
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**AUSTRALIA DAY
26 JANUARY 2025**



Today we are using the Australia Day liturgy from A Prayer Book of Australia, 'whose theme is reconciliation between the indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of Australia' (APBA p. 161)

WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. It is good to have you here today and we hope that you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter our church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and/or receive anointing for healing at the back. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited.

If you do not wish to drink the wine, we invite you to pause briefly before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that no one coming forward is visible online, but this cannot be guaranteed.

HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

We have a Hearing Assistance System available on Wi-Fi, usable with or without hearing aids. Please ask the stewards for assistance.

Please email office@theodores.org to join our mailing list.

Please stand if you wish

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 477 "IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST"

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, children of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

John Oxenham © CP 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7.14)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Though Christ has called us into one body, the oneness of the peoples of this land has been broken by acts of oppression and the failure of compassion.

Silence may be kept.

Let us therefore confess our brokenness, confident in God's power and promise to make us whole.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bounteous God,

we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land,

a land of despair and hope,

a land of wealth and abundant harvests,

a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land

and bring forgiveness, reconciliation,

and an end to all injustice;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 29.4-14

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD : Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD , plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD , and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD , and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33.12-21

Response: Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own

- ¹² Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord:
the people he chose to be his own possession.
- ¹³ The Lord looks down from heaven
and surveys all the children of Adam:
he considers from his dwelling-place all the inhabitants of the earth; **R**
- ¹⁴ He who fashioned the hearts of them all:
and comprehends all that they do.
- ¹⁵ A king is not saved by a mighty army:
nor is a warrior delivered by much strength; **R**
- ¹⁶ A horse is a vain hope as a deliverer:
nor can he rescue any by his great power.
- ¹⁷ But the eye of the Lord is on those that fear him:
on those that trust in his unfailing love, **R**
- ¹⁸ To deliver them from death:
and to feed them in the time of dearth.
- ¹⁹ We have waited eagerly for the Lord:
for he is our help and our shield. **R**
- ²⁰ Surely our hearts shall rejoice in him:
for we have trusted in his holy name.
- ²¹ Let your merciful kindness be upon us, O Lord:
even as our hope is in you. **R**

SECOND READING: I THESSALONIANS 5.12-24

- ¹² But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you;
¹³ esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.
- ¹⁵ See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets,

²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you wish

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 519 "MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE"

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

- 2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
*O, Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple from a prayer
of St Francis of Assisi © CP 2001

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings / to the poor
and to proclaim / freedom to captives**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to John 8.31-36
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' ³³ They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?''

³⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Conclusion:

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

NOTICES

Please stand if you wish

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 371 "ALL PRAISE TO OUR REDEEMING LORD"

- 1 All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

- 2 He bids us build each other up;
and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.
- 3 The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove,
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.
- 4 E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentered all, through Jesus' name,
in perfect harmony.
- 5 We all partake the joy of one;
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.
- 6 And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what height of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!

Charles Wesley © CP 2001

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always,
Lord of every time and place,
God beyond our dreaming.
We give you thanks
that from the beginning of time,
your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land.
In the fullness of time you revealed your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.
By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
We give you thanks that in him
you have revealed to us your presence in the vastness of this land,
your love in its fruitfulness,
and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

† Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today 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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;
those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

Please stand if you wish

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
you have created all humanity in your image and likeness,
and have revealed your plan and purpose
in calling us your friends and family.

As we have shared this holy meal,
inspire our hearts to see all people
given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

BLESSING

God of this ancient land, through baptism you have given us an
inheritance into one family, give us grace to walk together in the unity
of Christ Jesus;
and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand if you wish

DISMISSAL

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN TIS 621 "O GOD OF EVERY NATION"

1 O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us,
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife-torn world.

- 2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.

- 3 Lord, strengthen all who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter
your servants undergird.

- 4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

William Watkins Reid © TiS 1999

POSTLUDE: IVES: INTRADA

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.