

BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH – DRAFT OOS 17th Sep 2023

CROSS COLOUR “Green”

Show this slide on screen prior to the prelude(Tim, do you have a slide of the Colebrook statue?)

9:15 - PRELUDE – “Here We Are [AT 361]” – (words on screen)

9:18 - WELCOME (Colebrook statue again)

My name is Peter Cranwell and together with Olivia, Katie, Lucy and Rina, will assist Rev Doug Hosking in worship this morning.

As always a big thanks to all that have spent time in the preparation and presentation of this time of worship. Your time and effort are recognised and appreciated.

We welcome everyone present. If you are visiting, please gather with us afterwards for a chat. Welcome also to anyone who has chosen to participate on-line in this worship service being brought to you from the Blackwood Uniting Church, South Australia.

CHRIST CANDLE – Olivia will light the Christ candle. (Make sure seen on camera)

9:19 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - Peter - (Christ candle slide) (check if any indigenous people can do Welcome to Country??)

Thankyou Olivia for lighting the Christ candle, upon the holder gifted to us by the Kuarna people.

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own country. Their relationship with the land has been and still is at the centre of their lives.

In particular we acknowledge the Kaurna People, past, present, emerging, and their stewardship of this particular land through the ages.

We lament our forebears actions that have caused them pain. I encourage you to consider the significance to Aboriginal people of the coming Referendum. They are relying on us to hear and understand their request. I urge you not to think of this as a political issue but rather one of justice.

So let us now honour one another as we honour life itself.

9:20 - CALL TO WORSHIP (words on screen)

Peter - Let us stand (as you are able) and share an affirmation of our life together.

All - May this time together renew our hope.

Peter - May the stories we share refresh our courage.

All - May the songs we sing lift our spirits.

Peter - May the words we speak energise us.

All - May the touch of hands, the sound of laughter, and the sight of faces new and familiar, restore us in faith.

(Adapted. CODame)

9:21 - INTRODUCTION

Today’s theme is Forgiveness, or if you like, saying “Sorry”. We hope that the various service components will assist you to consider just what this might mean for each of us today.



9:21 - CHILDREN'S STORY - Show this slide

Peter to share with the children

Alison to manage the activity

9:25- SONG: We are Sorry (AT 332) Band to start as the children move back to their space

9:28 - PRAYER OF CONFESSION (put up the "I'm sorry" slide again then when we start reading the words, put them on screen))

Peter: - Let us pray a prayer of confession and lament:

Listening God, sometimes we pray confidently, trusting in your love.
Sometimes we approach you fearfully, conscious of our own failure.
Sometimes we are reluctant to pray, evading your call to us.
Sometimes our prayer is a snatched moment in the hassle of activity.

But always you hear us.

We have confidence in your company, to bring our confessions in silence as we hear and see on the screen, focus words to stimulate our thoughts and feelings.

(from InsideOut, Feb 2009, Issue 53, Council for World Mission)

(Katie (L1) and Lucy (L2) to speak the following words from their seats. Follow each word with 5 sec silence.)

Words for contemplation (on screen)

L1: separation

L2 loneliness

L1 broken hearted

L2 division

L1 neglect

L2 harm

L1 extinction

L2 pollution

L1 ignorance

L2 disregard

L1 impoverished

L2 injustice

Words of affirmation

(Have the same 2 continue reading the words below slowly, but **without** the 10 sec silence)

Peter: Hear now these life-giving words:

L1 welcome

L2 receive

L1 reconcile

L2 enfold

L1 restore

L2 care

L1 compassion

L2 love

L1 forgiven

L2 forgiven - (leave on screen till end of prayer)

Peter: May these words take root within us and become the living reality among and through us. Amen

(Source: online sample from Seasons FUSION)

9:30 - BIBLE READING: Peter - Romans 14:1-12 (CEV)

Don't Criticize Others

14 Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. ² Some think it is all right to eat anything, while those whose faith is weak will eat only vegetables. ³ But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone. ⁴ What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right.

⁵ Some of the Lord's followers think one day is more important than another. Others think all days are the same. But each of you should make up your own mind. ⁶ Any followers who count one day more important than another day do it to honour their Lord. And any followers who eat meat give thanks to God, just like the ones who don't eat meat.

⁷ Whether we live or die, it must be for God, rather than for ourselves. ⁸ Whether we live or die, it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord. ⁹ This is because Christ died and rose to life, so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you criticize other followers of the Lord? Why do you look down on them? The day is coming when God will judge all of us. ¹¹ In the Scriptures God says,

"I swear by my very life that everyone will kneel down and praise my name!"

¹² And so, each of us must give an account to God for what we do

9:32 – READING: Matthew 18:21-35 (CEV) - Rina

An Official Who Refused To Forgive

²¹ Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone^[a] who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?"

²² Jesus answered:

Not just 7 times, but 77 times!^[b] ²³ This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like:

One day a king decided to call in his officials and ask them to give an account of what they owed him. ²⁴ As he was doing this, one official was brought in who owed him 50,000,000 silver coins. ²⁵ But he didn't have any money to pay what he owed. The king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all he owned, in order to pay the debt.

²⁶ The official got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!" ²⁷ The king felt sorry for him and let him go free. He even told the official that he did not have to pay back the money.

²⁸ But as this official was leaving, he happened to meet another official, who owed him 100 silver coins. So he grabbed the man by the throat. He started choking him and said, "Pay me what you owe!"

²⁹ The man got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you back." ³⁰ But the first official refused to have pity. Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail until he could pay what he owed.

³¹ When some other officials found out what had happened, they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail. Then they told the king what had happened. ³² The king called the first official back in and said, "You're an evil man! When you begged for mercy, I said you did not have to pay back a cent. ³³ Don't you think you should show pity to someone else, as I did to you?" ³⁴ The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵ That is how my Father in heaven will treat you, if you don't forgive each of my followers with all your heart.

9:35 – MESSAGE – Doug

9:55 - SONG: ATOK 405 “Lord of all hopefulness” no introduction, start as soon as Doug has finished the message

9:58 – Peter - OFFERING: - show normal slide

Peter – In recognition of all the gifts we give of money, of service, of time – let us pray.
(show words on screen)

Call us out of our complacency, generous God.
Open our ears to your voice,
our eyes to your brilliance,
and our hands and hearts to share the blessings
that you have made possible for us.
We dedicate our gifts and our lives to your service.
So let it be

10:00 – Peter - COMMUNITY TIME - (Normal “Community Time” slide)

- Prayer people – Christine and myself in the Coffee Lounge
- “Journeying...Through the Rough” Tonight!!
- Voice Forum – Register so you can ask questions!!
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10:05 - Peter – Please join me in the PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE - (show the words of the prayer)

Peter - Lord,
We have known Your love,
and experienced Your care and provision.
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.
And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.
Lord, in Your love,
All - hear our prayer.

Peter -We pray for the many who do not have enough:

- enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;
- enough employment, or money to pay their bills;
- enough medicine or medical care.

Lord, in Your love,
All - hear our prayer.

Peter - We pray for people in distant lands who need your peace and comfort amidst their turmoil.

- For the Moroccans affected by the earthquake
- For the peoples affected by the war in Ukraine
- For the people who this week remembered the tragedy of 9/11

Lord, in Your love,
All – hear our prayer.

Peter - We also pray for those who have more than enough,

- but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;
- who indulge in self-serving activities
- to dull their pain or loneliness.

Lord, in Your love,

All - hear our prayer.

Peter - Lord, Your grace reaches out to all of us.
You call us to live as citizens
working together with one heart and mind.
offering our lives in your service,
where the last are first, and the first are last,
and there is grace enough for all.
Lord, in Your love,
All - hear our prayer, Amen

~ Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

10:07 - CATCH UP WITH CHILDREN – Peter

10:10 - SONG: “Bound by Love (ATO 373)” – no introduction, start as soon as Peter has finished with the children

10:13 - PARTING WORDS: Peter: (words on screen)

Peter: - In response to the words reflected on,
let us share a celebration of faith.

We celebrate a God

All: - who lives and speaks in sunsets,
in love-wrapped gifts,
and fleeting butterflies.

Peter: - We celebrate a Christ

All: - who honoured our humanness,
who climbed trees,
skinned knees;
who laughed and cried,
loved and wept, bled and died.

Peter: - We celebrate a Spirit,

All: - who mystically joins us
to people everywhere,
and incorporates us into Christ.

Peter: - We celebrate a church,

All: - seeking, however imperfectly,
to act justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with our God.
(Adapted. Dorothy McRae-McMahon/eoj)

10:14 – BLESSING – Doug

Go in peace to claim the life of Christ within your midst:
and may the earth be warm under your feet,
the rain bring the gentle flowers
of the bush bright around you,
and the wind blows as the breath of the Spirit before you.
Amen.

10:15 - POSTLUDE “This Kingdom” (ATOK 329)