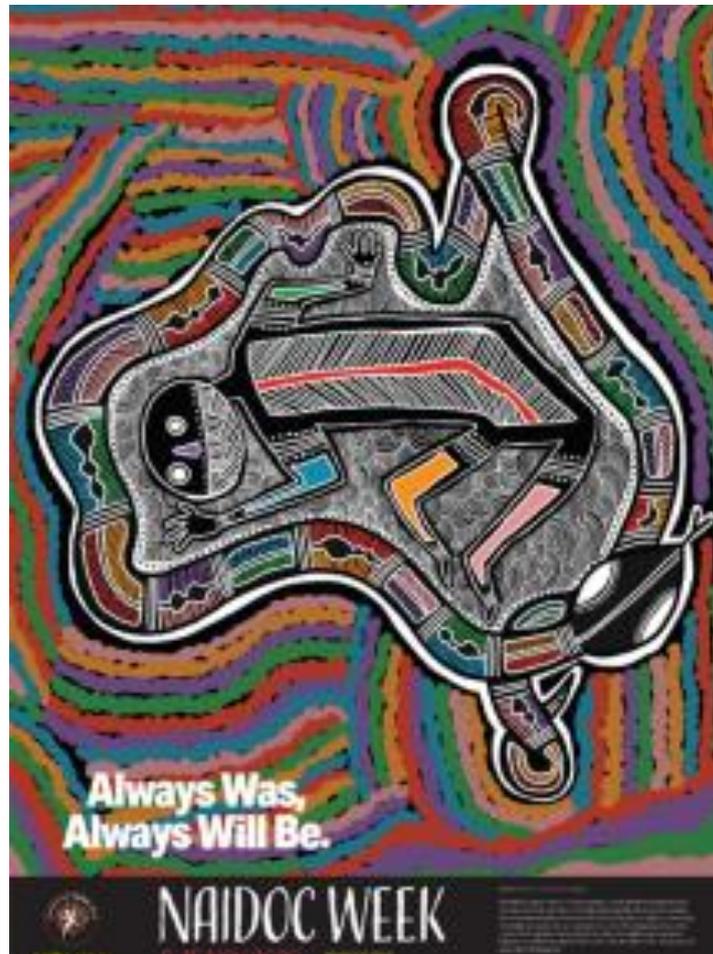




24th Sunday after Pentecost

15th November 2020



8-15 November

*Discipleship:
finding the “way” in a consumerist society*

On the final day in NAIDOC week, we will reflect on a parable centred around the accumulation of wealth, and its impact upon the poorest among us.

GATHERING

Announcements

Greeting

In the name of the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Guringai people, part of the Eora Nation, as the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to worship God. For unnumbered generations, they maintained a healthy environment and a spiritual connection to the land. I pay my respects to their elders, past and present.

Call to Worship [based on Psalm 123]

If we look to the sky at night,
we catch a glimpse of the majesty of God,
in whom creation exists,
and whose Spirit permeates all that is.

As we turn to the stories of Jesus,
we see the fullness of God's being
expressed as self-giving love.

And now, in worship, our eyes turn
to the Lord our God:

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,
have mercy upon us.

HYMN 187 "Let all creation dance"

Prayer of Reflection

Loving Creator God,

We rejoice in the beauty of this ancient land and her waters.

We marvel at the awesome way they have been formed.

We give thanks for her First Nations Peoples,
their stories of creation sung by countless Ancestors.

It is right, Loving Mystery that we name the dispossession,
violence and bloodshed,

which First Peoples endured at the hands of Second
Peoples.

***We ask your forgiveness, and their forgiveness, on
behalf of our forebears.***

We pray for your healing of this land and her Peoples.

***We pray that love will make a new way, a harmony way,
the way of Jesus.***

Holy God,

Today we are grateful,

and we celebrate this nation's true history,
beginning long before time.

The First People of this ancient land who gave them birth,
who gives them life – Mother Earth.

We honour them and share their joy.

You, Wisdom, call us body, call us one,

To walk together, people from many lands,
under this same golden sun,

together First Nations Peoples and all of us
who have since come.

Together there is a new song to be sung,
as old as time.

Hear the *yidaki*, hear the *bilma*,
the Ancestors call.

Wisdom, help us to listen, to follow, to learn, to grow.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

[Yidaki is the Yolŋu word for digeridoo as bilma is for clap stick]

Stu McMillan, National Consultant Covenanting, Assembly Resourcing Unit

Uniting Church in Australia

Words of Assurance

“If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing”.

Thanks be to God.

Sharing in the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD

Some thoughts on money and discipleship

He (Thomas Cromwell) has never believed metal should be left to lose its lustre, or weigh down the persons of great men – it should circulate as money and multiply.

Hilary Mantel (The Mirror and the Light)

The Bible contains a radical message of God’s favour for the poor and God’s condemnation for those who exploit the poor and sustain systems of economic injustice.

Richard Horsley University of Massachusetts

Jesus was focussed on issues related to money and possessions, the ways they are deployed in a world governed by God, and the ways in which they define and skew social relationships.

Walter Brueggemann

In the midst of our modern culture, it is important for those of us who would be faithful to Jesus to think and speak of a politics of compassion not only within the church but as a paradigm for shaping the political order.

Marcus Borg

By serving we are turning the attention off ourselves, escaping from the lock of self-fixation.

Laurence Freeman

1st Reading

Judges 4: 1-7

Rob Mayrick

⁴The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, “Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.” ’

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123 (*read responsively*)

Rob Mayrick

¹ To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
² As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,

***so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
until he has mercy upon us.***

³ Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

⁴ Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 14-30

Pam Mayrick

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your

talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.”²⁶ But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?”²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Song “From little things big things grow” Paul Kelly

Reflection

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn 473 “Community of Christ”

Offering

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost***

Offertory prayer

Prayers of the People

Seng Eng Low

When the one who prays says, “Lord in your mercy”, you are invited to respond, ***“hear our prayer”***.

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 today our daily bread.
And 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.***

SENDING OUT

Hymn 672 "Lord of earth and all creation"

Benediction

[Adapted from "Blessing the Way", by Jan Richardson, in *Circle of Grace*, p.38]

From an ancient hope drawing us forward,
making a way when no way can be seen,
you are part of the path God's preparing.
You are the blessing, a voice in the wilderness,
and a welcoming presence for those who are searching;
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

Song 755 "You shall go out with joy"

Musical Postlude

Pianist:

Travis Loughhead