

A Service for the week leading up to 7th of June

This service is written for Stretton Park and McDonald Wing in Maffra, Laurina Lodge in Heyfield and Royal Freemason's in Sale, but with the intention of being available for use in other retirement villages and nursing homes and for private use.

INTRODUCTION

Today, we particularly remember God as Trinity. The belief in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is what defines us as Christians. Our belief that Jesus is the Christ, and is eternal and divine separates us from the Jewish and Moslem Faiths.

HYMN No. 1 - All people that on earth do dwell

You can read the words to yourself, or out loud. If you remember the tune well enough you can sing it yourself. You can, of course sing just the first, or the first and last verses.

From **PSALM 8**

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. What is humanity that you are mindful of us? You have made people to rule over your creation, you put all the animals, birds and fish under our feet. O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER

We thank you O God for this good earth, for the fruit trees, the sheep and cattle, the domestic fowls and the wild birds, the fish we eat and for the wonders of the ocean. Help all people to take the responsibility of using this world's resources wisely and well. Thank you Lord, for the beauty of the earth and help us to remember those times we have had, when we looked on the natural world and we were struck with wonder. We thank you, O God, for this good earth. Amen

HYMN No. 8 - How great thou art

BIBLE READING

Today's Bible reading is from Matthew 28 : 16 - 20. This reading is the last four verses of the Gospel of Matthew, so it is after Jesus' death and resurrection. It says:

Jesus met His disciples and said : go and make disciples in all nations, teaching them what I commanded you. Baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I am with you always, to the end of the age.

REFLECTION

This reading is known as the great commission. Jesus had told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit gave them the gifts and the courage to go out and spread the good news of the Gospel. Here, Jesus says specifically that the good news is not just for the nation of Israel, the Jews, but it is for all nations across the world. Jesus also said that He would be with the disciples to the end of the age. So even after He ascended to heaven, He was still with those disciples in some different, special way. Even today, whenever a few of us gather together in Jesus name, He is with us in that special way. This shows His eternal nature, Jesus the Christ, still with us as we gather now, and to the end of civilisation as we know it. As Christians, we are given the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide. Christ Jesus joins us with His presence as we meet, making us the body of Christ on earth. It is God the Father that Jesus prayed to. The God who is Creator, the God who called Abraham, the God who calls all nations to follow Him through the teaching of Jesus. And so, God is with us, now and always, through the Creator Father, through God in the human form of Jesus, and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN No. 9 - Praise my soul, the king of heaven

PRAYER

We thank you, God our Father for the wonderful, beautiful world you have created for us and given to us to manage. We thank you, Jesus Christ our saviour, for the teaching you gave us and for the forgiveness you bought to us through your time here on earth. We thank you, O Holy Spirit, for guiding our hearts, minds and lives. We pray for those we care for, knowing that you care for them too. You know their needs as you know ours, and so we commend ourselves and those we care for into your care.

And we pray together,

THE 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever, AMEN

HYMN No 7 - Count your blessings

THE BLESSING

May the Creator God keep you aware of the beauty of the earth, and of the love of those who care for you. And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always, Amen