

Honouring the Light and Truth of God

*Song 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2,
6-9; James 1:17-27 and
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

During this shutdown period
it can be harder to have a
sense of community. And we
have known shadows of
sorrowing this week.

But as People of God we can
be assured of our fellowship
one with each other and with
God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, come gather
to The Light.

We come with our eyes turned to the Truth and the Way.

God is present in the Light between and around us.

Let us turn away from the shifting shadows

We welcome the light of Truth

And listen to the Spirit's song

We come to listen.

And hear again how to live in the Way of Jesus.

We come as one family, with open hearts.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Draw close to us, Jesus,

Call to us your words of Truth

So that we hear you clearly.

Bind to our souls your loving ways

For with you, we find home, belonging, understanding

And a better way of living each day.



Draw close to us, Jesus, we pray today.

Song: Steve Grace - *Faith, Hope & Love* <https://youtu.be/FqQx4O5CgCg>

The First Bible Reading: James 1:17-27 (See at end of "order of Service")

Kids' Activity – available on the [Eden UC website](#) under today's date

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Truth-filled Jesus,

We are sorry that too often our beliefs do not match our living.

So many times we deviate from your call

to "Listen" and "Follow me".

We may religiously attend to faith matters and make rules and regulations to help our Church focus on Godly matters.

And yet, we fail to see when those rules and regulations cause grief to you and your people.

We are sorry we fall short to that which you call us to be, bringer of Truth.

God of all, you speak through each and every one of us.

Help us to hear what is Truth and to follow where your Light is leading.

Because we too often listen to the human voice and miss your Spirit's presence.

We are sorry.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Faithful friends, listen to the words of Jesus.

Honour God with your lips.

Hear the Truth in your hearts.

For there, God's Spirit will lead you to the Light.

Second Bible Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Refer end of service..

Thoughts from Chris Dalton available on [Eden UC website](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

Praise we offer to you, O Light of life.

When there is misery and sadness, there is also hints of joy.

When there is darkness of misunderstanding and anger, there is gentle welcome to hear again in our hearts.

When there are rules to be followed that fall short of your ways, you speak into these spaces with sympathy and your Spirit brings new understanding to our generation.

For we are a pilgrim people, who continually journey with you.

We thank you for your presence in all our meaning and being, allowing our questions and hearing our conversation.

We, your people, look with hope and joy to your Way.

Thank you, Jesus, for walking with us, always.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Our world has become so fast paced, that too often the time for listening and pondering, before responding, is taken as a sign of weakness. How different is the Way of Jesus, who took time on the mountain in prayer; who willingly spoke out about human rules that broke the honouring of each life; who reframed the significance of the two Great Commandments in the current context of society; who heard his offence and apologised to an outcast when she called for assistance of one of the 'least of these my people'. In James 1:17-25, he calls the community to be 'quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'. Anger is our human response. What we choose to do with that anger, shows our true belief in Jesus' Way. Let us hear in our hearts the meaning of the situation, call on God's Truth and Light, set aside our immediate human response, and reconsider how Jesus would listen, and what Jesus would do.

Asking the question "What would Jesus do?" leads us into the complex world of ambiguity, love, ignorance, self-seeking, sacrifice, power and poverty. We use our connection to Jesus to decide on the principles to live by and how to act at each micro-decision. Our Uniting Church has concentrated on some of the major issues. Some of them are;-

- Give Hope for Asylum Seekers Campaign
- Affordable Housing Campaign
- Fair Treatment Campaign- drug reform and adequate treatment
- Advocating for God's Creation

The Catholic Church has put out a statement for this year's Social Justice Sunday, 29th August. [A link](#) to *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, the short article that is written by a Josephite Sister. This order included Saint Mary MacKillop who founded St Joseph's School in Eden.

Listen or sing along to [Inspired by Love and Anger](#) – John Bell

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Every gift, small or great, is a gift in its own right. Let us value what we offer as a blessing for another.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, may the gifts we offer, Through direct debit and in service, Be directed as you would wish.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Whenever the three dots end a line, pause to speak to God about your thoughts on that point and listen for His response

Jesus, call to us to reconsider matters on which we need to ponder before we act.

Across the world, there is injustice and cruelty.

- We name those you put on our hearts... (For example - Afghanistan, Haiti, Italy and Greece)

Within Australia, we in our land of plenty, need to offer generosity to those who are impoverished –

- in material needs for daily living....
- through healthcare and wellbeing...
- from ageism and racism...
- due to catastrophic events and natural disasters...

within families and in their homes... (For example, the family whose home in Eden was destroyed last week).

God of all people, direct our living and being to be active in conscience and practical in support, to these, our neighbours. Amen.

Song: Cliff Richard - The Millennium Prayer

<https://youtu.be/mL9yDb134Rk>

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

People of God, Listen with patience!

Speak with love!

Act with helpful generosity!

God is calling us to listen with our faith.

The Spirit is calling us to hear God's Truth in our hearts.

Jesus is calling us to follow his Way in our living.

Go, then, with love before you, patience as a guide, understanding as an action as we follow in the Light and Truth of our God.

The Bible Reading preceding the Kids' Talk

James 1:17-27

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Bible Reading Preceding the Sermon

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Tradition of the Elders

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, 2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' 6 He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

7 in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines."

8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' 21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

The Old Testament Readings for this Sunday.

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Springtime Rhapsody

⁸ The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
¹¹ for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.



Psalm 45

Ode for a Royal Wedding

To the leader: according to Lilies. Of the Korahites. A Maskil. A love song.

- ¹ My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
- ² You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
- ⁶ Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever.
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;
- ⁷ you love righteousness and hate wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- ⁸ your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
- ⁹ daughters of kings are among your ladies of honour;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

These versions of the Scriptures are from <https://bible.oremus.org>