

Contemplative Evensong

18 March, 2023



Led by
Carol Streatfield

We acknowledge that for thousands of years First Nations people have walked in this land, on their own country. The relationship with the land has been at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather, the Yuggerapul and Turrubul people, and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

[Reflection music:

Serenade - Pachelbel In The Garden Dan Gibson's Solitudes
<https://youtu.be/q7KEpSyN7HM?list=RDMM>

Psalm 90 Gregorian Chant
<https://youtu.be/sQNJs89E6x8?list=RDLVm52fDOoLUks>

Loving Touch - Deuter (10:10)
<https://youtu.be/PMa2iDIOkil?list=RDEMTv7EUax389RFoo3Hfud9jg>

Gathering in God's Name:

With nature in its power and beauty,
With rain and wind and sunshine,
With the ancient rocks and the budding flowers:

We gather in praise of God.

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,
With people in every land,
And speakers of every language:

We gather in praise of God.

With the angels and saints in heaven,
With all those who built community here,
And with all who have worshipped in this place:

We gather in praise of God.

With Jesus who promised his presence,
And the Spirit who showers her blessings:

We gather in praise of God.

Here let heaven and earth embrace.

Here may God's people find home.

Hymn: **Be still, for the presence of the Lord -**

<https://youtu.be/XOCfPjLOvC4>

Confession and Absolution:

As bearers of your image, we come to be reshaped
Dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made anew.

**For the right roads we didn't travel,
and the kindly words we refused to share;
God, by your grace, forgive us.**

**For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly
and the promises we never kept;
God, by your grace, forgive us.**

**For all we should be, and all we can amend,
God, in your love, renew us.**

May God who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ.

Amen.

The Holy Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Reflection:

(Pause 10 min music)

*Hymn: **Out of Darkness** - David Kauffman*
<https://youtu.be/UljHI3-D2RI>

Let us pray

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven.**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on Earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.**

Amen

Praise is yours, Holy God,
praise beyond all telling.
All that we are, all that we have,
all that we know and all that is yet to be
comes from your care.

Water and wisdom, light and longing,
the stones in the earth and the hope in our hearts
are grounded in your graciousness.

The life of the world and all its people,
nature and human skill celebrate you
as first ever and final destiny.

Therefore to the unending song of earth,
sea and sky we join our praise.
To the anthems of the company of heaven -
the angels and archangels, and the saints of every age,
we join our praise, singing the song of your eternal greatness.

**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**



*Whoever loves true prayer
and yet becomes angry or resentful
is his own enemy.
He is like a man who wants to see clearly
and yet inflicts damage on his own eyes.*

Evagrius of Pontus



*Who are you, sweet Light, that fills me,
And illumines the darkness of my heart?
You lead me like a mother's hand,
And should you let go of me,
I would not know how to take another step.
You are the space
That embraces my being and buries it in yourself.
Away from you it sinks into the abyss
Of nothingness, from which you raised it to the light.
You. Nearer to me than I to myself
And more interior than my most interior,
And still impalpable and intangible
And beyond any name;
Holy Spirit, eternal love!*

Edith Stein

**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.
Amen.**

Hymn: Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us -
https://youtu.be/JAve_-XMoMY

Please stand:

May the blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Thanks be to God



Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book; Christchurch: Genesis Pub, 1989.
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Reflection:

John 9: 1-41

*“One thing I do know,
that though I was blind,
now I see.”*

- John 9: 25

