

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Epiphany 4C | February 2 2025

You who have
made me see
many troubles
and calamities
will revive me
again...

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 L Couperin, *Prelude [OL46]*

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!

Come, worship the Lord;
the Lord our God is our hope.

The Lord is your strong rock,
***a castle and a stronghold
to keep us safe.***

(Psalm 71)

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 445 Jesus, where'er your people meet

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.

Jeremiah 1:4-10 *Before you were born I consecrated you*

Psalm 71 (selected verses) *Be to me a rock of refuge [PCS p.344 no.6]*

The REFRAIN is sung before and after the whole psalm.

The psalm text will then be sung responsorially to the TONE below: the first line is sung by the 'half' of the congregation closest to entry doors, the second bold-italic line by the other side

REFRAIN Hal H. Hopson

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

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TONE

¹In you, O LORD, | I take refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.

²In your righteousness deliver | me and rescue me;
incline your ear to | me and save me.

³Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong | fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock | and my fortress.

⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the | hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the | unjust and cruel.

⁵For you, O Lord, | are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, | from my youth.

⁶Upon you I have | leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is | always of you.

⁷I have been like a por- | -tent to many,
but you are | my strong refuge.

⁸My mouth is filled | with your praise,
and with your glory | all day long.

⁹Do not cast me off in the time | of old age;
do not forsake me when my | strength is spent.

²⁰You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will
revive | me again;
from the depths of the earth you will bring me | up again.

²¹You will increase | my honour,
and comfort me | once again.

²³My lips will shout for joy when I sing prai- | -ses to you;
my soul also, which | you have rescued.

REFRAIN

Luke 4:21-30 *No prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town*

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Affirmation of faith: God is with us

***We are not alone,
we live in God's world.***

***We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,***

***to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.***

*The United Church of Canada,
General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

Prayers of the People

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

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 537 Let us talents and tongues employ

(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.

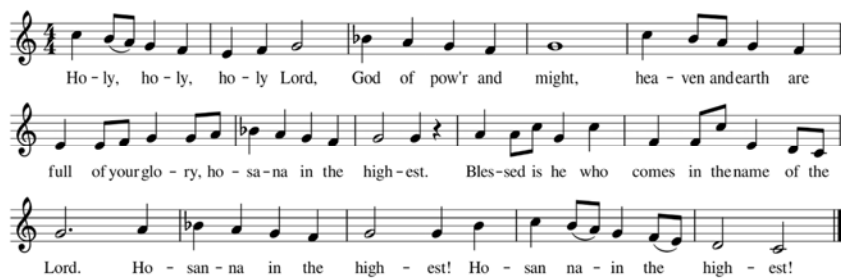
Lift up your hearts.

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...)



(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



...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 531 Sent forth by God's blessing

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude JG Walther, *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/>

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

Algeria

Algeria is the second largest country in Africa after Sudan. It became independent in 1962 after more than 130 years of French colonial rule and a bitter liberation struggle. In cooperation with the small churches in the country and the Algerian government, the WCC, CIMADE and other ecumenical agencies founded in 1962 the Christian Committee for Service in Algeria. After a period of emergency relief, the CCSA developed a vast reforestation programme. By 1965, more than 22 million fruit and timber trees had been planted and another 50 million seedlings were handed over to the government. Ever since independence, the National Liberation Front (FLN) has dominated politics in Algeria, although a surprising first round electoral success of the fundamentalist Islamic National Front (FIS) in 1991 spurred the army to intervene, to prevent the Islamists from forming a government. Since then Algeria has struggled through a continuous low level civil conflict between Islamic activists and the secular state apparatus. This terrorism has had a profound impact among the Algerian population, of whom nearly 100,000 were killed before the FIS's armed wing was disbanded in January 2000. In 2005 the population voted in favour of a referendum on national reconciliation. While progress towards peace is slowly being made, better living conditions for the people and democratization continue to be Algeria's greatest challenge.

NOTICES

AKBAR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Akbar, the Iranian asylum seeker supported by this congregation since his release from (illegal) detention in 2013, continues to live in Australia with no visa, no work rights and no legal status. Thanks to his generously/privately funded North Melbourne gardening 'work', and the regular financial contributions of some of our congregation members he enjoys some financial independence. He has recently overcome an accommodation 'crisis' with practical assistance from these sources. Akbar is included in our prayers of intercession on the first Sunday in each month.

Rosalie Hudson



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 11.00 -- in the library at the Centre for Theology and Ministry. (Some parking *may* be available onsite, but plan to park in the surrounding streets, just in case...). **Catch a coffee at the CTM cafe before the meeting** (although coffee not allowed in the library), **and then stay for lunch afterwards!**

More info:

www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

THE WESLEY CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

MtE provides significant financial support for the Centre



The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy is hosting a series of 'Conversations That Matter'—lunchtime conversations with experts on the big questions facing society, from housing to politics to bioethics and AI. 'Conversations That Matter' are held in Wesley Church, 130 Lonsdale St, on the third Thursday of the month from 12.30 – 1.20pm. BYO lunch or coffee.

FEBRUARY 20 CONVERSATION: How do we solve the housing crisis? At the start of an election year in which housing is front of mind for many voters, join us for a free lunchtime conversation about the ethics, economics, and politics of housing, with Brendan Coates from the Grattan Institute, and Kristie Looney from Uniting Vic.Tas.

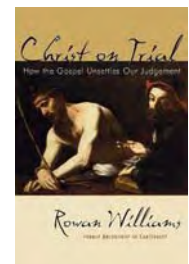
Event Link - <https://www.facebook.com/share/18VcmV1RNe/>

LENTEN STUDIES FOR 2025

Our Lenten Studies for 2025 will use Rowan Williams' *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

In this book the former Archbishop of Canterbury looks in depth at the trial of Jesus, using it to teach readers how to face the challenges of life in today's trying times. Bringing the biblical accounts of Jesus' trial vividly to life, Rowan Williams highlights what can be learned about Jesus from each of the four Gospel portraits. These discussions are followed by a reflection on Christian



martyrdom and a meditation on tyranny, freedom, and truth. Williams draws not only from the Bible but also from fiction, drama, and current events, pointing out ways in which society today continues to put Christ on trial. Even more, he argues that all Christians stand with Jesus before a watching world. Though we may not be directly confronted with death, we are nevertheless called daily to respond to the falsehood of such lures as power, influence, and prestige.

Two online (Zoom) groups are presently planned from Wednesday March 5 (7.45pm) and Friday March 7 (1.30PM), for six weeks (one week per chapter).

Bring Your Lunch and a Friend

WESLEY CONVERSATIONS

that matter

theology - ethics - public policy

THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12:30 PM - 1:20PM,
WESLEY CHURCH,
LONSDALE ST, MELBOURNE.

FEBURARY 20TH
MARCH 20TH
APRIL 17TH
MAY 15TH

Free Event!

www.thewesleycentre.org @thewesleycentre contact@thewesleycentre.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Church Council	Tue Feb 4, 7:30pm (online)
Quarterly Conversation	Fri Feb 7 11:00am
Wesley Centre: Conversations that Matter	Thu Feb 20, 12:30pm@Wesley UC
Hymn-learning session after worship	Sun Mar 2 NEW
Lenten Studies (see website for details)	Weekly from March Wed 5/Fri 7

People to commemorate this week

Simeon & Anna, witnesses to Jesus

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

Lectionary Readings | 09 February 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

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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