

Our song to sing or to read: Jesus Christ is Waiting

.Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets
No one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets
Where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets
Curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets
Where each sign of hatred He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard Let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet".
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

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Closing Prayer

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

Quote: Frederick Buechner

God does not give us neat answers. He gives us himself.

With thanks to Ian Sharp for preparing today's reflection



Church in a Bag
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Dubbo Uniting Church



Call to worship

May God's peace be with you as your hearts are opened to His love. In this quiet space, may we remember all those who have come before us, the way they have handed down stories of their culture and ways 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.



Preparation

We come today, Lord, into this silence, into this space to revel in your goodness and greatness. We come to share our lives with you and to listen to what you will share with us. Lord of beauty and grace, unlock our hearts and minds to your awesome presence.



Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Mark 1:21–28.

Reflection – “Jesus walks his talk”

Today we are presented with a reading from the Gospel of Mark that tells us of Jesus’ healing and teaching prowess, showing us the prophetic mode of Jesus. We also have a reading from Deuteronomy in which God lets the audience know they will be sent a prophet that will come from their own. They are told they must listen to him. Is this prophet Moses?

People who speak with prophetic goodness and truth, as Jesus did, bring hope and much inspiration to many around them, even if they do confront us with truths about ourselves that we would rather not hear. We are reminded of recent prophets, such as Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, who looked oppression and injustice in the face and stood firmly for freedom, even if it did cost them dearly. In our world today we are surrounded by many problems. We are surrounded by much hatred, much turmoil: so much in fact that to do it (be a prophet) on our own would possibly cost us dearly. However, prophets do not need to be individuals. Instead, we can become a prophetic church or group of churches. There is scope to be a voice together and together work towards changing our world. Jesus certainly did walk his talk. Is that our challenge?



What is bothering you most? Is there something specific in your life or is there someone you love who needs the healing touch of Jesus? Whatever it is, write it down on a piece of paper and lay it in a special place to signify that you want Jesus to have the authority from now on to take action in that situation.



Prayer of Praise and Confession

Holy God we join in adoration of your unconditional love
which is there for all
of the grace and mercy
that was evidenced in the birth of the Christ child.
Our adoration and praise
are the heartbeats of our love for you.

However, in our humanness Lord, we are far from perfect.
The time of celebration has passed and life is back to normal.
Life with its busyness has taken over
and we sometimes lose sight of our relationship with the Christ child.
Forgive us merciful God
when we cannot see you in our everyday lives.
When we look into the face of another
may the face of God be reflected in our eyes.
May we know that our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.
Amen