

# Uniting Church in the City



## WESLEY UNITING CHURCH

Perth, Western Australia



*Theme: With Loud Voices*

*Ten Lepers Call Out to Jesus*

*Fugel, Gebhard, 1863-1939*

*Diocesan Museum of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Germany*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Sunday 9 October 2022**

**Pentecost 18**

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

### INTRODUCTION:

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Post Day (Today)

World Mental Health Day (Monday)

International Day of the Girl Child (Tuesday)

International Day of Rural Women (Saturday)

### GATHERING MUSIC: Sonata for Trumpet & Piano

II. Rather slowly and with freedom

*Kent Kennan (1913-2003)*

*Martin Baker (trumpet), 2022 Wesley Music Scholar*

*Angela Currie (piano), Director of Music/Organist*

## WELCOME

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

I would like to acknowledge  
and pay respect  
to the traditional owners of the land  
on which we meet –  
the Whadjuk people  
of the Noongar nation.

It is upon their ancestral lands  
that the Perth Wesley Church is built.

We pay our respects to them  
and their culture,  
and to the elders –  
past, present and emerging.

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come and sing the praise  
of our wondrous God.  
Come and celebrate God  
who refreshes us  
and brings us new life.

Be joyful,  
and celebrate the goodness of God  
here and everywhere.

**Awesome and marvellous are God's works!**

Come, let us worship God.

PRAYERS OF APPROACH:

God of mystery and wonder,  
you are with us  
in times of glory  
and uncertainty,  
times of healing,  
and times of doubt.

As we worship you this day,  
help us to remember  
that you are with us  
in all of the twists  
and turns of our lives,  
the unexpected  
and the routine.

Lead us to praise you  
and give you thanks  
in all times and places.

We pray in the name  
of Christ Jesus,  
healer and friend. **Amen**

HYMN SoG 821: **“Let us build a house”**

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome ...

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome ...

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome ...

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome ...

*Marty Haugen 1950-  
Words and Music © Marty Haugen, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.*

## READING FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4 – 7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

In this is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: “We cannot measure how you heal”**

We cannot measure how You heal  
or answer every sufferer’s prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need Your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make Your broken people whole.

*John L. Bell*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God,  
we feel torn between  
wanting to praise you,  
and feeling ashamed  
of our faith in you.

Sometimes,  
we feel torn between  
trusting you  
and raging against you.

Especially when we suffer  
from illness or displacement  
or with feeling trapped in circumstances  
beyond our control.

We sometimes find ourselves  
blaming you  
or blaming ourselves  
for not having a strong enough faith  
to get the answers we want  
to our prayers.

Sometimes we feel jealous  
of your good news,  
God,  
and want to keep it  
to ourselves.

We can't believe the people  
you want us  
to share it with:  
strangers,  
and people who don't know you,  
and even our enemies.

Forgive us, God.

**Amen**

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

God has not created us for discord  
but has formed us for harmony.

God does not sentence us to ignorance  
but opens us to understanding.

God does not send us into isolation  
but welcomes us into community.



God,  
the Creator of every family  
in heaven and Earth,  
desires peace on Earth  
and righteousness,  
joy and love.

Blessed be God,  
whose mercy is from  
everlasting to everlasting,  
blessed be God,  
who reaches across all divisions.

Blessed be God,  
who forgives us,  
renews us,  
and makes us whole.

**Amen**

PASSING THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

THEME TIME

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION:

2 Timothy 2: 8 –15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David--that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Your Word, O Lord is a lamp to our feet.

**And a light to our path.**

## READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION:

Luke 17: 11 – 19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Lord, may your Word live in us.

**And bear much fruit to your glory.**

## SERMON

### HYMN TiS 613: "Lord of all hopefulness"

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Joyce Placzek ('Jan Struther') 1901–53  
Words by permission Oxford University Press*

## NOTICES

### ECUMENICAL PRAYER CALENDAR AND WA PRAYER CALENDAR:

Today we pray for the countries of  
Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
Nicaragua and Panama.

And from the WA Prayer Calendar  
Foothills St Martin's, Kalamunda ,



and Perth Samoan Uniting Churches,  
and 98.5 Sonshine FM.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

God of healing and hope,  
we raise our voices to say thank you.

For the wonder of creation,  
for the ways we encounter you  
each day.

We raise our prayers today  
that you will help us use our voices.

In places of injustice  
or oppression,  
may we speak your truth  
and liberation.

In places of despair  
and hopelessness,  
may we speak your hope.

In places where there is injury  
and hurt,  
may we speak your healing.

We pray in the name of the One  
whose voice we echo.

**Amen**

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour  
who taught us when we pray to say:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen**

**OFFERING:**

We take up our offering  
for the work of the church.

**MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING:**

Under Western Skies for Two Trumpets and Piano  
I. Sundown

*Kevin McKee (b. 1980)*

*Martin Baker (trumpet), 2022 Wesley Music Scholar*

*Sarah Brown (trumpet)*

*Angela Currie (piano), Director of Music/Organist*

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

Loving God,  
we come to you in thanksgiving,  
knowing that all we are  
and all we have  
are gifts from you.

In faith and love,  
help us to do your will.

We offer to you this day  
all the facets of our lives.

May we grow in wisdom and insight  
to understand your will for us.

We offer gifts of time,  
talent, and possessions  
to reflect our love for you  
and our neighbour.

Help us to reach out to others  
as you, our God, reach out to us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen**

HYMN TiS 473: "**Community of Christ**"

Community of Christ,  
who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life  
for God alone:  
the God who wears your face,  
to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race  
and every song.

Community of Christ,  
look past the Church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry,  
and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed,  
the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash  
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,  
through whom the word must sound –  
cry out for justice and for peace  
the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war  
and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish  
into joy.

When menace melts away,  
so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace  
and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love  
and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one  
for evermore.

*Shirley Erena Murray 1931–  
Words by permission Hope Publishing Co, USA.*

## SENT OUT ON GOD'S MISSION

### THE BLESSING:

Offer praise to God  
now and at all times,  
and remember Christ Jesus,  
so that in whatever circumstances  
you find yourself  
you may know what is truly life-giving,  
holy and whole,  
and by the power of God's Spirit,  
bring it into all places.

**Amen**

POSTLUDE: Fantasy No 3, 'Lumetto' (Jesus bids us shine)

*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

*Angela Currie (organ), Director of Music/Organist*

*You are invited to share Morning Tea or Coffee in the foyer.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Minister:	<i>Rev Hollis Wilson</i>
Leader	<i>Bethwyn Joy</i>
Reader:	<i>John Meyer</i>
Director of Music:	<i>Angela Currie</i>
Musician:	<i>Sarah Brown (trumpet)</i>
Wesley Music Scholar:	<i>Martin Baker (trumpet)</i>
PA:	<i>David McAndrew</i>
PowerPoint:	<i>Esme Blyth</i>