***The Primacy of Love A Liturgy for Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost***

**Mornington Methodist Church Sunday 31st October 2021**

**Preacher: Rev David Poultney**

## Before we Begin

## *Radiate boundless love toward the entire world – above, below and across – unhindered, without ill will, without enmity* Guatama Buddha

**AN INVITATION TO BE PRESENT** From *Matins*  John O’Donohue *Somewhere, out at the edges, the night  
Is turning and the waves of darkness  
Begin to brighten the shore of dawn.  
  
The heavy dark falls back to earth  
And the freed air goes wild with light,  
The heart fills with fresh, bright breath  
And thoughts stir to give birth to colour.  
  
We arise today  
  
In the name of Silence,  
Womb of the Word,  
In the name of Stillness,  
Home of Belonging,  
In the name of the Solitude  
Of the Soul and the Earth.  
  
We arise today  
  
Blessed 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 in word,  
Gracious in awareness,  
Courageous in thought,  
Generous in love.*

**WELCOME** Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou God be with you **Kia 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 candles 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**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** John Bodycomb Eternal Mystery of many names, for whom each one of us has a favourite, we address you by that name knowing that you hear us. **Now we seek to hear you in the holy whispers, and to respond to the inner promptings as Jesus did. This is our prayer.**

**HYMN FFS 11** Come Teach Us Spirit of our God Shirley Murray

Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,

the language of your way, the lessons that we need to live,

the faith for every day.

Excite our minds to follow you,

to trace new truths in store,

new flight paths for our spirit space,

new marvels to explore:

Engage our wits to dance with you,

to leap from logic's base,

to capture insight on the wing,

to sense your cosmic grace:

Inspire our spark to light from you,

to catch creation's flair, new artistry to celebrate,

new harmonies to dare:

Delight our hearts to worship you, to learn compassion's code, to live in context of your love,

great teacher who is God!

**MEDITATIVE READING** Pedro Arrupe *Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than  
falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.*

**PRAYER** Compassionate One, source of our every goodness,the urging from leading us from isolation to connection,God of love.We rejoice in the web of tenderness in which human beings are bound,In love which turns upside down the hierarchies of the world.The tenderness shown the young,the considerate love shown to the elderly.We are thankful that in a world where efficiency is all,the relationships which matter most to us,the parts of our lives which make us most truly humanare defined not by profit and loss, or by questions of efficiencybut by a tender gifting.

It is in this we find our deepest humanity, here that we glimpse our best selves, here perhaps that our lives are most like the life of Jesus, who lived and loved in ways which gave new possibility and meaning. **May our lives be yet more like his,** **let the boundaries of our compassion be set wider yet.** Let us love in ways which create possibilities where there were none, and birth new hope where there was despair. **This is our hope and our prayer. Amen**

**A MEDITATION TO HELP US REFLECT ON OUR CONSCIENCES** *Notes From (Over )the Edge* Jim Palmer *God's image or likeness comes to expression in and through ordinary people doing ordinary things. Too often religion conditions people to only find God in a limited number of "sacred" things - a religious place, a religious day, a religious practice or ritual, a religious event or gathering, a religious book, etc.*

*But the living image of God is on display in everyday life through people being and expressing kindness, being and expressing acceptance, being and expressing goodness, being and expressing compassion, being and expressing love, being and expressing beauty.*

*I refer to them as "ordinary" only for two reasons. First, these are things any of us can do at any moment in life. It requires nothing more than being present where you are. Nothing needs to be added or changed or different - just live your life. Secondly, they may be considered "ordinary" because people don't get how significant and powerful they are because we've been conditioned to think that we should be doing something epic for God and have a mega-impact through some major effort or program.*

*The fundamental way Jesus lived his life was that he simply did the next thing or responded to situations as they required. Jesus did not go looking for, contrive or gin-up situations to do some great thing for God. Jesus basically did only two things - he showed up for life, he lived authentically or true to his nature.*

*Guess what?*

*You can live your life that way too.*

**PRAYER** May we be mindful of our capacity to build up and tear down, of choosing life and death. May we act in ways which build, bind up and nurture justice and life **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**

**A PRAYER ON THE THEME OF THE DAY** May love be our way, a love that abides , a love that transforms, a love that is the image of the Sacred in us **Amen**

**HYMN**  Praise the Source of Faith and Learning Thomas Troeger. To the tune HYFRYDOL.

Praise the source of faith and learning, that has sparked and stoked the mind, with a passion for discerning, how the world has been designed. Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom we acknowledge, that our science and our art and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart. Far beyond our calculation, lies a depth we cannot sound where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

May our faith redeem the blunder, of believing that our thought has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught. May our learning curb the error, which unthinking faith can breed, lest we justify some terror, with an antiquated creed.

As two currents in a river, fight each other’s undertow, till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow, blend O God our faith and learning till they carve a single course, till they join, as one, returning praise and thanks to you, the Source

**A STORY**

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Ruth 1:1-18, Mark 12:28-34

**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**

**THE OFFERTORY** adap Jim BurkloO Dear One, may these giftsserve as tokens of our deep desire for your Loveto transform our time, effort and substance into works of creative compassion for each other,our wider community, and for the world beyond,through this church **Amen**

**HYMN WOV 636** He came singing love Colin Gibson

He came singing Love

and he lived singing love;

he died, singing love

He arose in silence.

For the love to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith

and he lived singing faith;

he died, singing faith.

He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope

and he lived singing hope;

he died, singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace

and he lived singing peace;

he died, singing peace.

He arose is silence.

For the peace to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

**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** Rosalie SugrueFor the God who walks on wounded feet and heals with human hands,for the God of imperfections,we go into this wonderful world, this imperfect world, to reflect God’s perfect love,and in so doing, claim what it is to be fully human. **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**