***On Forgiveness* A Liturgy for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**Mornington Methodist Church Sunday 20th February 2022 Rev David Poultney**

**Before we Begin** *Be kind, for everyone you meet
   is fighting a great battle.*
Philo of Alexandr

**CENTRING** *Anticipation* Jay MacCormick *Come …. Expectant … but without expectation; open to every possibility, even to nothingness. Dispose yourself to be receptive, like a little child in open trust. What gifts, what dreams may come your way lie not in your choosing – for they would be too small. My plans for you surpass the limits of your imagination and your paltry dreaming. Come … open to all that lies expectant, waiting …. just for you.*

**WELCOME** Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou God be with you **Ki a koe anō hoki And with you also** Hold hands people of God in love **Bind our hearts together in God’s grace**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** We light this candle to remind us of the light of God’s love, The warmth of God’s welcome, And our faith in the ever presence of God, So together we say: **Welcome to our place, Welcome to worship, Welcome in the name of our living God Amen**

**NEWS AND NOTICES**

**WORDS FOR BEGINNING** *Aware and Attentive* John Bodycomb As oxygen is around us and within and without it we would not be. As deliberate deep breaths are good for the body, so we would not be, so with deep breathing of the Spirit we call God. **Let us think of worship and prayer as such deep breathing, let it renew our love of life.**

**HYMN** God to create us Marnie Barrell (To the tune of Morning has broken)

God to create us, God to redeem us, God to sustain us through all our days: one God forever, Father, Son, Spirit, we are your people, we sing your praise.

Living and loving, from the beginning, endlessly moving, always the same: God of all ages, source of all being, we give you glory, honour your name.

God who invites us into the circle, God who invites us, once far apart: draw us together, draw us towards you, till we are gathered into your heart.

***A MEDITATIVE READING***  *From Struggles to Love. The Spirituality of the Beatitudes* Kathy Galloway *It is the nature of our ultimate concern, our greatest good, that gives shape and form to our spirituality , our profound motivations, that provide the framework for our value judgements. And it is a this interface between motivation and concern , in this place of tension, conflict and struggle , that choices are made and action occurs.*

**PRAYER – a paraphrase of Ps 105** Francis Macnab Is there anything more important than knowing we have touched the very depths of joy? **We come alive to the beauty of all creation;** **we feel a strength we had not known before.** We become conscious of an expansive presence around us, and we want to sing and give thanks to God. We think of the risks and dangers of the past, but we survived them. We went through some dark and difficult times, but we are stronger. We did not know what the future would bring or what direction to take, but we found a way.We thought we were up against the impossible, but we discovered the possible. **We have drawn on the source of all strength and hope,** **and that strength and hope have brought us to this moment.**

We feel in the depths of our very being a sense of our expanded identity and belonging. Inner joy swells within us and we give thanks to God. **If we knew how to make and adequate response ,** **we would praise that God from now till our life’s end. Amen**

**TO HELP US REFLECT ON OUR CONSCIENCES** *The Book of Forgiving* Desmond and Mpho Tutu

*Some find forgiveness difficult because they believe forgiving means forgetting the pain they have suffered. I can say unequivocally that forgiving does not mean forgetting the harm. It does not mean denying the harm. It does not mean pretending the harm did not happen or the injury was no as bad as it really was. Quite the opposite is true. The cycle of forgiveness can be activated and completed only in absolute truth and honesty.
Forgiving requires giving voice to the violations and naming the pains we have suffered.Forgiving does not require that we carry our suffering in silence or be martyrs on a cross of lies. Forgiveness does not mean that we pretend things are anything other than they are.*

**PRAYER**  Let us resolve to live in the path of mercy, a spring which refreshes humanity and brings the possibility of newness and grace This is our intention, this is our prayer  **Amen**

**THE 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 this day 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 forever Amen**

**PRAYER ON THE THEME OF THE DAY** May our every prompting of grace, our every choice to be compassionate enlarge our hearts and give depth to our souls. This and very day **Amen**

**HYMN AA 55** Great and deep the spirit’s purpose Marnie Barrell Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
Nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds -
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meanings from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth.
And a million million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
nothing shall be left to chance.
All that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance.
All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own**.**

**A STORY**

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Luke 6:27-38

**A REFLECTION**

**HYMN**  **HiOS 7** As the wind blows through the trees Shirley Erena Murray

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God. Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul’s most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that’s born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God, making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God..

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS**

**THE OFFERTORY** *A Fine Wind is Blowing*Francis MacnabIn our giving we wonder what we can really give, to express what we would like to be, to contribute realistically to good causes, to be more identified to a better, bigger humanity. Good Spirit of Life, from our smallness help us to be part of the enlargement of our being here and the enlargement of being alive. **This is what we would like, this is our prayer.**

**HYMN AA 113** Our life has its seasons Shirley Murray

Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons why spring follows winter, and new leaves grow, for there's a connection with our resurrection that flowers will bud after frost and snow.

 *So there's never a time to stop believing, there's never a time for hope to die, there's never a time to stop loving, these three things go on.*

There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking, a time to be laughing, a time to weep, a time to be building, a time to be breaking, a time to be waking, a time to sleep.

*Refrain*

There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing, a time to be saving, a time to spend, a time to be grieving, a time to be dancing, a time for beginning, a time to end.

*Refrain*

**COMMISSIONING** We now extinguish this candle but let us say together: **We now embody this light and promise To reflect the light of God’s love In all that we say and do Amen**

**BLESSING WORDS** John O’DonohueBlessed by all things,wings of breath,delight of eyes,wonder of whisper,intimacy of touch,eternity of soul,urgency of thought,miracle of health.Embrace of God. **May we live this day, compassionate of heart, clear of word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, generous in love Amen**

**THE GRACE Kia tau ki a tatou katoa, te atawhai o to tatou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti, Me te aroha o te Atua, me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu. Ake, ake, ake Amine**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all Amen**