



Blacktown
Uniting
Church

Sunday worship with a difference

17 May 2020



Gathering with God

As you light a candle say

This candle is lit to remind us of the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, among us as we gather to worship here in the church building and in our homes.

We come remembering that God calls us out of the darkness into his marvellous light.

Despite not being physically together, God is present with us and through us, to one another.

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>.

Song – Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

David Evans
© 1986 Thankyou Music
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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Young and old, happy and sad, strong and weak,
we come today seeking your face, O God, for you are our light and our help.

Generous God, on this day we give you our heartfelt thanks
for your past and present blessings.

We are so grateful for the way you have led and guided us along our life's paths
which have had many unexpected twists and turns,
many steep hills to climb, and many tricky paths to be negotiated.

Transforming God, you take the world's darkness
and re-create a world filled with the joy of light and hope.

Restoring God, you turn suffering into new life,
and re-create a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.

Renewing God, for all these reasons
we praise and glorify your Holy Name today and forever.

Today we especially ask your help and comfort in these difficult times
of Covid-19 and economic hardship:

We confess that we often feel as if we are being pulled this way and that.

We often feel alone and confused and anxious.

When we listen to voices in the world around us rather than the voice of Jesus, forgive us.

When we put our own interests ahead of the common good, forgive us.

When we take the popular way because it is easiest rather than the way of Jesus because it is costly, forgive us.

Send your Spirit to help us to resist those whispers that distract us from trusting in you.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, you are not alone. When the ways of this world press down on you, you share in the suffering of Christ. When the anxieties in this world entrap you, faith opens the door. When confusion sucks the air out of the room, the Spirit blows in. You are loved. You will make it, for we are all with you, and the risen Christ is with you. Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Reading from 1Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Reflection - *Learning in the Midst*

A copy of the message is attached separately.



Song – Be Thou my Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with Thee.

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power

Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
Thou my inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.
High King of heaven, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Mary Elizabeth Byrne
Public Domain
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Prayers of the People

God of steadfast love, anxiety has risen around our world. There is anxiety about power and control, anxiety about disease, anxiety caused by the loss of jobs and livelihoods and education. Most of all, anxiety about losing all that we had and the way of life we once took for granted has shaken many of us to the core. As we start to tentatively come out again from our homes there is anxiety that the pandemic will return. Anxiety has wrapped its tendrils around many of us but your love helps us to shake free. Help us to trust in your steadfast love and to move forward boldly in faith, knowing that you overcame the worst of our fears on the cross. While nothing can ever be the same, we know with you walking with us, that we will find the right path into new life ahead. May we experience your steadfast love, now and always especially during our times of trial.**

And now as we pray for those in our families and communities in special need

we ask you, Lord Christ,
to tend your sick ones,
rest your weary ones,
bless your dying ones,
comfort your grieving ones,
soothe your suffering ones,
pity your afflicted ones,

protect your little ones being born,
feed your poor and hungry ones,
shelter your abused ones,
gather your scattered ones
shield your joyous ones
and all for your love's sake***
Amen.



You may like to pray the Lord's Prayer

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.

God, bless these gifts that they may be shared
in the spirit of an Easter people
ever seeking ways to live out faith in acts of service
and advocacy for justice. 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.

Song – Be Strong and Courageous

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the fire
Do not fear the waters
Do not fear the thunder
Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the darkness
Do not fear the sadness
Do not fear the sickness
Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the enemy
Do not fear the poverty
Do not fear eternity
Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Colin Buchanan
2004 Wanaaring Road Music
CCLI# 10360

Words of Mission and Blessing

May the strength of God pilot us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us.

May the way of God direct us.

May the shield of God defend us.

May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us,

Christ before us,

Christ in us,

Christ over us,

May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours,
this day and forever more. Amen.

(part of the "Breastplate" of St Patrick, 389-461)

Be blessed in the name of God, the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer. Amen.

*based upon Psalm 66:8-20 adapted from Joan Stott

http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/easter6a_2011.htm

** from Liturgy created or adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

***adapted from the prayer by St Augustine of Hippo