

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
8 October 2023
Sunday 27A

Preparing for Worship Today

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- If you get here early enough, **please read through the text of today's readings prior to our hearing them.** The text can be found at the end of the order of service. We will have brief conversation/response time to the readings after hearing them, and before the sermon – all to make our hearing a little sharper!
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude J Pachelbel, *Toccata [in E-moll]*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

The heavens declare the glory of God,
showing forth his handiwork.

Their sound goes out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.

We gather to worship God;
we lift up our hearts to the Lord.

(Psalm 19.1,4,14)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 111 Praise to the Lord

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Philippians 3:4b-14 *Pressing towards the goal*

Matthew 21:33-46 *Parable of the tenants in the vineyard*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

*The sermon text will normally be available
after worship and online*

A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching

Prayer of Confession

LITBIT The gospel will not ever tell us we are innocent, but it will tell us we are loved; and in asking us to receive and consent to that love, it asks us to identify with, and make our own, love's comprehensive vision of all we are and have been. That is the transformation of desire as it affects our attitude to our own selves – to accept what we have been, so that all of it can be transformed. It is a more authentic desire because more comprehensive, turning away from the illusory attraction of an innocence that cannot be recovered unless the world is unmade. Grace will remake but not undo.

ROWAN WILLIAMS

Psalm 80.7-15, 19 *Let your face shine, that we may be saved*

The REFRAIN is sung before and after the whole psalm.

The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE

REFRAIN

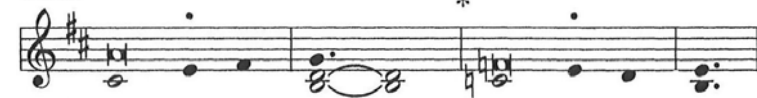
Hal H. Hopson



God is our ref - uge; God is our strength.

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TONE



Refrain

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;

¹¹ it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.

¹² Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;

¹⁵ **have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.**

...¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Refrain

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology

Glo - ry to God... in the high - est and
peace to Gods' peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly king, al-migh-ty God, and...
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for... your glo-ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
ho - ly one, You a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,
Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 448 Blest are the pure in heart

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san na - in the high - est!

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory,
 hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest!
 Hosanna in the highest!***

(The prayer continues...)

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 for ever. Amen.***

(The people sit)

The Breaking of the Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God...

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on
 us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.***

...Let us receive what we are,
 let us become what we receive
The body of Christ

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

GATHERING: *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Offering

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 548 (tune 332) Eternal light, shine in my heart

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude V Lubeck, *Praeludium und Fuge [in D-moll]*

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

TODAY'S READINGS

Read the following texts-for-the-day before the service and consider:

If you were reading this scripture for the congregation this morning, where would you place the emphasis in order to bring out the central point?

Philippians 2.1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 21.23-27

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" ²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Helen Pearl Mackenzie, medical missionary and educator



HELEN Mackenzie, who was instrumental in bringing life and health to many mothers and babies, and training women doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology in postwar Korea, died at an aged-care facility in Kew in 2009. She was 95.

Born in Pusan, Korea, the eldest daughter of five children of the Reverend James and Mary Mackenzie, missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, she was educated at the American Missionary School in Pyongyang, now the capital of North Korea. She completed her schooling with one year at Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne.

Helen and her younger sister, Cath, felt called to return to Korea as missionaries and from their childhood experience were convinced that they needed medical training.

Helen studied medicine at Melbourne University, and with a friend during holidays she rode a bicycle once to Adelaide and twice to Sydney; they slept in barns and church halls along the way. In her pack was a dress and hat for when she attended church.

Helen graduated as one of the few women do so in medicine in 1938. World War II prevented her from going to Korea, but she gained invaluable experience at Queen Victoria Hospital in Melbourne, where she became acting medical superintendent.

In 1944, Helen and Cath accepted a call from the Church of Christ in China and the following year they established a small hospital in an old Taoist temple in Jianshui, Yunnan. It took some time but the facility was accepted by the people; it was the only "Western medicine" within a three-day journey. Much to their sorrow, they had to leave in 1950 after the communist takeover, not knowing what would happen to the hospital. (In 2007, a colleague travelled to Jianshui and found that the hospital had continued to grow and was now a major part of the provincial hospital.)

On return to Australia, the Mackenzie sisters again hoped to go to Korea, but this time were frustrated by the Korean War. However, in 1951, they were appointed by the Australian Presbyterian Mission Board and in February 1952 eventually landed in Pusan, at that time a city of refugees with overwhelming medical needs. The Korean Ministry of Health and United Nations agencies advised them that the main need was for maternal and child health, something for which the sisters were well suited.

[contd...]

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Helen Pearl Mackenzie, medical missionary and educator *[contd...]*

On September 17, 1952, Il Sin Women's Hospital was opened in a kindergarten hall with 20 beds and a staff of five. The name "Il Sin" was chosen because it was the name of the pre-war Australian mission school, and very appropriate for an obstetric hospital as it means "Daily New". There were two main objectives. One was to accept anyone who came, irrespective of that person's ability to pay and regardless of their religion, or lack of any faith. This differed from the local system in which a person had to pay first, and the local church, which felt that a Christian hospital was primarily for Christians.

The Mackenzies, however, were convinced that through the healing ministry, God's love should be shown to all. The other main objective was to train women doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology, and nurses in midwifery.

At that time it was difficult for women doctors to get good post-graduate training, and with changes in nursing education, nurses were being given midwifery certificates along with their basic certificate, sometimes not even having seen a normal delivery. Through hard work and determination, using limited and basic resources, the Mackenzies, along with the Korean staff, built the hospital into one that was highly regarded throughout Korea for training and for expert care.

Helen was a brilliant surgeon and a great educator; although often tired given the constant load, she gave of herself for hours in the operating theatre or delivery room.

When Helen retired in February 1976, 12 doctors had been trained in obstetrics and gynaecology - and since then another 120 have graduated. Other doctors have been trained in pediatrics, family medicine and anaesthetics, all women except for three or four. By 2009, 2599 nurses had graduated as midwives, and 284,655 women delivered of their babies.

After she retired, Helen studied theology at the Melbourne College of Divinity, and wrote a biography of her father titled Mackenzie - Man of Mission (Hyland House, 1995). She also continued her love of music as someone who was able to play many instruments: tuba in her school band, then cello, clarinet, piano, and in her 70s she learnt to play the pipe organ.

Helen received many awards from the Korean Government and in 1962, along with Cath, she was awarded the MBE. In October 2002, she was awarded an honorary fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in recognition not only of her expertise in this field, although she had not received specialist training, but also of all that she did to train women in that specialty.

By Lucy Lane and Barbara Martin

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

El Salvador

Latin America

El Salvador is part of the Central American region, where indigenous societies existed long before the area was conquered by Spain in the 16th century. Colonization disrupted these communities and killed hundreds of thousands of people. When the population was almost exterminated, the Spanish brought in slaves from Africa. Today El Salvador has a very mixed population. It achieved independence from Spain in 1821. Throughout its history, El Salvador was ruled by a small oligarchy that oppressed the poor. The growing disparity, and the call for land reform, led to the guerilla war of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), from 1980-1992. The population suffered massive killings and human rights abuses, mostly at the hands of government and paramilitary forces, supported by the USA. The UN brokered an end to the armed conflict, and since then the FMNL acts as a political party. Within the Catholic Church in El Salvador and the Protestant churches, Christians have stood up for justice and solidarity with the poor. Many have paid with their lives, among them Archbishop Romero who was shot dead while celebrating the mass, in 1980. The people of El Salvador continue to struggle with poverty. The country's economy is agricultural, with some processing industry. Main export products are coffee, cotton and sugar. About 25 percent of the population belong to non-Catholic churches, of which at least 50 percent are Pentecostal. There is an Evangelical Fellowship, affiliated with the WEA.

Nicaragua

Latin America

Indigenous people were living in the region when it was colonized by Spain in the 16th century. Britain established its influence on the Caribbean coast in the 17th century. Nicaragua became sovereign in 1854 and added the east coast, where the Miskitos live, to its territory in 1894. Dictatorships succeeded each other during the first half of the 20th century, with frequent US intervention, and armed resistance under the guerilla leader Sandino. From 1936 to 1979 the Somoza dictatorship held the country in its grip. In 1972, Managua was totally destroyed by an earthquake that took 50,000 lives. The mismanagement of international relief funds accelerated the armed opposition, resulting in the Sandinista revolution of 1979. The new regime introduced widespread social and economic reform, aiming at justice and popular participation, and had the support of the poor. As of 1981, however, the USA armed a counter-revolution and strangled Nicaragua economically, which brought the Sandinistas down in 1990. Nicaragua's economy, based on subsistence farming and the export of bananas, coffee and other cash crops, virtually collapsed during the war. The Catholic Church is the majority church. The largest non-Catholic church is the Assemblies of God (Pentecostal). Pentecostals churches represent close to 10 percent of all Christians. The National Evangelical Council of Nicaragua is affiliated with the WEA. Sectors of the Christian churches and Christian groups have been supportive of the struggle for social justice, in cooperation with the ecumenical movement and the WCC.

Panama

Latin America

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest religious body, but indigenous religions still exist in Panama, where indigenous people make up 8 percent of the population. Panama also has a significant numbers of adherents of several world religions, including Muslims, Baha'is, and Buddhists. There are no WCC member churches based in the country.

People to commemorate this week

Helen Pearl Mackenzie, medical missionary and educator

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

LECTIONARY READINGS 15 OCTOBER 2023

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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