



Blacktown
Uniting
Church

Sunday worship with a difference

10 May 2020



Preparing for worship

Find a comfortable space, e.g. around a table or living room, grab your Bible and offering and prepare for worship. You can either work through the service on this sheet or follow along with our online video at

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

Gathering with God

Creator God,

We come to you today from the many places we are, acknowledging we are not gathered in our church building together. However, we are assured that your Spirit is present wherever we are and unites us as fellow believers. Be present with us Lord wherever we pause or our collective worship today. Amen

As you light a candle say

As a symbol of Christ's Light among us, we will now light the Christ Candle. If you have a candle at home you would like to light as a symbol and remind you of Christ's light in the place you worship, I invite you to do so now.

Song – The Colour Song – Emu Music (CCLI Song # 5132951)

Imagine if the world was black and white
And colours could not be seen
Oranges would not be orange bright
And grass would not be green
Everything in shades of grey
I'm glad that it is not that way
Thank You God for colouring in the world



Words and music: Megan Lindsay, Michael Morrow, Simone Richardson © 2007
CCLI Song # 5132951

Prayer of Praise and Confession

As we bring our praise to God, feel welcome to add things you are particularly thankful for today

Dear Lord,

I thank you for the world that you have created, for us.

We are thankful for beautiful sunrises and sunsets that remind us of your creativity every day.

Thank you for the colour you fill our world with.

Red strawberries and raspberries that taste delicious, as well as the blood that pumps through our veins.

Orange soil stretching across the land, the produce growing in it, and the animals tinged with its shades.

Yellow stars that sparkle in the mysterious night sky.

Green grass, trees, and plants that fill our world with fresh air and beauty.
Blue that stretches from the deep oceans to the skies above, and all that you have placed in them.
Purple eggplant and passion fruit, coral, flowers, gemstones, all part of your goodness to us.
We are sorry that often we don't appreciate so much of what you have given us.

We thank you for Mothers and all the colour they bring to our lives.
Thank you for Fathers and the variation of colour they bring to our lives.
We thank you for people, both men and women who show love and care to others.
Sorry for the times we do or say things that hurt our relationships with other people and You.

We thank you for the food and water that you have given to us.
You have especially blessed us in Australia with an abundant variety of food and clean water.
Sorry for the times we greedy or wasteful. Please help us to be generous, sharing with others who have less.

Lord, thank you for Health care workers and medicine that help keep us healthy.
We especially thank you for all the people who are working hard to protect and care for people during the COVID -19 pandemic.
Thank you for the people looking for ways to prevent the destruction this virus has caused.
Sorry for the times we worry or get anxious about things. We know the Bible reminds us we should not be anxious, but pray to you and trust you. We often forget that. Please help us to remember.
Forgive us when we think we have the power to fix things without your help.
Thank you for answered prayer, even when those answers are different to what we hope.
Sorry for the times we think we know better than you and tell you what we think you should do instead.

Thank you that each of us are unique and special to you. Lord listen to us tell you what we are sorry for....

SILENCE

Thank you that you hear our prayers. Please forgive us for the times we don't act the way you want us to.
Amen

Song – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures



My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Songwriters: Stan Roto Walker / Traditional / David Pritchard-blunt / Chris Tomlin / Louie Giglio
Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC CCLI Song # 4768151

Reflection Part 1— *Laying a Strong Foundation*

Hearing God's Word

Reading from: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:1-10

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for our world on this Mother's Day.

God of abiding love and hope.....In your wisdom and plan of creation you gave each of us a mother. You knitted us together in her womb and then at our birth our Mum provided warm and loving arms of welcome. Your intention was to ensure that we would have someone to guide and nurture us throughout our growing years and beyond.

Father, you know that mothers are human and for varied reasons, not perfect. For many people Mother's Day holds a mixture of emotions.

There are those who feel hurt, betrayed and let down in their relationship with their Mum.....grant them the courage to forgive and to work to repair their damaged bonds and, with your help, find peace.

There are those never given the gift of being a Mum who feel hurt, sad and disappointed.....grant them bounteous opportunities to still "mother" and care for those who greatly need their love and guidance.

There are those grieving the loss of their beloved mother or perhaps the loss of a treasured child who feel heart-broken and overwhelmed.....comfort their hearts with your abundant love and peace.

There are those treasured and sometimes forgotten elderly Mums who live in care and because of Covid 19 are feeling lonely and anxious.....bring to them reassurance that they are loved and are always special to You

There are those Mums anticipating the birth of their first child who are filled with hopes and dreams AND new Mums who are struggling with sleepless nights and anxious to protect their little one from harm or infection especially in this pandemic.....bless and strengthen them.

There are those who rejoice in your gifts of having a Mum and being a Mum..... bless and strengthen them each day as you bless and strengthen all mothers throughout the world.

There are those mothers living in war-torn lands and those suffering poverty, hardship and homelessness.....bring them hope, help and endurance.

In the midst of Covid 19 there is so much grief, fear, sickness and isolation to contend with as well.... grant us all wisdom and generosity of spirit to share what we have with those who have so little.

Loving Heavenly Father.....inspire the hearts and minds of us allinvigorate our spirits as we honour mothers and thank you for the abundance of goodness you bring into this world by your gift of mothers and of being a Mum.

Bless families of all sorts and homes all over the world this day. Unite your people to live and love as Jesus did so that we might help return our virus-filled world to the magnificent creation you intended us to enjoy.

These things we ask in Jesus' name

Amen

Please join us in your heart language as we say The Lord's Prayer.

Reflection Part 2 – *Nourishment and a Strong Foundation*

A copy of the message is attached separately.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

Offering

You are invited to hold your offerings in your cupped hands as we dedicate it and ourselves, giving thanks for all God's blessings.

Let's pray:

Gracious and generous God, Thank-you for your love poured out upon us in such a variety of ways. We pray Lord, that we might be freed from the lure and entrapment of idols, that we might devote ourselves and the resources you have given us to your service. As we bring our offering to you today, we remember that you see the heart of the giver and we seek to bring our gifts with pure and generous hearts. Lord God, accept the gifts we bring to contribute to the work of your church, the financial offerings alongside the offerings of time, volunteer work, talents, prayers, words, contributions for those in need and other offerings; Lord we ask you to bless and multiply these offerings as we seek to share your love with those in our world.
Amen.

Song – For I'm Building a People of Power (CCLI Song # 33801)

For I'm Building A People Of Power
And I'm Making A People Of Praise
That Will Move Through This Land By My Spirit
And Will Glorify My Precious Name

Build Your Church, Lord
Make Us Strong, Lord
Join Our Hearts, Lord, Through Your Son
Make Us One, Lord
In Your Body
In The Kingdom Of Your Son.

Dave Richards, Thankyou Music CCLI Song # 33801

Words of Mission and Blessing

Sustained by the joy of God's presence, we place our hope in Christ; who blesses us with the gift of the Holy Spirit to convict us and empower us to serve one another. May God's mercy fill you with hope, and The Spirit sustain you as you encourage and build others in the days and weeks ahead.

Amen.

Offerings can be transferred electronically to
Blacktown Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account No.: 100023472
or deposited directly to this account at any Westpac branch.
If you would like someone to collect your offering in person, please contact the office on 9831 4121 and leave your name, and contact number, and someone will call you to arrange collection.