

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Sunday 25^B | September 22, 2024

*...they did not
understand
what he was
saying...*

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.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude F d'Agincour: *Basse de cromorne, trio, dialogue*

The Gathering of the People of God

Sung Processional (TIS 101 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:

***Come, you people, come adore him,
God in Holy Trinity,
God the Father, Son and Spirit,
ever blessed unity***

Call to Worship ...

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Come, praise the LORD

with the words of your mouth

and the meditations of your heart

The LORD is our strength and our redeemer. *ex. Psalm 19*

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 396 Come, Holy Spirit

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.

James 3:13-4.3, 7-8a *Of wisdom and conflict*

Mark 9:30-37 *Being first and last*

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

***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.

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 509 Come now, everlasting Spirit

(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

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

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 225 My heart and voice I raise

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude L Marchand, *Dialogue*

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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/>

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Bolivia

Advanced societies which had existed for centuries around Lake Titicaca disappeared in the 13th century. The area was part of the Inca empire when it was conquered by Spain in the early 16th century. The Spanish exploited the silver mines, using the Indians as the work force. Bolivia achieved independence in 1825. It lost its sea-coast to Chile in the Pacific War (1879-83). Even though the majority of Bolivia's population are indigenous people, the political and economic power has been in the hands of the non-indigenous minority since colonial times. From 1952-64, a progressive regime carried out land reform, nationalized the mines, and extended suffrage to the indigenous people and to women. In recent years, the Bolivian people have forcefully claimed their democratic rights, and demanded that the rich natural resources of the country (e.g. gas, oil) be used for their benefit. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. The majority of the population depend on subsistence farming and the production of coca. The Catholic Church was established at the time of Spanish colonization, and is the majority church. Protestant missions arrived in the late 19th and in the 20th century. The Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Christian Evangelical Union are the largest Evangelical churches. Pentecostals and Holiness churches form over 30 percent of the Evangelical Christians. There is a National Evangelical Association, affiliated with the WEA. The joint programme of CLAI and WCC for indigenous peoples is based in Bolivia's capital La Paz.

Brazil

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world and the largest in South America. It was a Portuguese colony from 1549 to 1822. The Portuguese brought 3.5 million slaves from Africa to Brazil who, together with the indigenous people were forced to work in the plantations. The present federal republic of Brazil was established in 1889. Until 1986, the military were the de facto rulers. From 1900 to 1957, the indigenous population of Brazil dropped from more than a million to less than 200,000. In 2005, they were 750,000, and the black population 75 million. The last military dictatorship, from 1964-1986, was marked by disappearances, torture, political assassinations and attacks on the organizations of the poor. Since the restoration of democracy, Brazil has become one of the leaders of the developing countries, economically and politically. It is the country of the World Social Forum and is part of the G20. Differences between rich and poor remain stark. The Catholic Church is the majority church and has a strong charismatic movement. Evangelical and Pentecostal churches have expanded dramatically in the past decades and are still growing. Pentecostals alone number close to 15 percent of the total number of Christians, and about 25 percent of the Christians are non-Catholics. Brazil has an Evangelical Association which is affiliated with the WEA. The national ecumenical body, CONIC, includes the Catholic Church and the Protestant WCC member churches. The ecumenical movement in Brazil has a long-standing record of solidarity with the poor, e.g. supporting the movement of landless peasants.

Chile

When Spain conquered the territory in the 16th century the area was inhabited by the Mapuche, who still live in the central-southern part of the country. Chile became independent in 1810. In the War of the Pacific (1879-84), it defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern lands. The country had a relatively stable political history until the military coup of General Pinochet against President Allende in 1973, which was followed by a long period of dictatorship, oppression, torture and disappearances. Sectors of the Christian churches defended human rights and assisted the victims in those dark years, with the active support of the WCC and the ecumenical movement. However, the leadership of important Pentecostal and Protestant churches were, especially during the early years, on the side of the military. Chile has reverted to democracy. It has developed a strong liberal economy which, however, has accentuated inequalities in society. Chile is one of the countries where the Pentecostal movement emerged in the early 20th century (1909), and the first Pentecostal member churches of the WCC were Chilean (1961). Pentecostal missions in Chile from outside the country came much later. The vast majority of non-Catholic Christians are Pentecostals. It is estimated that Pentecostals make up 15-17 percent of Chilean Christians. A new religious law was promulgated in Chile in 1999, guaranteeing equal status to all churches and religious groups. Various inter-church organizations exist. The Christian Fellowship of Churches is an ecumenical body, the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches is affiliated with the WEA.

Peru

Peru was home to various indigenous cultures and later to the Inca empire. The Spanish conquered it in 1532 and exploited the gold and silver mines. Lima became the political and economic centre of the region for several centuries. The Catholic Church established an archbishopric in Lima as early as 1546. Peru declared its independence in 1821. Together with Bolivia, it was involved in the War of the Pacific with Chile, from 1879-83. In the second half of the 20th century Peru experienced successively a progressive military regime, bloody attacks by the "Shining Path" guerilla, its repression with massive killings and human rights abuses, and democratically elected but corrupt governments, which were unable to respond to the expectations of the people. The country is rich in mineral resources and produces oil, but its leaders have not succeeded in building a sound and equitable economy. The Andinos, who make up almost half of the population, are the poorest, living in the urban slums and in the mountain areas. Protestant missions began in Peru in the 19th century. Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Holiness churches have grown rapidly in the 20th century, especially among the Andinos. Many of these are members of the National Evangelical Council of Peru. Some of largest churches are the Seventh-day Adventists, the Evangelical Church of Peru, and the Assemblies of God (Pentecostal). Together, the Evangelicals and Pentecostals/Charismatics represented about 12 percent of the Christians in Peru in 2005. The WCC cooperates with several ecumenical groups.

NOTICES

The Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania is invited to engage more deeply into this journey of Walking Together. The key aspects of this journey are reflected in deep listening, creating and broadening of relationships between First and Second Peoples, taking responsibility for justice and truth telling, and of ensuring that the voices of First Peoples are heard and respected within the leadership of the Church and its Councils. This journey of walking together as First and Second Peoples is our Synod's expression of the Covenant between the UAICC and the UCA. **The Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (PYY) is looking for nominations to Represent PYY on the Walking Together in Covenant Committee.** Speak to Craig if this is something which might interest you.

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



Hello Wesley Centre Community! The Centre will be hosting an event on Sunday the 13th of October from 3:30pm - 5:30pm called '*Reconciliation, Where are we now? Marking a year since the referendum,*' for which we are seeking a few volunteers to help us for on the day. **Tasks Include:** Assisting with Pack Up/Pack Down, Assisting people getting in and out of the building, Setting up catering, Spot cleaning surfaces and rubbish throughout the event. **Perks Include:** Snack and drinks, Listening and being involved in what is looking to be a moving, informative and insightful panel discussion. We will be needing assistance from the hours of **2:45pm - 6pm located at Wesley Place.** We would be incredibly appreciative of any time you may be able to donate towards this event and If you're interested and would like further details, **please email our Centre Coordinator Alice via coordinator@thewesleycentre.org**

The Beauty of Holiness

An Exhibition of Icons and Religious Art
of the Uniting Church Icon Schools

October 2024
The Centre for Theology and Ministry
College Crescent, Parkville



Exhibition launch - 2.00pm Sunday 29 September

Some exhibits are available for sale.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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
Online discussion groups	Returning in October
Quarterly Essay Conversation	Oct 18, 11:30am
Hotham Mission Board	Oct 18, 2pm
Combined worship at Church of All Nations	Oct 20, 10:00am
MtE Luncheon after worship	Nov 24

People to commemorate this week

Lazarus Lamilami, faithful servant

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Lectionary Readings | 29 September 2024

Esther 7:1-6 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

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

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

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www.hothammission.org.au

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