***Elements of Change* A Liturgy for the Fifth Sunday of Epiphany Sunday 6th February 2022**

**Mornington Methodist Church Preacher and Celebrant: Rev David Poultney**

Before we Begin *The city of God cannot remain hidden. Brothers and sisters, the city of God will not be blown down by the storm. It will not be conquered even though the enemy take its outer walls. The city of God will stand, because its strength comes from on high, because the Lamb is with it, and so it will remain firmly established* Martin Niehmoller

**CENTRING** *Sunday Morning* Denis Glover *On Sunday the air more naturally breathes, time stands a little still, and plants put forth luxurious green life, sweet sunlight weaves warm patterns on the wall facing the north. No urgent task, we set our hands upon hoe, spade or spanner; back fence gossip tells epic of artichokes, career of cars, later on air falls under the heavy yoke of bells*

**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**

**NEWS AND NOTICES**

**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 GodAmen**

**WORDS FOR BEGINNING** Thom Shurman
Called to be light,
**we would carry God's hope into
the shadows of the world.**
Called to be salt,
**we would enhance the lives
of those around us, with joy.**
Called to live in God's reality,
**we would welcome everyone
as sisters and brothers in faith.**

**HYMN FFS 10(I)** Come and find the quiet centreShirley Murray

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

**MEDITATIVE READING** *We Know Fine Well* Erik Cramb *What in heaven’s name do we mean when we pray every day, ‘Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven?’ What does that mean? We know fine well what the Kingdom values are, in broad precept if not in detail, and they are not about narrow religious issues, they are about the basic stuff of human life. They’re the stuff of the Sermon on the Mount. The Kingdom values are about money and possessions and power and sex and violence and security: about war, about how we treat our neighbour; about how we treat our enemy. Fine well we know God’s will and we cannot hide behind ignorance. We know God’s will about flowers blooming in wilderness places, about the blind being able to see, the deaf hearing, the lame leaping and dancing and the dumb shouting aloud. It’s about drug addicts and AIDS sufferers and the homeless young in ‘cardboard cities’ being valued and brought in from the cold. God’s will is about those who are ‘rubbished’ and dismissed being treasured; it’s about the powerful being brought to heel; and the first being last and the last being first. It’s good news to the poor; about feeding the hungry and clothing the naked: about liberty to the captives and setting free the oppressed; about the time having come when the Lord will save his people. These are the Kingdom values: that is the Kingdom agenda and we know it well. We cannot hide behind ignorance. We cannot say we do not know … we know fine well.*

**PRAYER Thom Shurman** When we see the hungry
and refuse to pass them by;
when we humbly notice
those walking shoeless
in winter before we repair the holes
in our souls,
**we will worship you truly,
God of the Feast and the Fast.**When we think the line workers
are as valuable as the CEOs;
when we give our
empty property
to a homeless family,
**we will follow you faithfully,
Servant of the oppressed.**
When we mend fences
with our siblings
and build bridges
to our enemies;
when our cries for justice
are louder than anything else,
**we will proclaim your hopes,
Spirit of justice**.
Then we will be like
a garden
watered by that grace
which never runs dry,
God in Community, Holy in One **Amen**

**A MEDITATION TO HELP US REFLECT ON OUR CONSCIENCES** *Christian Counter Culture* John Stott ***These are the standards, the values and the priorities of the kingdom of God. Too often the church has turned away from this challenge and sunk into a bourgeois, conformist respectability. At such times it is almost indistinguishable from the world, it has lost its saltness, its light is extinguished and it repels all idealists. For it gives to evidence that it is God's new society which is tasting already the joys and powers of the age to come. Only when the Christian community lives by Christ's manifesto will the world be attracted and God be glorified. So when Jesus calls us to himself, it is to this that he calls us. For he is the Lord of the counter-culture.***
**PRAYER** We name ourselves Christian, and we acknowledge the challenge of that, to be salt and light, seasoning and illumination, and commit ourselves to this path , so be it **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** We commit ourselves to the Jesus way, to being present in the world, to being alongside people everywhere, to being salt and light, savour and illumination all our days **Amen**

**HYMN FFS 50** Nothing is lost on the breath of God Colin Gibson

Nothing is lost on the breath of God,

nothing is lost forever,

God's breath is love,

and that love will remain,

holding the world forever.

No feather too light,

no hair too fine,

no flower too brief in its glory,

no drop in the ocean,

no dust in the air,

but is counted and told in God's story.

Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,

nothing is lost forever,

God sees with love,

and that love will remain,

holding the world forever.

No journey too far,

no distance too great,

no valley of darkness too blinding;

no creature too humble,

no child too small for God to be seeking and finding.

Nothing is lost to the heart of God,

nothing is lost for ever;

God's heart is love,

and that love will remain,

holding the world forever.

No impulse of love,

no office of care,

no moment of life in its fullness;

no beginning too late,

no ending too soon,

but is gathered and known in its goodness.

**A STORY**

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20

**A REFLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS**

**HYMN** The Summons David Peacock, Graham Maule, John Bell (To KELVINGROVE)

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me

**THE OFFERTORY** Here we bring our gifts of money and talents That they may be used to reflect your love in the world. **Bless our gifts and our lives so that they can be used** **To create a better world for all people.** **Amen**

**BLESSING BREAD AND WINE** Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation,through your goodness we have these gifts to offer,which Earth has given and human hands have made. **Blessed be God forever**

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER** Iona CommunityWe offer you our praise dear God, and hearts lifted high. For in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky we sing to you. With the whole communion of saints and with brothers and sisters east and west, we sing to you, and now with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we offer you our praise. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Life,**  **Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,** **Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name.** **Hosanna in the highest.** Blessed be our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world’s suffering and is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night before he died Jesus took bread, and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying; Take this all of you and eat it, this is my body, given up for you. Do this to remember me. In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples saying; This cup is the new covenant, sealed with my blood. Take this all of you and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God. **Hear us O Christ and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, making us whole** **Amen**

**BREAKING BREAD** Michael Morwood We break this bread, bread inviting us to grasp what the eye cannot see: **God with us in the journey of life;** **God with us in our everyday,** **God with us in our living and our loving.** We drink this wine, wine reminding us of promises to love, **of love generously shared,** **of Jesus who loved so totally and our call** **to love as courageously as Jesus loved.**

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** We who have shared the bread of communityand the cup of our common dreamsleave this table challenged to be the body of Christ,loving, redeeming, making things whole,challenging to newness. May this come to be  **Amen**

**HYMN WOV 453** An upper room did our Lord prepare Frederick Pratt Green

An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there,
to celebrate their Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his Cross shall lift us up.

And after Supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace.
He loves beyond our uttermost:
in every room in our Father’s house
he will be there, as Lord and host.

**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** Thom Shurman To those huddled in the shadows of fear and worry,
**God sends to be light.**
To those whose lives and hopes have lost all flavour,
**Jesus sends us to be salt.**
To a society where love is tossed aside as easily as a food wrapper,
**Spirit sends us to be faithful carers of everyone we meet.**

**And the blessing of God be with you, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the World 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**