

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Sunday 23B | September 8, 2024

How long,

O LORD?

Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude V Lubeck, *Praeludium & Fuge*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 61 v.1)

If you are able, please stand when the cantor sings the first line, and sing as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space:

***Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness,
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,
chanting his praises, come before his presence:
Praise the Almighty!***

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Call to Worship

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Come, put your trust in God's mercy;
**we lift up our hearts
and wait for the LORD's saving help.** (*Psalms 13.5*)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 361 The day of resurrection

With the Children

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.

Isaiah 35:4-7a *Be strong, do not fear*

Psalms 13 *How long, O LORD?*

Mark 7:31-37 *A deaf man healed*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

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

Prayer of Confession

(Each line is sung first by the minister/cantor and then repeated by the congregation)

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. —
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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

(Hymn 768[(ii)], through once only)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below,
praise God above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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The Peace

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

Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.**

**We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things
which he will bring.**

**We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.**

***We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity
which is both Christ's gift and his will.***

***We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.***

Prayers of the People

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

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 145 The king of love my shepherd is

(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 hosts.
Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na
in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

(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



Lamb_ of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have_

mer - cy on us, have__ mer - cy on us.

Lamb_ of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have_

mer - cy on us, have__ mer - cy on us.

Lamb_ of God, you take a - way the sins 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

(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)

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 28 God is our strength and refuge

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude J Pachelbel, *Ein' feste Burg*

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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/>

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, faithful servant



Born Agnes Bojaxhiu in 1910 of Albanian parents at Skopje, Yugoslavia, she was one of three children. She attended the government school but also had good priests who helped the boys and girls to follow their vocation according to the call of God. At twelve she first knew she had a vocation to the poor. While at school she became a member of the Sodality. At that time the Yugoslav Jesuits had accepted to work in the Calcutta Archdiocese.

One of them sent enthusiastic letters about the mission field. These letters were read regularly to the Sodalists. Young Agnes was one who wanted to become a missionary and volunteered. At the end of 1928 she was sent to Loreto Abbey in Dublin, Ireland and from there to India to begin her noviciate.

For twenty years she taught geography at St Mary's High School in Calcutta. For a few years she was principal of the school. She was also in charge of the Daughters of St Anne, the Indian religious order attached to the Loreto Sisters. She loved teaching but then came a change of direction. In 1946 she was going to Darjeeling to make her retreat. In the train she heard the call to give up all and follow Christ into the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor. First she had to get permission from the ecclesiastical authorities to live outside the cloister and work in the Calcutta slums. In 1948 Mother Teresa laid aside the Loreto habit and clothed herself in a white sari with blue border and cross on the shoulder. She went to Patna for three months to the American Medical Missionary Sisters for intensive nursing training. By Christmas she was back in Calcutta living with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

She began by going into homes to see the children and the sick. Then she started a little school. She also gave practical lessons on hygiene. Gradually the work grew and other women came to help and provide support. The first ten girls who came to help were all students Mother Teresa had taught.

[contd...]

PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, faithful servant [...contd]

One by one they surrendered themselves to serve the poorest of the poor. In 1950 the new congregation of The Missionaries of Charity was instituted in Calcutta. Other helpers came. Doctors and nurses came on a voluntary basis to help. In 1952 the Home for the Dying was opened. This began when she literally picked up a dying woman from the street. The hospital only took her in because Mother Teresa refused to move until they accepted her. From there she went to the municipality and asked for a place to bring dying people.

She was given the use of an empty Hindu temple. She wanted to make the destitute feel they are wanted and so are shown human and divine love. A Children's Home was established in 1955. Work among lepers began in 1957 when five lepers came because they had lost their jobs.

In 1963 the Archbishop of Calcutta blessed the beginnings of a new branch, The Missionary Brothers of Charity. In 1965 The Missionaries of Charity became a society of pontifical right, which showed the appreciation of the Pope for the work. The work spread to other parts of India, then to other poor areas in the cities of the world. They seek to express the love of God holding that Christ is found in the sacrament and in the slums; in the "little" people they seek to help. In later years she travelled, such as to assist and minister to the hungry in Ethiopia, the radiation victims at Chernobyl and earthquake victims in Armenia.

Mother Teresa is remembered as a person who served the poorest of the poor and inspired others to do so also. She saw the poor ones in the world's slums as like the suffering Christ. In them God's Son lives and dies and through them she saw God's face. For her prayer and service were bound together.

Her voice and example are heard today in her emphasis on the needs of the poorest of the poor, in seeing Christ in them, and in holding that prayer and compassionate action are both required.

Contributed by Chris Walker

NOTICES

MARK THE WORD

Vicki and Rosemary are seeking contributions for the 2024 Spring edition of Mark the Word. We are again not proposing a theme for this edition and are open to any topic.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could send these via email to us (vicki.radcliffe@gmail.com or rosemarywearing@gmail.com) by TODAY, 8th September, 2024.

NORTHEY LECTURER: DR MIGUEL DE LA TORRE:

Rejecting Eurocentric Christianity: Embracing Hopelessness

Many living on the margins of colonial/missionary ventures have uncritically accepted eurocentric Christianity, a faith ideology which legitimizes and normalizes the current global economic hegemony. For any theological perspective to be liberative, it must first reject the very faith tradition which masks and justifies this worldview which fails to critically analyze the link between bowing one's knees to the eurocentric Jesus and the eurocentric power arrangements. By rejecting a theology of hope, and instead embracing a theology of hopelessness, a liberative ethical methodology of resistance can be developed.

Date: 12 September 2024, 6:30 pm at the CTM, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, 3052, and online

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



A Conversation with Rev Dr Gary Worete Deverell about "Doing Theology in an Aboriginal Frame". Please join us on Monday 9th September, at CTM Café, 29 College Cres, Parkville & online via [Sonderverse](#). Doors open @ 7:30pm for 8pm start. Drinks and Nibbles provided.

On 13th October, on the eve of the first anniversary of the Voice Referendum, the Centre is hosting a panel conversation: *Reconciliation: Where are We Now?* More details to come.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Online discussion groups	Wed and Fri till the end of Sept
Northey Lecture at the CTM	Sept 10, 6.30pm
MtE/CTM Prayers Service for Israel/Palestine	Sept 17, 10.30, CTM Chapel NEW
Hymn-learning session after worship	Sept 22
Church Council	Oct 1 (online)
WESLEY CENTRE: <i>Reconciliation – Where are We Now?</i>	Oct 13, details TBA NEW
Quarterly Essay Conversation	Oct 18, 11.30am
Combined worship at Church of All Nations	Oct 20, 10.00am
MtE Luncheon after worship	Nov 24 NEW

People to commemorate this week

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Ghana, Nigeria

Lectionary Readings | 15 September 2024

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

minister@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

www.hothammission.org.au

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