

Balmain Uniting Church August 28th Closure of Ministry Service



Liturgy adapted: Feasting on the Word, Words for Worship, Uniting in Worship II and Rev.

James Aaron

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CCLI #339483

Today's Readings:

Acknowledgment of Country

We begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather here in Balmain, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and we pay our respects to Elders and leaders, past, present and emerging.

- Let us collect in silence -

— A Silent Collect —
Lighting the candle

Call to Worship

Come church,
Just as you are.
Come all you people.
We have come to worship.

We have come to let go,
To give over,
To receive
And to share.

Let us gather around you,
Creator, Merciful One, and Friend.

Let us sing,

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I confess to God,
Creator, Christ and Counsellor
And to you my siblings and friends,
That I have sinned in thought, word and deed.
I pray God have mercy on me.

**May God grant you forgiveness of all your sins
And the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Let us confess our sins,

**We confess to God,
Creator, Christ and Counsellor
And to you our brother,**

**That we have sinned in throughout, word and deed.
We pray God to have mercy on us.**

May God, forgive you,
And grant you joy and peace,
In God's pardoning Grace. Amen.

Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Christ,
Calls us into forgiveness and newness.
We are indeed a new creation.
In this knowledge we know.
That we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

In every age, and through each generation,
God in Christ the good shepherd
Calls faithful servants to preach the Gospel,
Celebrate the sacraments,
And build up people in faith and love.
For he came not to be served, but to serve,
And to give his life as a ransom for many.

We give thanks God for this community,
For all those who have been called to lead,
To listen, to be faithful and to show up with and for one another.
We give thanks for the ordinary everyday,
And the extraordinary made known through your love.

We pray thanks to you for this space,
Where we have found welcome and grace.
In you we find thanks,
And so with all of our selves
We praise your holy name.

Hymn / Song: As the Deer TiS 703

As The Deer Pants For The Water
So My Soul Longs After You
You Alone Are My Hearts Desire
And I Long To Worship You

You Alone Are My Strength, My Shield
To You Alone May My Spirit Yield
You Alone Are My Heart's Desire
And I Long To Worship You

I Want You More Than Gold Or Silver
Only You Can Satisfy
You Alone Are The Real Joy Giver
And The Apple Of My Eye

You're My Friend And You Are My Sibling
Even Though You Are our God
I Love You More Than Any Other
So Much More Than Anything.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Ezekiel 37
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2** He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3** He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe

upon these slain, that they may live.” 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Luke 14:1-14

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

14 On one occasion when Jesus^[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. 2 Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had edema. 3 And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, “Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?” 4 But they were silent. So Jesus^[b] took him and healed him and sent him away. 5 Then he said to them, “If one of you has a child^[c] or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?” 6 And they could not reply to this.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Sermon

Rev. Danielle Hemsworth-Smith

...

Prayers of the People.

We gather our prayers for each other, the world and the church...

In your mercy
Hear our prayer

...

God we lay the concerns and yearnings of our hearts, spoken and unspoken into your hands. Help us live with these, help us live out your word,
Make us your hands and feet in your world.
Amen.

Announcements and Offering

Announcements and Offering

Prayers over the offering

God of generosity,
We offer these gifts as part of the wider gifts of our lives.
Use our being and our living to bring about your kingdom.
That we might be bearers of hope today and the days to come.
Amen.

Hymn / Song: See I make all things new

Refrain

*See, I make all things new
New as night turns to morning
The Spirit is calling*

*I'm with you
I make all things new*

Verse 1

*The rivers are bursting with life
The stars in the night sky sing praise
Come to me in joy
Come to me in song
All of creation rejoice!*

Refrain

Verse 2

*Trust in the promise of life
Colour the earth with my love
Come to me in joy
Come to me in song
Open your hearts rejoice!*

Refrain

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A service to mark the conclusion of a Placement

Since the Church lives by the power of the Word,
It is assured that God has never failed
To provide a witness to that Word.

In October of 2020, The Presbytery of Sydney
Inducted the Rev. James Aaron as a Minister of the Word among you.

We witnessed your promises to take part
In the public of God,
To contribute to the work of God,
And to make a Christian witness in the community
By word and action.

The Presbytery believes that God has called him
Into another place.
The time has come to mark the end
Of his particular responsibilities

In this congregation
And to send him with God's blessing
To this new place and ministry.

The Minister says:

Siblings in Christ,
You called me to minister with you,
And charged me to preach the Word,
Preside at the sacraments
And into the pastoral life of the congregation.
You will call another minister into this place,
And I must lay down the tasks you committed to me.

During this time, I let go of the charges
That we have made together,
In certain hope that you will continue
To worship, witness and serve as Christ's body in this place.

The Presbytery representative says:

On behalf of the Presbytery of Sydney,
We thank you for your ministry of God's grace
With Balmain Uniting Church.

We release you for this ministry
And will continue to give you pastoral care
And oversight in this Presbytery.

As you take up your new role
With the Wayside Chapel,
We will pray God's blessing
On your continued work and Ministry.

Be strong, and of good courage, do not be afraid;
For it is the Lord who goes with you.
Your God will not fail you or forsake you.

The Sending forth of the people of God

O God,
Be with those who leave,
And those who will stay,
And grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you,
May always be close to each other,
In your communion of holy ones,
Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Commissioning and Blessing

We are God's children,
Forgiven, loved and blessed,
Sent that we might be bearers of hope in the world.

**May the love of God enfold you,
The presence of Christ surprise you,
And the breath of the Spirit give you joy.**

Amen