



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

27 September 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Order of Australia Service



***New South Wales Branch
Multi-Faith Observance***

Pentecost 18

Led by Rev. Ross Smith

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

To His servant Bach, God grants a final glimpse: the Morning Star
Graeme Koehne AO (1956 -)

Processional Hymn 134

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven (*Praise my soul*)

Procession of Flag Standard-bearer (during hymn)

Greeting and welcomeRon Sharpe OAM
Chairman of the Order of Australia Association NSW Branch

Acknowledgement of LandRev. Ross Smith

The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the original custodians of the land on which we meet. We acknowledge and respect their history and their suffering under colonisation of their ancient land.

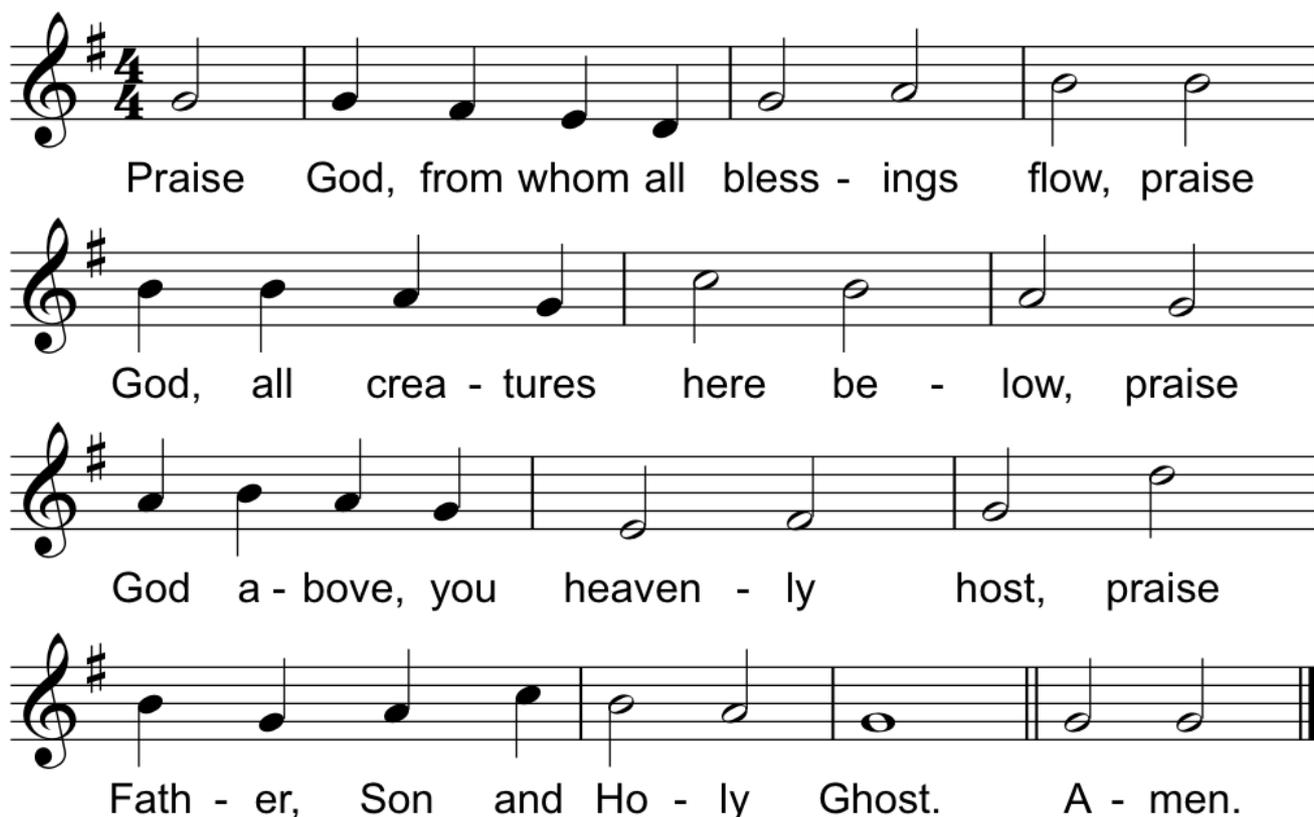
Just as the land survives, so does the culture, heritage and spirit of the Gadigal people.

Prayers of Adoration & Confession.....Rev. Ross Smith

Declaration of ForgivenessRev. Ross Smith

...This is the Gospel. **Thanks be to God.**

Doxology 768 *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow* (i. Old Hundredth)



The musical notation is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low, praise
God a - bove, you heaven - ly host, praise
Fath - er, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Passing of the PeaceRev. Ross Smith

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

First Reading

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-9; 9: 20-22..... Cantor Ken Cohen
Temple Emmanuel, Woollahra

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

A light to our path.

1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. **2** On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." **3** Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. **4** For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." **5** Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" **6** Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."

20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **21** enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, **22** as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hymn 79 *Now Israel may say* (Old 124th)

[hymn paraphrase of Psalm 124]

Second Reading

James 5: 13-20 Brother Dan Stafford OAM
Redemptorist Congregation

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. **14** Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. **17** Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and

for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. **19** My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, **20** you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Anthem

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Text: Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930)

Music: JS Bach (1685 – 1750)

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings;
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,
Drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own
In the love of joys unknown.

Guest Choral ConductorAnthony Pasquill

Gospel Reading

Mark 9: 38-50Rosalie Ramsay AM

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." **39** But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40** Whoever is not against us is for us. **41** For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. **42** "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. **43** If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. **44 45** And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. , **46 47** And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, **48** where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. **49** "For everyone will be salted with fire. **50** Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

May your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 231 *At the name of Jesus* (Camberwell)

Sermon *Whose Side Are You On?*Rev. Ross Smith

Hymn 611 *God of grace and God of glory* (Bryn Calfaria)

Concerns of the ChurchBill Roberts

Prayer for Solidarity.....Wendy Slee
Board Member, Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy

Creator God, Your image is alive in every human person giving to each of us an inviolable dignity. Create in us as desire to act in solidarity, an energy to work together and a willingness to share with others our time, our skills and our talent and our wealth. As we share and enjoy the fruits of your creation, restore in us your vision of a world made whole, and inspire us to commit ourselves to the common good. Gracious God, give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to love, so that we reflect you in our way of life, and in our choices, words and actions. Jesus is the good news to the poor. As his followers, may we recognise the call to be the same. **Amen**

Prayers of the PeopleRev. Ross Smith

Lord's Prayer

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 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.

Affirmation of PeaceAlan Harper OAM

Alan Harper: Christ, You are our Peace.

All: You have broken down the hostility between us.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free,
male nor female.

We are all one in You.

God was in You, reconciling the world to God,
And has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation.

We are in Your body,
And are members one of another.

We are a community of the Holy Spirit,
Called to be witnesses of God's love.

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one
body on the cross; we meet in His name and share His
peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

Prayer of Commitment for the Order of Australia

John Archer OAM
Deputy Chairman of the Order of Australia Association NSW Branch

All members stand and recite this prayer together.

In a world scarred by the evils of war, racism, injustice and poverty, we offer this joint Act of Commitment as we look to our shared future.

All: We commit ourselves, as people of many faiths,
To work together for the common good,
Uniting to build a better society,
Grounded in values and ideals we share:

Community,
Personal integrity,
A sense of right and wrong,
Learning,
Wisdom and love of truth,

Care and compassion,
Justice and peace,
Respect for one another,
For the earth and its creatures.

We commit ourselves,
In a spirit of friendship and cooperation,
To work together alongside all who share
our values and ideals,
To help bring about a better world now and for future
generations to come.

Expression of ThanksRon Sharpe OAM
Chairman of the Order of Australia Association NSW Branch

Prayer of ThanksgivingRev. Ross Smith

National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Offering

DedicationRev. Ross Smith

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 154 *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (Faithfulness)

BlessingRev. Ross Smith

... and remain with you always.

DismissalRev. Ross Smith

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)