

Closing Prayer

Creator God, you created each and every one of us as a unique person with a special gift that we can offer and use as our part for the good of the world around us. We give you thanks for your acceptance of us into your Kingdom. We pray that through the difficult and uncertain journey we are on at the moment with the COVID-19 pandemic that we will have the strength through you to help those who are struggling.
Amen

Blessing

May God the creator of heaven and earth
plant the seed of hope in our lives.
Jesus the Christ tend it with the generosity of his love.
And the Holy Spirit shower it with her tenderness.
May the blessing of God, Triune, one yet three
be with us now and always.
Amen

With thanks to Ian Sharp for preparing today's reflection



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Church in a Bag
Sunday 11 October
Dubbo Uniting Church



A Gathering

May God's peace be with you as your hearts are opened to His love.

In this quiet space
remember all those who have come before us
as they have handed down stories
and ways of their culture
from generation to generation.

This land is part of God's truly wonderful creation
and we especially acknowledge the elders
past, present and emerging
of the lands where we worship.

The artwork shows a track between two places. As pilgrims it reminds us that we are a people always on the way. As we undertake this spiritual journey, we are reminded also that we need to listen to and share with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters as we journey with them. *Artist: Inkatja*

Preparation

God of grace and love, we pray that at this time our minds and hearts will be stilled and that once again we can hear your invitation in the stillness to us to give our lives again to you.
Amen

Reading:

Matthew 22: 1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet



Reflection

Once again Jesus offers us some food for thought in the form of a parable. The parable depicts that of a king preparing a wedding banquet for his son to which none of the invited guests could be bothered coming.

The parable also seems to illustrate Matthew 21 Verse 43 which says “Therefore I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the Kingdom”.

We are surrounded by all kinds of people in the world we live in. The rich, the poor, the famous, etc. etc. The parable of the wedding feast depicts that, in the end, the invitation to God’s Kingdom is open to everyone not just a select few. When we accept that invitation, we are loved with a love that never ends. It is certainly an honour to be part of a great tapestry that has been woven together with different gifts and talents knowing that no gift is too small.

On our journeys we all make mistakes but the best thing is that our God is a God of love and forgiveness. Our God walks beside us, giving us guidance through every situation that we face on our journeys and yes sometimes it feels as if he abandons us. But he doesn’t.

The words of a song come to mind:

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia”

On our journeys we are assured that God is with us. Amen

A song to sing or to read: Come As You Are

Come as you are, that's how I want you
Come as you are, feel quite at home
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits
No need to fear, love never ends
Don't run away shamed and disheartened
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous
I came to bring peace, not to condemn
Each time you fail to live by my promise
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you
Come as you are, trust me again
Nothing can change the love that I bear you
All will be well, just come as you are.

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