

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 14 June 2026

Ordinary 11 A

Greetings and Welcome

In today's readings, Abraham and Sarah laugh because the promise seems impossible. The psalmist responds with gratitude because God has already heard the cry for help. Paul insists that Christ died for us while we were still sinners, before we had earned anything. Jesus sees the crowds not as a problem to be solved but as people harassed and helpless, and sends ordinary disciples into that need before they are fully prepared.

Abraham welcomes strangers into his tent. Before he knew who they were, before he understood why they had come, he offered hospitality and made room for them. As we greet one another in the different languages that connect us to each other and to this land, we are reminded that God's blessing is often discovered in welcoming those who are different from us. So let us share a greeting in the languages of our community.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

Balka wittaberri!

בֹּקֶר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

Goeie dag!

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Zou San! (Cantonese)

Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Parev! (Armenian)

Parev! (Armenian)

G'day! (Australian)

G'day! (Australian)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In this Season of the Spirit, we light a candle,
reminding us of the fire of hope and freedom.

As this flame flickers, we commit
to spread its light and heat in the world.

As we gather as Spirit-filled disciples of Christ,
we see the presence of the Spirit among us,
uniting us as we worship God.

Acknowledgement of Country

*And as we worship God in the presence of the Spirit, who has been on this
land since the beginning of time, let us take a moment to recognise all the
resources God has generously provided us through it.*

For this Land

We give thanks!

For the First People who cared for this land

We give thanks!

For all nations and people who live on this land

We give thanks!

We honour the custodians
of sacred stories,
of dreamings
and the connections
with the deep earth.

*May we work together
for the restoration*

*of the Land
and its People.*

Call to Worship

On an ordinary Sunday,
we come to worship God:

*we come, trusting God will speak to us;
we come, hoping God will surprise us.*

On this day, like every other day,
we seek to follow Jesus:

*we follow, believing Jesus will be with us;
we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.*

On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

*we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us;
we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.*

Praise Hymn:

Celebration Song

We come together today to celebrate the gift of God's presence among us. We acknowledge our God, who hears our cries, who walks with us through every season, and who surrounds us with his steadfast love. We come with thankful hearts, rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord and for all that he has done and continues to do in our lives. Please stand and sing "The Celebration Song".

Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

Psalm 116 says, "I love the LORD because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live." Every aspect of our lives is special to God; even those moments we do not consider worthy of remembering. So let us approach the God who cares for us, even if we think we are not worthy. Let us pray:

God of compassion,
the mother watching
her son packing for camp,

the father teaching
his daughter how to drive,
the spouse worrying
over their spouse's addiction to work,
the child closing
her ears to her parents' arguing:
 they are all precious in your sight.

Christ of hope,
the grandmother hoping
for a telephone call,
the neighbour frantic
about selling his house,
the teenager struggling
with choices she cannot share,
the retiree wandering
the empty hours of daytime:
 they are all welcomed into your heart.

Spirit of Serenity,
the kids on the corner selling
lemonade to help a classmate,
the teacher already preparing
for next year's classes,
the parent wondering
how to pay for groceries,
the unemployed hoping
for good news this week:
 each is cradled in your peace.

We lift our prayer to you,
God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen!

Praise Time:**Mighty To Save**

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus looking upon the crowds with compassion. He sees people who are lost, bewildered, helpless and searching for hope. He sees a people whose hearts are thirsty and ready to hear the good news. Jesus responds by giving his disciples authority to bring healing and mercy, and to speak the message of God's kingdom.

Through the ages, our mission has not changed. The same compassion of Christ is at the heart of our faith today. Through those who have heard the good news, Jesus continues to change the lives of the lost, the hurting, and those in need of grace. He is the Saviour who forgives, restores, and brings life. As we come to worship today, let us remember the compassion of our Saviour and stand to sing "Mighty to Save".

Prayer of Confession

If you are looking for proof of God's love, here it is: at the very moment we realise we cannot help ourselves, that is the time we discover God has saved us in Christ Jesus. Let us pray:

God love,
how easily we pat ourselves on the back for the lives we lead. We welcome the praise of others, but have little compassion for those who have failed us. We assume that a comfortable life is our birthright, yet we believe poor choices produce suffering for those around us. We boast of the good we do, but forget to thank you for all that you have given to us.

Companion of Compassion,
forgive us for breaking your heart and disappointing your hopes for us. As we seek to follow your Child, may we be found with those whose lives are barren, with those who know little laughter in their day, with those who have received no love from others, for in their presence, we will find Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Silence is kept

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Listen to the good news - the kingdom of God is very near. As close as a child's laughter, as embracing as a father's love, as enfolding as a mother's caress.

You are God's people:
called, to follow;
gifted, to serve;
to bring hope to all because
your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The Lord gives us strength;
The Lord blesses us with peace;
The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements/Notices

Prayers of Intercession

Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.

Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, Prayers.

Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.

God of communion and community,
we give you thanks for our life together in Christ and the work of the Spirit that draws us closer to you and to each other. We pray for the life of our congregation. Send your Spirit to work in and through us. May the grace of Christ sustain us in communion and community, even when we differ over decisions and directions.

[Add more prayers here](#)

God of healing,
we thank you for the hope, comfort, and strength you provide in our vulnerability. Be with all who suffer, offering your Spirit as a presence of comfort and healing. May they find peace and support in relationships and communities of safety and trust.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and remember:

— A moment of silence —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

Open our eyes and give us the wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

God of enduring hope,
we give thanks for the gift of life revealed in Christ. In places of abundance, many still live in poverty. In places of promise, many face disease, grief, and uncertainty. Yet even in hardship, laughter rises, hope endures, and courage is renewed.

Where communities are broken, where relationships are strained, and where opportunities have been lost, call us to be builders of peace, justice, and compassion. Strengthen us to rebuild what has fallen, to support those who struggle, and to work together for the well-being of all.

When tears are shed, and hearts grow weary, remind us that despair does not have the final word. Renew us with wisdom, perseverance, and love, that we may be troubled but not overcome. And as sisters and brothers across the world place their hope in you, we join our voices with theirs in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song:

These Are The Days Of Elijah

The fields are ripe for the harvest, and Jesus sends his disciples to proclaim the good news, to bring hope, to bring healing and love to those they meet everyday. As we prepare ourselves to hear the Scriptures, may we too hear Christ's call and be willing labourers carrying out God's message and preparing the way for the Lord. Please stand and sing "These are the Days of Elijah".

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us say the prayer of illumination together.

Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.

We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.

Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.

Amen.

Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 18:1-15

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Genesis 18:1-15

The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, chapter eighteen, verses one to fifteen. Listen now for the word of God.

18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

18:2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

18:3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.

18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

- 18:5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”
- 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.”
- 18:7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.
- 18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- 18:9 They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”
- 18:10 Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.
- 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.
- 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?”
- 18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’
- 18:14 Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”
- 18:15 But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

Romans 5:1-8

The Epistle Reading is from the epistle to the Romans, chapter five, verses one to eight. Listen now for the word of God.

- 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 5:2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
- 5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

- 5:4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- 5:5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 5:7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
- 5:8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter nine, verse thirty-five to chapter ten, verse eight. Listen now to the Word of God

- 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.
- 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
- 9:38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
- 10:1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.
- 10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

- 10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
 10:4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.
 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,
 10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 10:7 As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’
 10:8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children’s Story

Sermon:

Hymn/ Offering

The Summons

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed

Let us affirm our faith.

Prayer for Offering

God of the marginalised,
 where the broken are, may we bring them healing.
 Where the lonely are, may we be their family.
 Where the hungry are, may we offer them hope.
 Wherever and however we find your people,
 may we go to share the gifts you have given us.

Amen.

Communion Song:**Broken For Me Broken For You**

As we come to the Lord's Table, we remember the compassion of Jesus that we have heard about in today's Gospel. Christ saw the needs of the people, reached out to them with love, and ultimately gave himself completely for the sake of the world.

In Communion, we receive the signs of that self-giving love. The broken bread and the shared cup remind us that Jesus offered his life so that we might know forgiveness, healing, and new life in him. We come not because we are worthy, but because Christ invites us and nourishes us with his grace.

As we sing "Broken for Me, Broken for You", may we reflect on the depth of Christ's sacrifice, receive his love with thankful hearts, and be strengthened to serve others as his disciples in the world.

Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord calls ordinary people to follow him, to learn from him, and to share in his work. He calls us not because we are ready, but because he is faithful. So come, not because you have all the answers, but because Christ calls you. Come to this table, all who love him, repent of their sin, and seek peace with one another.

Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
God's new covenant, poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I
drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup
apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity
breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the gracious God be with you!

And also with you!

In the presence of God's people, lift up your hearts.

We call on God's name with joy in our hearts.

Offer God songs of thanksgiving this day.

We love God, who hears our voices of praise.

God of love,
when there was no time,
when there was only chaos,
you knew it was the right moment
to bring forth creation
in all of its glory.

Butterflies dancing from flower to flower,
birds harmonising in praise,
gentle breezes caressing grass,
kittens chasing bugs they will never catch.
Given this bounty of goodness,
we returned your graciousness
with blatant betrayal,
tossing aside your hopes for us,

proclaiming sin and death
as the authorities for our lives.

Heartbroken,
you sought to provide a way
for us to return to your grace
through the words of the prophets,
but we laughed to ourselves
as we continued skipping down
that never-ending road of rebellion.

But you proved your love for us
by sending Jesus to die for us,
an act we would not do
even for those we loved.

So, with those of every time and place,
with those in this place, and in this moment,
we will sing our praises to you,
knowing you incline your ear to listen:

*Holy, holy, holy are you, God of mercy.
Your servants join all creation in praising you.
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is the One who tells us of the kingdom's nearness.
Hosanna in the highest!*

Here, in these moments
as we prepare to feast on your love,
pour out your Spirit
upon the bounty of your grace,
this bread and this cup,
and upon those for whom they are given.
You would feed us
on the Bread of life,
so we might go out
to bring hope to all
whom the world has disappointed.

You offer us the cup of grace,
so, as your love is poured
deep within our parched souls,
we can become that offering
of peace and reconciliation
for which all creation longs.

And when time has come to an end,
and we are all one with you,
we will call on your name,
God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;
Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

We thank You, God, our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we have received Christ, the true Bread of Heaven. You call us not because we are ready, but because You are faithful. As we leave this table, strengthen us to trust Your call, to serve with courage, and to follow where You lead. Let the flame burn brighter within us, that Your love may shine through us.

Amen.

Hymn After Communion**Let The Flame Burn Brighter**

Having gathered in worship, heard God's Word, and shared at Christ's Table, we are now sent out to continue the mission to which we have been called. The work of God's kingdom is not powered by our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit who equips, guides, and empowers us. As followers of Christ, we will walk the land with hearts on fire. For a new day is dawning, hope is rising, and the sounds of singing will ring in the air. Please stand and sing "Let the Flame Burn Brighter".

Blessing

Go now, trusting the call of God,
even when you do not feel ready.
Follow where Christ sends you,
and share the compassion and hope you have freely received.

And may God bless you and strengthen you for the journey;
May Christ Jesus call you beyond fear and into service;
And may the Holy Spirit grow wisdom and courage within you,
so that you may serve with faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Blessing Song**Let The Flame Burn Brighter (Chorus)**