



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 30th August 2020

Volume 26 Issue 31

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you all for the kind-hearted welcome. The cards, emails, phone calls, and other treats, have all provided Rob and I with a warm and friendly start to our relationship together. I felt uplifted at the induction service, knowing that even if you were not able to be online with us for the service, your prayers were there. I look forward to the days when we can share the hospitality of Christ with you all. Till then, we will have to do our best under the strange circumstances we all find ourselves in. Thanks be to God, that the number of people contracting Covid, and hopefully the number of associated deaths, are beginning to shift.

As I think of you starting out with a new minister, I guess you may like to hear what the next 18-24 months of Intentional Interim Ministry will look like in Glengarry, Rosedale and Traralgon. To start with I can reiterate what I shared on Sunday, the big picture is that we will be; getting a clearer picture of who we are as Traralgon District Uniting Church; getting a clearer picture of who our neighbours are; and finally, but most importantly, we will be discerning where God is calling us to, in light of who we are and who our neighbour is. Sounds simple, right?

Well another way of describing the role I have is, I will be a pastor to you, and I will be a coach to the transition team. Who are they? Well it will take the first few months for us to set that team up, after that, they will be coached in taking a lead role in guiding the congregations through the discernment process. It would be presumptuous and misguided for a newcomer, such as I or anyone else, to tell you, who have been gifted with the ministry of Christ in this place, who you are, who your neighbour is and where God is calling you. So I won't.

At the induction service we made a covenant with each other. I re-affirmed my faith, accepted the discipline and oversight of the church, affirmed the covenant between first and second peoples of this land, and accepted the call to share in the life and witness of the Uniting Church with you. You, or members on your behalf, re-affirmed your commitment to make a Christian witness in these communities, accepted me as your pastor and leader, and committed to provide for my physical welfare. We each committed to uphold each other in prayer and care.

Friends, I felt blessed to be here with you. I look forward with enthusiasm to our journey together and I would like to greet you in the name of our most gracious and loving God.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Rev Dr. Kerry Pierce

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Traralgon District Uniting Church  
Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches Worship at Home  
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 30th August 2020

**Songs:**

[Jesus Culture - God With Us](#) (Live/Lyrics And Chords) ft. Bryan Torwalt  
[For the One](#) (Lyric Video) - Brian & Jenn Johnson | After All These Years

**Call to Worship:**

The flame of Christ reminds us that God's Love is present, (You may like to light a candle)

**The flame of Love dwells among us.**

The sound of silence reminds us that God's Spirit is present, (You may like to sit in silence for a moment)

**The sound of Silence dwells among us.**

The strangeness of gathering in separate places reminds us that a Loving Parent calls us to be as One, scattered yet present in faith filled community,

**We are strangers together, on a journey to Life in God's Oneness.**

Father, Son and Spirit, Holy God, we come to worship You.

As we enter this time of worship, I acknowledge the First Peoples of the lands and waters here, the Gunai Peoples; I offer respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

As we enter this time of worship, we remember the sacredness of God's good creation; and, we remember the Communion of Saints, who dwell among us in the Kingdom they have been called to.

(You may like to take a moment to acknowledge your faithful relations)

**Hymn:** [Father, Lord of all creation](#) (TiS 631)

**Prayers of Adoration & Invocation:**

Eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth, we praise you for your greatness. Your wisdom is seen in all your works. Your grace and truth are revealed in Jesus Christ your Son. Your presence and power are given to us through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, blessed Trinity, we worship and adore you.

We worship and adore you, as you come to us, Lord of heaven and earth.

Come to us, God of hope. Come to us with your promises. Come in your mysterious presence.

Come, that we may marvel at your faithfulness in past generations; that we may celebrate the new things you are doing among us today; that we may be your pilgrim people on our journey to your kingdom.

Come to us, God of hope. Amen.

**Psalm 105:1-5,7-8a**

**Song (NKJV) "[Oh, Give Thanks to the LORD](#)"** (Esther Mui)

**Prayer of Confession:**

Paul's urging to the Romans may be retold as an urging to us all. I invite you into a prayerful, penitent reading of Romans 12:9-21.

Merciful God, we are sorry, that we have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves, here, now, may we hear your call to life anew.

Holy Community of Love; Creating, Liberating, Sustaining, One; guide us to follow you and to;

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;<sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NRSV)

Gracious God, though we have often failed to take up the cross of discipleship and to be loving stewards of your gospel. We trust in your never-ending faithfulness to make all things new.

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

As we confess our sin, God is faithful and just, forgiving our failings and our faithlessness.

Christ's word of grace is for us: 'We are forgiven and free.' **Thanks be to God.**

**Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow (TiS 768)

[The Doxology | Anthem Lights ft. Selah](#)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God) above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!



**Scripture Reading:**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28

In this we hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: [I the Lord of sea and sky](#) (TiS 658) Hymn Channel

Read the [Sermon](#) now:

Reflective Hymn: [I need you, Lord, for I have seen](#) (TiS 625) Bruce Duncan

1. *I need you, Lord, for I have seen what life, if led by you, may be; come, be my master, make me clean from all my sin's impurity.*
2. *Show me yourself through life's dark maze when doubts bring darkness, fears are strong; give me your strength, that all my days may know the triumph over wrong.*
3. *Help me to see you where you are, among the weary, sad and lost; give me a warm, responsive heart, to love them, too, at any cost.*
4. *In serving you where'er you lead, I'll share your cross, your servant be: until I find that all my need is met when I your face shall see.*

Clifford George Taylor 1915-94 *alt.* Words © A. Taylor (Reproduced with permission)

**Offering & Prayers of the People:** Rob Pierce

We give thanks for the gifts and talents you have given to us for us to use in serving you in this place; in your kingdom in the world. We pray for your blessing on these gifts we offer in service to your work. Guide us this day to use our gifts and our talents wisely in our community as an expression of your love and care in bringing new life in Christ into the hearts of all we meet in many different ways as your faithful servants.

O God with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us.

By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for his love endures forever."  
2 Chronicles 20:21b*



NOTICE

The Induction Service for Rev Dr Kerry Pierce held on Sunday 23rd August is available for viewing by following the link below

<http://personalsoftware.iinet.net.au/TUC/Induction-Service.mp4>

### **We come to God with our prayers for other people.**

God, Creator and Saviour, source of peace for the entire world: be our life today. O Christ, you call us to share with others: unite us in your love. O Christ, our Shepherd, you come to seek those who are lost, you visit the lonely and the abandoned: give them new hope. Comforting Spirit, you place in us hope and joy: fill us with your love. Comforting Spirit, you awaken in us a love that forgives: come to us, Holy Spirit. Lord Christ, enable us to turn to you at every moment. So often we forget that your Holy Spirit dwells in us, that you pray in us, that you love in us. Your miracle in us is your trust, and your constant forgiveness.

Heavenly Lord, we thank you for the gift of good health and peace that we have enjoyed for so many years. As we find ourselves in this time of crisis today, we ask for your divine intervention and mercy to be upon each of us. Come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the COVID-19 virus. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment. We also pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. Father, we thank you for their hearts of service, putting the needs of society before their own, generously responding to the cry of Your people. We ask that You will grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet! Lord, we surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the virus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful God, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives.

Lord God we pray for the People of Traralgon, Glengarry and Rosedale. Help us to support one another as we remain isolated. We pray for those who have lost a loved person in their lives, and for those who are unable to make their normal contact with family and friends. Lead us to offer that contact and support in some caring, perhaps novel form. We pray for neighbours who have lost jobs, are concerned about schooling, about making ends meet. We pray for the homeless and the hungry. Lead us to provide support, care and love to those in distress. We remember those suffering with the pressure of home isolation and challenging relationship with family. Lead them to a renewed understanding of family and love. We pray for our congregations and our leaders in their deliberations as they work in Christ's love to support your people and provide opportunities to meet as one in Christ. Loving God, teach us to trust you and to love our neighbours and our family as you shower your love on us. We your faithful servant pray through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen!

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Hymn: [I danced in the morning](#) (TiS 242) **First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska**

Benediction & Word of mission:

The Dance of our Lord, invites us; follow. The Cross of Christ, awaits us; follow.

The Spirit of Life, urges us; follow.

As we go into the week ahead, Our faith and hope in God's presence, goes with us, God say's "I will be with you"; and that my friends is Enough.

So,

May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace. May you know the support of family, friends and People who feel as passionately about the world as you do. May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses who, Through the ages, Did God's work, prayed, and, sang with joy.

Hymn: [You shall go out with Joy](#) (TiS 755) **TTM English**

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Opening Prayer (adapted from [UIW2](#)); Offertory Prayers adapted from; "All things come from you, O God" by Hoyt Hickman, from *The Worship Resources of The United Methodist Hymnal*, p. 51; Prayers of Intercession includes Pope Francis prayer for COVID-19 <https://popefrancisdaily.com/prayer-covid-19/> (adapted);

Benediction (adapted from Neil Paynter's blessing, p 370 *Holy Ground: Liturgies and Worship Resources for an engaged Spirituality 2005*).

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