



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister: Position Vacant
Director of Music: Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor: Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar: Benjamin McKenzie



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www.ssms.org.au

11 October 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Pentecost 20

Led by Rev. Ross Smith

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

'Andante tranquillo' from Sonata No. 3 in A, Op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Please stand at the entry of the choir and clergy and remain standing for the...

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 153 *God is love* (Abbot's Leigh)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Doxology 769

Now to the King of Heaven (St John)



Now to the King of Heaven your cheer-ful voi-ces
raise; to him be glo-ry given, power, ma-jes-ty and
praise; from shore to shore his name be sung by
ev - ery tongue for ev - er - more.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Congregational greeting and welcome to visitors and newcomers

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:

A light to our path.

First Reading

Job 23: 1-9, 16-17

1 Then Job answered: **2** "Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. **3** Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! **4** I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments **5** I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. **6** Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. **7** There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. **8** "If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; **9** on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

16 God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; **17** If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

Hymn 682

When human voices cannot sing (St Columba)

[based on Psalm 22]

Second Reading

Hebrews 4: 12-16

12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. **14** Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Anthem

O for a closer walk with God

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800)

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return, return, return!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
and drove Thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame :
So purer light shall mark the road,
that leads me to the Lamb.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10: 17-31

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. **19** You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' " **20** He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." **21** Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." **22** When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. **23** Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." **28** Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." **29** Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, **30** who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

May your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 139

O love of God, how strong and true
(Bow Brickhill)

Sermon

Love in action

Hymn 601

O Master, let me walk with thee
(Maryton)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

We stand to sing...

The Lord's Prayer

Albert H Malotte

Lento, religioso

Our Fa - ther, _____ which art in heav - en _____
pp

Hal-low-ed be _____ thy name _____ Thy king-dom come.
p

Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heav - en _____
mp *p*

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our
pp *p*

tres - pass - es As we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion; But de -
mp

liv - er us from e - vil: For thine is the king - dom, _____ and the
mf *f*

pow - er, _____ and the glo - ry, _____ for ev - er. _____
ff

_____ A - men. _____
f *mf* *p* *pp*

Offering

Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 215 *You servants of God*
(Laudate Dominum)

Blessing

... and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.**

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Grand plein-jeu

Pierre Cochereau (1924 - 1984)