



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister:Rev. Ken Day
Director of Music:Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor:Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar:Benjamin McKenzie



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24 January 2016 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Epiphany 3

Led by Rev. Ken Day

*'If you seek me with all your heart,
I will let you find me', says the Lord.*

(The St Stephen's Choir is in recess until February)



You will seek me
and find me when
you seek
me with
all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

SOME HELPFUL NOTES FOR YOU ABOUT THE WAY THIS WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWS:

- **CHILDREN** are welcome here. If you have a pram, there are aisles beside the walls where you can 'park' your pram, if that helps. Also, there is more pram space at the back of the church where there is a wider gap. Children do not disturb us, and we are very happy for you to explain to your children what is happening during the service.
- We stand to sing. In the Order of Service it will say other places **WHERE WE STAND UP**, if you are able.
- **HYMNS** are numbered and found in the red hymn book *Together in Song*, or printed in the Order of Service. We sing the hymns unannounced, except for the first hymn.
- If the **LORD'S SUPPER** (communion) is being celebrated, (there will be a white cloth on the communion table) everyone of every age and background is welcome to share in the supper with us. We serve bread (and gluten free bread is available if you indicate to the server) and grape juice.
- **TEXT IN BOLD** is to be said by the congregation.
- It is the tradition at St Stephen's to refrain from talking during the **PRELUDE** and **POSTLUDE** as these form part of our worship.
- After the service has concluded, you are most welcome to join us downstairs in the hall for **MORNING TEA**. Please use the stairs at each end of the vestibule.
- **TOILETS** are located downstairs below the vestibule. A baby changing table is located in the women's toilet area.
- For those with **IMPAIRED HEARING** a hearing loop is available in the church. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)

Jean Langlais (1907 - 1991)

Please stand at the entry of the minister and remain standing for the...

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 188 *Where wide skies roll down* (Hanover)

Prayers of Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Doxology 101

Come, you people, come adore Him

(Tune 525: Laus Deo)



Come, you peo-ple, come a-dore Him God in Ho-ly Tri-ni-ty,



God the Fath-er, Son and Spi-rit, ev-er bless-èd un-it-y.

Welcome

Ministry and mission news, celebrations and pastoral prayer.

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

Hymn 135 *All things bright and beautiful*
(All things bright and beautiful)

Listen for the word of God to you:

Hebrew Scriptures *Jeremiah 29:4-14*

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. **8** For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

10 For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. **11** For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. **12** Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. **13** When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, **14** I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Psalm 23

God is my Shepherd

Music: Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

Soloist: Ruth Lockley

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing. My rest is in the pleasant meadows, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow! My fainting soul doth He restore, and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify His name. And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still; Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 253 *O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr* (Marrkapmirr)

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn 741 *O Lord hear my prayer* (O Lord hear my prayer)

Prayers of the People

Hymn 741 *O Lord hear my prayer* (O Lord hear my prayer)

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 for ever. Amen.**

*The **Offering** will be received during the following solo:*

How Can I Keep From Singing?

(Traditional Shaker Hymn, words by Robert Lowry, 1860)

My life goes on in endless song above earth' s lamentations,
I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation,
Above the tumult and the strife I hear its music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul: How can I keep from singing?

But thought the tempest loudly roars I hear the truth, it liveth,
And though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth,
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is Lord of Heaven and earth how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble in their fear and hear their death knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging,
When friends by shame are undefiled how can I keep from singing?

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 672(ii) *Lord of earth and all creation*
(Westminster Abbey)

Blessing

Dismissal

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

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Festive Toccata

Colin Brumby (1933 -) Australian composer

Adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2* (2005)
Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)