

Eden Uniting Worship Service

Good Friday

10 April, 2020

Theme - Brokenness

Acknowledgement of Country
St Georges Uniting Church, Eden acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of Aboriginal people. We pay respect to the Yuin people, especially to their elders past and present, and recognise the continuing gift of their culture to the life and spirit of Australia.

All are welcome to worship

Good Friday is a day of brokenness – a broken Christ and a broken world. We do not however spend time reflecting on what is broken out of some morbid curiosity but rather because it is only when brokenness is seen, and understood, that new life and healing are even possible. On this day, on Good Friday, we pause to see and understand the brokenness of the world so that, just perhaps, the light of Jesus can bring healing and hope.

Opening Song - Oh the deep deep love of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXjksN-Fn18>

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jesus Christ,
Who suffering and died, we come this day with heavy hearts.
Centre us in your love that we may encounter compassion and grace.
Open our ears to hear your word and our lips to proclaim your praise,
even as we recall you suffering, even as we recall the immense suffering of others and even in the midst of our own suffering.
Giver of life, keeper of tears, vessel of brokenness,
hear the stirrings of our minds and the murmurings of hearts.
Be with us we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of brokenness,
we see the brokenness of our lives and of the world. We confess that we would sometimes rather distance ourselves from all that is broken, blame another, or live in a world of denial.

Forgive us

and help us to understand our lives and our world better.

We confess that many in the world profit from systems that are broken. We admit that we do see that there are ways of operating that bring suffering and abuse. Forgive us for turning a blind eye to these ways. Help us to understand our lives and our world better.

Forgive us God, when *we* are the ones who break the good gifts you offer, when *our* actions destroy creation, when we are unable to keep our promises, when we betray those whom we love.

Forgive us

and help us to understand our lives and our world better. Amen

Words of Assurance

Just as Christ did not condemn, nor are we condemned.

Just as Christ, the suffering servant forgave, so we are forgiven.

In understanding brokenness, in the act of confession, healing begins. In Jesus, we can proclaim, 'Nothing is broken'. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Praise - Nothing is Broken

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8nSKI_BCpw

The Bible reading - John 18:1-19:42 - Take time to read or view at:

<https://youtu.be/69nC46kE9eQ>

Song to introduce the Sermon - Meekness and Majesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tK1hQpacs8>

Sermon - Pam Skelton

Song in response to the sermon - We believe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E00j5xGeDm8>

Prayers of Intercession

An Offertory Intercession

God whose love is deeper and wider than we can know,
we bring you our lives as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2) –
our money, our hands, our living.
Bless them, that they, and we, may be signs of healing in times of
brokenness and hope in places of hopelessness. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Jesus Christ, suffering servant,
you show us the paths of justice and truth.
Despised and rejected, you show us the ways of love
You lift us from our suffering, to find in you a companion on the path.
You are light in the darkness, solace in the dark night of the soul,
courage for the frightened and comfort for the downcast. With quiet
thankfulness for your presence and your life we offer our prayer. **Amen.**

General Intercessions

God of the suffering, holy one, who knows brokenness,
we bring our prayers for the brokenness of the world.
We pray for all those places where pain and suffering dominate and love
is confined to the cracks of living.
We pray for those who know the brokenness of betrayal:
for situations where promises are forgotten, and where suffering follow
poor choices. In brokenness, bring healing, loving God...
.....pause to name situations which the Spirit lays on your heart.
We pray for those who know the brokenness of abandonment:
for people who are left behind by systems and policies,
those who are neglected by people who should offer care and support.
In brokenness, bring healing, loving God...
.....pause to name situations which the Spirit lays on your heart.
We pray for those who know the brokenness of violence: for homes that
offer no sanctuary, for streets that offer no security, for countries where
air suffocates from the devastation war brings. In brokenness, bring
healing, loving God...
.....pause to name situations which the Spirit lays on your heart.

(Prayers continue on page 4)

General Intercessions continued from page 3

We pray for those who know the brokenness of death or of the fear of
death: for those who mourn; for those who die unjustly;
for those whose death offers no closure and no consolation.
For those whose lives are threatened by COVID19
In brokenness, bring healing, loving God...

.....pause to name situations which the Spirit lays on your heart.

We pray for one another as we wrestle with the uncertainties of life and
as we face our own frailties.

.....pause to name situations which the Spirit lays on your heart.

Hold us in your loving arms, God of compassion. Gather up our
brokenness with tenderness. We commit afresh our lives into you grace and
loving-kindness with the words that our Lord Jesus taught us to pray:

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 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

Concluding Song - I danced in the Morning -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf93gp-HafA>

Commissioning and Benediction

This story is unfinished. Death does not have the final word.

Let us leave this time of worship resolved

to love more deeply and

to hold brokenness with tenderness,

until we gather again on Easter Sunday morning.
