



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ...



Interfaith Prayers for Peace

followed by

the Supper of the Lord

Third Sunday of Lent
15 March 2020

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Since its dedication in 1884, the Cathedral has exercised a special role in the City of Grafton and also in the life of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, whose parishes, schools and other agencies serve communities throughout the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.

The Cathedral stands on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung nation. We acknowledge and pay our respect to their elders past and present, as well as to indigenous people with us today.

This morning's liturgy has an interfaith character, with the first part of the service formed by prayers and readings from different religious tradition prior to a celebration of the distinctively Christian ritual of the Eucharist or Lord's Supper.

As people of faith from diverse religious communities we seek the peace and well-being of our nation, and especially our local community.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or from another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in the service. We are delighted that you are with us for this service: please come and worship with us again.

The service includes a celebration of the Eucharist during which there will be an opportunity for people to receive Holy Communion. Communicant members of other Christian churches are invited to receive the Sacrament here today, as their own conscience allows. Everyone is welcome to come for a blessing, even if not receiving the consecrated Elements.

The Cathedral is open every day. You are always welcome to use the Cathedral and its grounds for prayer and reflection, and we encourage you to make this House of Prayer a place of pilgrimage and prayer for our City.



"No peace among the nations
without peace among the religions.
No peace among the religions
without dialogue between the religions
No dialogue between the religions
without investigation of the foundation of the religions."

– **Hans Kung**, author of *Christianity: Essence, History, Future*

PRAYERS FOR



PEACE

Today we especially welcome Year 11 and Year 12 students from Clarence Valley Anglican School, together staff and families.

We also welcome Chris Gulaptis MP, the Member for Clarence in the NSW Parliament. Mr Gulaptis is our speaker this morning.

And we are also glad to offer spiritual hospitality to friends from other cultural and religious communities on the North Coast, including:

- ◆ **Dean Loadsman**, who will offer a welcome to country on behalf of the Bundjalung Nation on whose lands we gather this morning.
- ◆ **Dr Fateh-Ali Ladhani**, representing the Islamic community.
- ◆ **Vishal Sharma** (Br. Muktananda), representing the Hindu community
- ◆ **Mrs Tayebah Shirazi**, on behalf of the Bahá'í community

And we acknowledge with gratitude a statement prepared for this event by **Rabbi Nicole Roberts** from the Jewish community in Sydney.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Acknowledgement of Country

A call to compassionate solidarity

One: We come together with hearts wide open in love.

All: **We come ready to nourish our spirits
and renew our commitment to peace.**

One: We come together as peace bearers and peacemakers.

All: **May we bear peace in our hearts
and be peacemakers in our communities.**

One: Come, let us celebrate God's presence among us,
an unending source of peace and compassion.

All: **Praise be to God,
who calls us to pursue peace for the benefit of all creation.**

Jennifer Watts

Processional Hymn: *When pain and terror strike by chance* [TIS 262]

**When pain and terror strike by chance,
with causes unexplained,
when God seems absent or asleep,
and evil unrestrained,
we crave and all-controlling force
ready to rule and warn,
but find, far-shadowed by a cross,
a child in weakness born.**

**We marvel at God's nakedness
and sense the play of chance
in Herod's anger, Peter's growth,
and Pilate's troubled glance.
Our Saviour's tempted, tested way
never was cut and dried,
but costly, risking life and love,
betrayed and crucified.**

**How deep the wisdom of our God,
how weak, but truly wise,
to risk, to sacrifice, to die,
and from the grave arise,
to shed the shroud of death and fate,
freeing our hearts for good.
We breathe the ample air of hope
and take our chance with God.**

**Since Wisdom took its chance on earth,
to show God's living way,
we'll trust that fear and force will fail,
and Wisdom win the day.
Then come, dear Christ, and hold us fast
when faith and hope are torn,
and bring us, in your loving arms,
to resurrection morn.**

Brian Arthur Wren 1936 -



Love and Peace (Houb Salaam)

LISTENING TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

The texts will be read in the relevant original language of each religious community, but English translation are provided here for the congregation.

A prophetic text from the Jewish tradition

He has told you, O man, what is good,
and what the LORD requires of you:
only to do justice
and to love goodness,
and to walk modestly with your God;

(Micah 6:8 Jewish Publication Society)

A reading from the Hindu Scriptures

They alone see truly
who see the Lord the same in every creature,
who see the deathless in the hearts of all that die.
Seeing the same Lord everywhere,
they do not harm themselves or others.
Thus they attain the supreme goal.

(Bhagavad Gita 13: 28-29)

A reading from the Holy Qur'an

Because of that We ordained for the Children of Israel: that whoever kills a person—unless it is for murder or corruption on earth—it is as if he killed the whole of mankind; and whoever saves it, it is as if he saved the whole of mankind. Our messengers came to them with clarifications, but even after that, many of them continue to commit excesses in the land.

(Sura 5:32 al-Ma'idah – The Table)

A reading from the Bahá'í Scriptures

O CHILDREN OF MEN! Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. Such is My counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory.

(Baha'u'llah)

A reading from the Gospels

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(John 15:12-17 NRSV)

Reflection

Chris Gulaptis, MP

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

**Love is the doctrine of this gathering;
The quest of truth our sacrament;
And service is our prayer.**

**To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humanity in fellowship,
To the end that all souls shall grow
into harmony with the Divine—**

**Thus do we covenant with each other,
and with God.**

Adapted from The Longboat Island Chapel Affirmation

PRAYERS FOR PEACE & RECONCILIATION

Prayers will be offered by students from Clarence Valley Anglican School and by the representatives of various faith communities, after which we shall join in saying the beautiful prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi.

**Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O, Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.**

Attributed to St Francis of Assisi

THE GREETING OF PEACE

All stand as they are able.

God calls us to peace:

in God's justice is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

cf Ephesians 2.14,15

Please offer one another a greeting of peace in ways that reflect the traditions of your own community while observing the current guidelines on avoiding direct physical contact during the Coronavirus epidemic.

THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

Offertory Hymn: *Birds in the mountains* [TIS671]

***Made in God's likeness, moved by the Spirit,
called to create a new world for the Lord,
called to create a new world for the Lord.***

**Birds in the mountains sing of your praises,
called in the morning to tell of your love;
bellbirds and whip-birds sing of creation,
celebrate always that Christ is the King.**

**Summoned at noon-tide, come now and follow,
joyfully marching wherever you lead;
roller bird stunt-men, king-fisher's laughter,
clowns of creation in the circus of God.**

**Called in the night-time to act in your drama,
to take on the Christ role, your script in our hearts;
masked owl and bower-bird teach us to study
the part we must play and the gifts we can share.**

**Called now at all times to wait on the Father,
follow his lead as he partners our dance;
brolga bird dances, retreats, and, returning,
bowing at last to his partner, the Lord.**

Patricia Lewis, 1938-

The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer.
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of holy dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation
you have given your children the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

In the vast desert and dense forest,
and in cities at the water's edge,
creation sings your praise.
Your presence endures
as the rock at the heart of our land.
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

When Jesus hung on the tree
you heard the cries of all your people
and become one with your wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew,
and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you,
to each other, and to your whole creation.
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Lead us on, Great Spirit,
as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
enable us to walk together in trust
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels,
we rejoice and praise you, singing,
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
"Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,

“This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us.

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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 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 Priest breaks the bread.

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The Priest says

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

All the children of God have a place at the Table of Jesus.

If you prefer to come a personal blessing rather than receive Holy Communion please simply cross your arms in front of you.

Anyone who would normally receive Holy Communion in their own Christian tradition is welcome to receive the Sacrament with us here today.

Due to the current coronavirus epidemic the Chalice is not being offered today.

Gluten-free wafers are available.

After Communion there may be some community notices.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Missional Hymn: *God! As with silent hearts we bring* [TIS 680]

**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause, and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

**Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, God, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love, today as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly-born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth;
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.**

**So, God of peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.**

Frederik Herman Kaan 1929 –

The Priest says the following prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have created all humanity
in your image and likeness,
and have revealed your plan and purpose
in calling us your friends and family.
As we have shared this holy meal,
inspire our hearts to see
every man, woman and child
given the dignity and value
which is your purpose and your gift.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

The Priest says the Blessing.

The God of this ancient land,
who has given us a shared future as one family,
give you grace to walk together in the unity of Christ Jesus;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Deacon may say

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

Organ Postlude

Fanfare Australia – Robert Eather

A STATEMENT BY RABBI NICOLE ROBERTS, SENIOR RABBI OF THE NORTH SHORE TEMPLE EMANUEL, CHATSWOOD NSW

We stand in solidarity—on this day and always—with the Christchurch community, those gathered in Grafton, and all people of conscience whose faith steers them to do good in the world and abhor acts of terror and violence. Throughout history, our people have known, as well as any, the destructive and tragic impact of *sinat chinam*—baseless hatred. When blood is senselessly shed, even across the world, our hearts bleed too, for as our tradition holds, no one's blood is any redder than another's; inside, whatever our religion, every righteous soul is made in the Divine image and deserving of dignity. May we stand together in defence of this age old idea, and may the acts of those who disregard its wisdom and goodness only serve to make us stronger in our faith that light will prevail over darkness. Together, let's work toward the day when swords are beaten into ploughshares, and spears into pruninghooks, that all may dwell, congregate, and pray in safety and in peace.

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

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The call to worship is by Jenny Tymmes and is from Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide.
<http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=298>

The Affirmation of Faith, Hope and Love is adapted from *The Longboat Island Chapel Affirmation*.

The preface for the Great Thanksgiving Prayer is adapted from the beautiful 'Thanksgiving for Australia' written by the Revd Lenore Parker, a Yaegl woman and Anglican Priest. It can be found in *A Prayer Book for Australia*, p. 218.