) by God's [almighty](https://www.definitions.net/definition/almighty) hand

God [sends](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sends) us snow in winter, the [warmth](https://www.definitions.net/definition/warmth) to [swell](https://www.definitions.net/definition/swell) the grain

The [breezes](https://www.definitions.net/definition/breezes) and the [sunshine](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sunshine) and soft [refreshing](https://www.definitions.net/definition/refreshing) rain

All good [gifts](https://www.definitions.net/definition/gifts) around us are sent from [Heaven](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Heaven) above

So [thank](https://www.definitions.net/definition/thank) the Lord, oh, [thank](https://www.definitions.net/definition/thank) the Lord for all God’s love

We [thank](https://www.definitions.net/definition/thank) Thee then, oh Father, for all [things](https://www.definitions.net/definition/things) bright and good

The [seedtime](https://www.definitions.net/definition/seedtime) and the harvest, our life our [health](https://www.definitions.net/definition/health) our food

No [gifts](https://www.definitions.net/definition/gifts) have we to [offer](https://www.definitions.net/definition/offer) for all thy love imparts

But that [which](https://www.definitions.net/definition/which) Thou desirest, our [humble](https://www.definitions.net/definition/humble) thankful hearts!

***Message – Faith, works and what do with our gifts at the moment – Rev Amelia Koh-Butler***

<https://vimeo.com/590955010>

***Offering -*** Our Bank Account details are as follows:   Eastwood UC Account    BSB: 634 634      Account #: 100020668

In gratitude for life and resources, we offer ourselves in your service, O God of generosity.

May our lives and ways of living become part of your gift to the world. AMEN

**Empowering the Community’s Spirit**

***Physical Prayer – the Body Prayer from the Order of Julian of Norwich*** <https://youtu.be/_lKdXykzTXk>

The 14th century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich, once wrote, “The fruit and the purpose of prayer is to be 'oned' with and like God in all things.” This body prayer is a wonderful way to bring all of ourselves into the act of prayer, body, mind and spirit.

This body prayer was created by the contemplative Order of Julian of Norwich. Father John Julian developed the four words to describe their silent contemplative approach to prayer. Father Ethan Jewett developed the body positions related to the four words. It is a great way to reclaim our bodies as valuable and loved. These days when so many of us have been handed a faith tradition that ignores or distrusts or sometimes even hates the body, and when we live in a society that has made the body a commodity and has privileged certain kinds of bodies more than others, this prayer can be a way to reconnect with our bodies as gifts from God and refute those messages. We believe this body prayer can help us resist the idea that the body is something we need to renounce or transcend in order to experience communion with God. Instead, this prayer invites us to be in our bodies, embrace our physicality as a way to ground ourselves, and find oneness with the divine and with all living things. As you pray this prayer it can help you connect your heart, mind, and body and to experience God’s love for every part of you.

The prayer has four simple postures. And intentions.

AWAIT (hands at waist, cupped up to receive):

Await God’s presence, however it may come to you.

ALLOW (reach up, hands open):

Allow a sense of God’s presence) to come …or not…and be what it is.

ACCEPT (hands at heart, cupped towards body):

Accept as a gift whatever comes or does not come.

Accept that you don’t know everything, that you are not in charge.

ATTEND (hands outstretched, ready to be responsive):

Attend to what you are called to, willing to be present and be God’s love in the world,

however God calls you to.

Jessica Young, a dance/movement therapy educator, demonstrated the prayer for us. The narration is by Lenora Rand and the music is by Gary Rand, co-directors of The Plural Guild, a music, arts, liturgy collective creative resources for individuals, small groups and congregations. Learn more at www.pluralguild.com

***Prayers***

CCA and WMC Covid Prayers – read by Marion Gledhill

***Sending Song – How can I keep from singing*** <https://youtu.be/VLPP3XmYxXg>

Text: Traditional / Music Robert Lowry Lyrics

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock, I’m clinging

Since love prevails in heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.

And though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock, I’m clinging

Since love prevails in heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

I Lift my eyes. The cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it.

And day by day, this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?