



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<http://www.wodenvalley.unitingchurch.org.au/>

Service held at Pearce Community Centre

Woden Valley Uniting Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of age, race, creed, gender, cultural background or sexual orientation.

Pentecost - 23 May 2021

Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation

Presiders:	Joan Palmer and Keith Fairbrother
Reader:	Kate McLoughlin
Music	Helen Swan
Singing the Psalm	Brendan O'Loughlin
Communion:	Piers Booth



Holy Spirit Coming © He Qi, 201

We gather as people of God

Prelude *(a time for quiet preparation – please be seated)*

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge that we are worshipping on the land of the Ngunnawal people. They made their land sacred, as we have made this place sacred. We honour their elders - past and present - and continue to work for reconciliation and justice for all.

Lighting of the Worship Candle

As this flame shines in our gathering, so may God's word of hope and love shine in our lives

Guided by God's light, we centre ourselves for worship open to the creative Spirit of kindness and compassion.

Prayer of Awareness

Let us gather now,
friends of the Spirit – travellers in time -
to hear the story
of Love's evolving narrative

In this sacred space,
we release into the present,
laying aside all worries, plans and complaints,
entering into the now
of Mystery's eternal temple.

In the sacred space,
we consent to the allurements
of an unrehearsed future,
from where the living Word
woos each one of us toward
our unique expression -
that is Spirit's dream.

Call to Worship

May the exuberant Spirit of God, bursting with the brightness of flame into the coldness of our lives warm us with a passion for justice and beauty.

Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation

May the exuberant Spirit of God, sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy breathe vitality into our struggles for change.

Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation

May the exuberant Spirit of God, speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust convey messages of truth and new understanding.

Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation

May the exuberant Spirit of God, flame, wind, speech; burn, breathe, speak in us; filling our world with justice and joy.

Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation. Amen

Hymn TiS 418 'She sits like a bird' *People stand as they are able*

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters
hovering on the chaos of the world's first day:
She sighs and she sings mothering creation,
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

She wings over earth resting where she wishes,
lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies:
She nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes

She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned.
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
nor can she be captured, silenced or retrained.

For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
Gifted by the Saviour in eternal love.
She is the key opening the scriptures,
enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

Welcome

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of the Divine Presence be with You.

All: And also with you.

While seated please turn to those around you and share the peace of the Divine Presence

Song: 'She comes sailing on the wind' *Gordon Light - People stand as they are able*

(Refrain):

She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun,
She flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light,
She flies on.

1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child.

2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
The deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still She flew on.

(Refrain)

3. To-a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze She came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark.
The promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end.
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

4. Flying to the river, She waited circling high.
A-bove the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, She swept down from the sky,
and She carried him away in her embrace.

(Refrain)

5. Long -after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn return'd in flame of rising sun.
The Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled.
Bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

(Refrain). Music: CCLI licence546647

We reflect on the Word for our time

Contemporary Reading

Psalm 104 (TiS65) Response: 'Send forth your spirit O God and renew the face of the earth'

Acts 2:1-21 – 'The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost'

Contemporary word – Pentecost Sunday

Music for Reflection. 'Benedictus' by Karl Jenkins

(During this music you might like to consider what are gifts of the Spirit that you bring to our congregation – Wisdom, Understanding, Right judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe)

We respond to the Word

Affirmation - Together

**We believe in a Spirit
that holds together all that exists,
that is Mind in all things,
that sustains connectedness and relationships in all things.**

**We believe in a Spirit
that works in and through what it has to work with,
in disintegrations and new beginnings,
constantly creating new possibilities.**

**Jesus embodied this spirit so wonderfully
that he became like a mirror to us,
showing us of what we are capable,
when we allow the same spirit to work freely in our lives. Amen**

Adapted from Michael Morwood

Hymn: TiS 421 'Where the spirit is' *People stand as they are able*

Where the Spirit is there's freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is life!

1. Not by the world can our freedom be nourished, not by our things, only by Spirit.
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit, drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!
Where the Spirit is there's freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is life!

2. Heaven on earth, here we live, free to love and to share, carried by joy,
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit, daring today to taste God's future
Where the Spirit is there's freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is life!
3. Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened, imaging God, reflecting Jesus.
Practise, my children, to live by the Spirit, heaven is here, time made eternal.
Where the Spirit is there's freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is life!

Offering

Our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond may be placed in the bowl at the back of the Church. We acknowledge those who give through electronic means and who give their time and energy and practical contribution to the work of the church, and the wider community.

Prayers of the People

God of hope we bring before you those whose lives are dried up:

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

We pray for those dried up – by disappointment, by bitterness, by guilt...

We pray for those whose spirit is drained by grief, by hunger, by despair...

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

God of hope we bring before you those whose hope is lost:

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

We pray for people persecuted, violated, left for dead...

We pray for people bewildered, disillusioned, apathetic...

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

God of hope we bring before you those who feel themselves cut off:

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

We pray for those cut off by age, by disability, by thoughtlessness...

We pray for those cut off from family, from neighbours, from God...

Come from the four winds, O breath of God, and breathe upon these that they may live.

We take a time of silence for personal prayers.

God of hope, we thank you for the promise of restoration, of a new day and a new life:

Thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Holy Communion Song: Christ, Be Our Light **– Bernadette Farrell**

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to you
Make us your own, your holy people
Light for the world to see!

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the
darkness
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church, gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has power to save us
Make us your living voice!

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst
Make us your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed!

Refrain

4 . Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone!

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making your kingdom come!

Refrain

Holy Communion Liturgy

Who are we?

We are Children of God.

Who is our leader?

Jesus, the anointed, is our leader and our friend.

What does he ask of us?

To care and love our neighbours, and all life on this earth.

What happened to Jesus 2000 years ago?

**Jesus died on the cross, but his teachings are with us
and continue to inspire us to be family
to look after each other, and those around us.**

What did Jesus say before his death on the cross?

That God's Spirit would come to guide us

What else do we know about this Spirit?

**The Spirit was present at the beginning of time,
And the story of creation tells us,**

**She was present and acting from the beginning,
And she continues to be present in all of life**

Tell me more about Jesus.

**Jesus embodies this Spirit so wonderfully,
That he becomes like a mirror to us,
Showing us we are capable of love and compassion
When we freely allow the same Spirit into our lives**

How are we reminded of the teachings of Jesus?
**With glad hearts, we gather in memory of Jesus
And remembering his command,
When he broke bread, a symbol of his body broken!
And gave the bread to his followers,
As a reminder of awareness of the spirit always within us,
A reminder of our commitment to love generously and wholeheartedly.**

The bread is broken

**Jesus next took the cup of wine, told his followers to drink,
In joyful recognition of the Spirit poured out,
Into the world and our lives and in gratitude
For the gifts we each have and are called to share.**

The wine is poured

The distribution

*Use this time of distribution and quietness to reflect:
"The Spirit of Life and Love lives in me."*

So let us pray together.
**May the Spirit within us
Be a source of healing and consolation.
May the Spirit within us
Strengthen us when we feel weak,
Warm us when we are cold-hearted,
Bend us when we are stubborn,
Move us when we are uncaring, guide us in the way of love.
May the Spirit within us shine in all we do.**

(The material and ideas were drawn from "Praying a New Story" by Michael Morwood, and from a Holy Communion liturgy used by Chris Lockley.)

An Abba Prayer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. — Parker J. Palmer

We go out into the World

Hymn TiS 753 'You are Holy' *People stand as they are able*

(We sing the hymn twice)
You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near;
blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,
let the cosmos praise you Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
our Lord! *(Please remain standing for the Blessing)*

Words of Blessing

May the divine Wisdom hold us in the palm of her hand
and breath into us gently,
her own life giving Spirit;
may she defend us, cherish us and challenge us,
and draw us to herself in freedom:

may Jesus go with us,
and may we be with him
always and everywhere:

**and may we too embody in this world
the redeeming love of God. Amen**

Postlude (a time for quiet reflection – please remain seated)

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices, Comments on the service, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship - Morning tea is now served. You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.

Notes

Blessing by Jennifer Wild in *Human Rites: worship resources for an age of change*, compiled by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild

Prayers of the People – The Billabong- <http://thebillabong.info/lectionary/ideas-for-pentecost/a-litany-of-hope/>

Abba prayer - <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/wartime.php?id=15807>