



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



Ph: 02 9221 1688

www.ssms.org.au

9 October 2016 – 10 am

Pentecost 21

Morning Worship

Led by Rev. Ken Day

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.
- 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

Méditation (from Sonata No. 6)

Alexandre Guilmant (1837- 1911)

Call to Worship

Processional Hymn 147

To God be the glory (To God be the glory)

Please be seated

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,
our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*We stand to sing the **Doxology**:*

Doxology 768*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*

(i. Old Hundredth)

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.

Please be seated

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Bible Reading

Our reading from the Hebrew Scriptures is from the prophet ***Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7***

Listen for the Word of God to you:

¹These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take 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. ⁷But 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.

In this is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 634*All who love and serve your city* (Birabus)

Prayers of the people

... Let stand to sing and pray together:

Bible Reading

Our Gospel reading is from the prophet **Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn 256.....*From heaven you came* (Servant King)

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Now Thank We All Our God

(Nun danket alle Gott)

Text: Martin Rinkart; Trans. by Catherine Winkworth

Music: Johann Crüger;

Arr. by J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750) from Cantata BWV 79

Reflecting on today's Gospel, Luke 17: 11-19

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices.
Such wonders he has done!
In whom the world rejoices.
He from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
This one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
is He who was, is now,
and shall be evermore!

Silent Prayer

Offering

During this time tithes, thank offerings, and food for Newtown Mission will be brought forward.

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 90*I'll praise my maker while I've breath* (Monmouth)

Blessing

Dismissal

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

Sung Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

'Now Thank We All Our God' (from Cantata BWV 79)
J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

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