

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday February 16th

Joint Worship/Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Sheena Cameron

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Rock-a My Soul”, arranged by Valerie W. Stephenson
(United Handbell Choir)

*SONG OF WELCOME Open Doors

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Some boast of their motor cars, and some of their mansions,
but we boast of the name of the Lord of hosts!

**P: Should all else collapse in a heap,
we shall stand up tall.**

L: Do not be impressed by the outward appearance of a person,
for God does not see like we do, but looks into the heart.

**P: If anyone travels with Christ, there is a new creation,
old things are obsolete, all things become new.**

L: Let us worship this God who looks into the human heart
and through Christ Jesus makes all things new.

~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on **Bruce Prewer's Home Page.** <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

OPENING PRAYER

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation.
Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts,
and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations,

and to be a conduit for the deep listening
which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity,
giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action,
and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love,
that our security is not threatened if we change our minds,
or begin to see a better way to act.

Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale –
politicians, world leaders, leaders of business,
and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict.

Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage
in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness,
and bringing people and nations together. Amen.

~ written by Ann Siddall, in *Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C*. Posted on the website of the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre**. <http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/>

ANTHEM “Order My Steps” by Glenn Burleigh, arranged by Jack Schrader

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER This Little Light of Mine (3rd verse)

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PRAYER HYMN Prayer is the Soul’s Sincere Desire UMH 492

TIME OF PRAYER
SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN Beams of Heaven as I Go UMH 524

LESSON I Psalm I CEB

The truly happy person

 doesn't follow wicked advice,
 doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
 and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

² Instead of doing those things,
 these persons love the Lord's Instruction,
 and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

³ They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
 which bears fruit at just the right time
 and whose leaves don't fade.

 Whatever they do succeeds.

⁴ That's not true for the wicked!
 They are like dust that the wind blows away.

⁵ And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—

 neither will sinners
 in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ The Lord is intimately acquainted
 with the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 CEB

¹⁶ So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

¹⁸ All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

What is Black History?

*HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing UMH 519

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Shalom to You UMH 666

POSTLUDE