



54A - PENTECOST 12A LITURGY ONLINE

Share Sunday 2020

Abstract

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.
Matthew 16:27

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54A - Pentecost 12A liturgy online

Share Sunday 2020

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020 | AFTER PENTECOST | PROPER 17 | YEAR A

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Exodus 3:1–15

Psalm Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45c

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Jeremiah 15:15–21

Psalm Psalm 26:1–8

New Testament Romans 12:9–21

Gospel Matthew 16:21–28ⁱ

Having acknowledged the truth of Peter’s declaration, Jesus tells his friends what kind of king he will be: one that suffers. And he tells them that they too will suffer if they come after him; it is the only way to find the life they seek.

This week’s resources explore: being invited to share in Jesus’ story, which is as tough as it is good.

	<p>Pre-Service I Will Follow Artist: The Faith Crew Album: A Christian Tribute to Third Day & Chris Tomlin</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>God calls us to worship in spirit and in truth, with both deep sadness and indescribable hope, as we reflect on all that Jesus went through for us, and praise God who goes beyond all expectations.</p> <p>God calls and gathers us as one people, uniting us together in a life of loving communion We come to be renewed and refreshed in our life together</p> <p>Let’s worship the God who calls us, claims us and forms us to embody and share God’s love in our world Let’s worship the One who empowers, inspires and equips us for our life of loving service.</p> <p>I live on the lands of the Wathawurrung people You may well live or identify with other indigenous groups. You cared for this land and it’s people before our remembering</p>

And we pay our respects to your elders past present and emerging.
As we do all who continue that care.

Let us pray

Lord, the disciples gathered around you,
trying so hard to answer your questions,
and to cope with difficult news.
We come before you now and ask your blessing,
as we seek to understand more of your story –
your tough and challenging,
but so good story!

Amen.

Hymn/song

TIS 474 Here in this place new light is streaming

Welcome

Share Sunday is an opportunity for the whole of the Uniting Church
to celebrate the incredible community services
being undertaken by our agencies, parish missions, presbyteries, and
our congregations.

It is also an invitation to continue to explore
how we can partner together
as we respond to Christ's calling
to serve humanity seeking to create an inclusive,
connected and just world.

Now I have been doing these virtual services since March,
And I am overwhelmed with how many people
Have watched and even commented
on these meager offerings in a time of crisis.

I obviously share something of myself in these videos.
You hear about the grader that loves to park outside my window
every time I record the service.

You look at me peering through my windows as workmen walk by.
But I don't show you very much.

So this is more than my house it is my home.
It is comfortable
It is warm
It is safe
It is secure (oh so secure)
It contains my loved ones in the comfort they deserve.

This is a bedroom in my house.
On rare occasions people stay in this bedroom
Sometimes for months on end.

They are often young
 And for a limited time, they have
 Not only no home but no house.
 They are uncomfortable
 They are not safe or secure
 And if they have loved ones
 they don't have the comfort they deserve.

This Uniting Share Sunday 2020 service is dedicated to them.
 To be totally honest to the Uniting Share story
 I lean heavily on their story, their liturgy, and their resources
 for this service.

A link is available at the top of the page
 That takes you to
 Their resources
 Their donation Page
 Their story.

Youth Homelessness - Janet's story – Janet's Story

Let us pray
 Loving God,
 We see your love revealed in your promises to your people:
 to be with them as they journey out of the wilderness
 toward the hope of a 'promised land',
 a land 'flowing with milk and honey',
 a place of welcome, respite and nourishment.
 As we gather, renew us in this ancient but ever new hope.

Let it strengthen our faith,
 let it shape our resolve to reach out to those
 so in need of that promise of a place to call home.

Thank you, Lord,
 that you do not call us to anything
 without also giving us the resources to cope.
 You do not ask us to go anywhere you haven't been.

You call us to take up our cross,
 and we come to you with fear and trembling,
 but knowing that ultimately your way is the best.

Be with us, Lord,
 and help us to understand.
 Amen

Readings

Matthew 16:21–28

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

	<p>²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”</p> <p>²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”</p> <p>²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?</p> <p>²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.</p> <p>²⁸ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” ⁱⁱ</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video</p>
	<p>We say Sorry God of grace, Out of the abundance of your love you created a world of incredible beauty as a place for all people to call home.</p> <p>We confess to you that we are not always the faithful stewards of this great gift that you have called us to be.</p> <p>Forgive us God.... When we take more than our share... When we become so focused on protecting what we have that we forget what we can give...</p> <p>When we fail to ensure all people find their promised place of refuge and rest...</p> <p>Forgive us God. Heal us. Renew us. Inspire us in your generous love.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Words of Assurance Hear the Good News of our shared faith:</p> <p>God’s grace is sufficient for us, The wide, open, welcome space that renews and recreates us. Embrace the promise Christ offers to all:</p> <p>“Your sins are forgiven” Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song TIS 738 Shout to the Lord</p>

Response**Old Testament***Exodus 3:1–15*

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation. ⁱⁱⁱ

This address is only slightly adapted from the Uniting Share Sunday Resource Pack. It is a compelling story.

Our reading from Exodus today

provides a compelling context for our Share Sunday focus on youth homelessness.

It tells a story of a promise made to a people

who had suffered a great deal as a minority people

under an oppressive regime,

a displaced people on an uncertain journey,

with little in their past to encourage in them a sense of hope.

In the midst of their uncertainty,
and their understandable sense of despair,
we hear in our reading an extraordinary invitation to hope – this promise:

“I have observed the misery of my people....
I have heard their cry....
Indeed, I know their sufferings,
and I have come down to deliver them...
to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land,
a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Ex 3:7-8).

It is at once a promise that reveals not only what it is that we,
as this people, can hope for,
but also the identity of the one who makes the promise.

This is the one who sees, who listens, who knows and understands,
and then who acts, in profound solidarity,
to bring healing and hope to a dispirited people.

This is the one who ‘comes down’,
to meet the people where they are,
in their need, to walk alongside them.

But more than that, to then lead them into that promised place,
that ‘good and broad land’,
where they will find sustenance, respite, rest, and relief
from those past sufferings
a place they can call home.

As one of the foundational stories of our shared faith,
this promise of a home or homeland shapes our hopes for ourselves
and indeed for all people.

It is a beautiful, persistent, insistent hope:

A hope that holds a particular challenge to us as people of faith
as we turn our focus to the wicked problem of homelessness
in our Australian community this Share Sunday.

And it is a wicked problem, in every sense of that word.

The numbers are startling and disturbing. Take a few minutes to read some statistics.



**Over 195,000
Australians are
currently on social
housing waiting lists.**

**Homelessness Week
4 - 10 August 2019**

Uniting

The most disturbing statistic is the easiest and most necessary one for us to remember.

The sad reality is that

2 out 5 people who experience homelessness are under the age of 25.

Over recent months,

many of us have experienced – far more intensely than ever before

the centrality and significance of what it is to have a place to call home.

While we may have grown a little weary of our far too familiar ‘four walls and roof’,

we, nonetheless,

have felt the comfort and security of that place of rest and respite

from the viral menace threatening our communities.

Our homes have become the places where we work,

continue our education or educate our kids,

attend our virtual doctor’s appointments,

connect with our friends, our church.

Alongside, of course those more prosaic comforts

of a bed to sleep in, a fridge of food to raid (far too often)

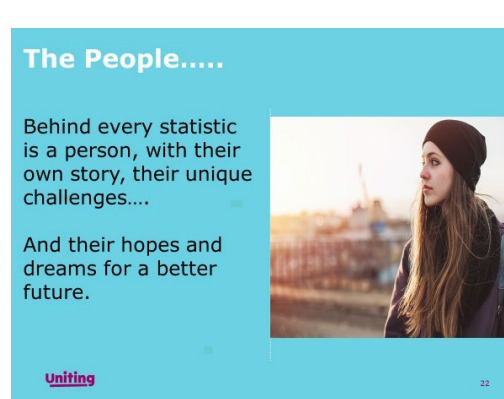
a bathroom to escape to for privacy.

We have a new appreciation of all it means to have a home,

and a sharper perception too of what it means if you do not.

What does it mean for those 2 young people out of every five

for whom homelessness is their reality?



These are indeed troubling statistics.

It can be tempting to be overwhelmed by the numbers,

by the sheer scale of the problem.

But as people of faith,

the beneficiaries of a promise more compelling than any statistics,

we must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed.

We have a promise to live out of and live into

no matter how wicked the problem seems.

And promises of course are not in the end about statistics or problems.

Promises are about people, they are made to people.

Our invitation this Share Sunday,

extended through our shared faith,

an in particular our reading from Exodus,

is to grab hold of an ancient but ever new promise
and ask how that might inform our response,
not to the **problem** of homelessness,
but to the **young people** at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
Is there hope for them for that promise of a good and broad land?
If not flowing with milk and honey,
then at least a warm bed, a well-stocked fridge,
and a good internet connection to help them to stay connected
to their opportunities for access to
education, support, friendship, medical care, employment.

Will we grab hold of that promise and commit our time, talents, and yes, our money,
to doing our little bit for that promise to come to fruition?

By way of an answer, please watch these two beautiful stories of what can happen
when we see beyond overwhelming statistics;
when we see, listen, understand
and stand in solidarity with our young people.

Watch:
Janet's story – <https://vimeo.com/423497295>
Jordan's story - <https://vimeo.com/423497980>^{iv}

Amen

Hymn/song
TIS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

Prayers for all people

Let us pray for the world, our community and for those in need.

Loving God

We know you through your promise to be always with your people,
leading us ever deeper into hope of new and abundant life.

We pray for the many people who are displaced in our world
for whom the promise of a place to call home seems an impossible dream.
Help us to have the courage to see the need in our world
To listen to the voices calling out for change
To act in solidarity for the transformation of our world

We pray for your church, a community called to be a place of welcome
to all who seek a place to belong
Help us to be faithful stewards of your promises,
A people who because they have received so much
Know that they have so much they can share.

We pray for our community, our families, our friends,
We bring before you those who are struggling,

Those in special need of your presence and your promise of hope.
May they be upheld by a renewed sense of your loving solidarity with them in all things.

On this Share Sunday, we particularly pray
for all who work tirelessly alongside those in our communities
so desperately seeking a place to call home.
We thank you for the gift of the new life they bring to so many.
Inspire us to do all we can to share with them as they bring hope to our young people.
Amen

Invitation

Listen!

I am standing at the door , knocking:
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in and eat with you,
and you with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,
for you meet us in our suffering
and the fire of your love and compassion burns forever.

In the first of your mighty wonders
you created the earth and made it holy.
You heard the cries of your oppressed people
and from the blazing power of your presence
you sent Moses and Aaron to lead them to freedom.

Once again, in your child, Jesus,
you have come down to deliver us.
He suffered at the hands of the authorities in Jerusalem,
and was killed,
but you overcome evil with good
and raised him to new life on the third day.
And now you have called us to follow him,
taking up the cross and relinquishing our lives,
so that united with him we may enter your life -
the life which is worth more than the world itself.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

	<p>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. 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.</p>
	<p>Bread breaking Prayer The bread we break and the cup we now take are a sharing in the life of Christ. The gifts of God for the people of God.</p>
	<p>Lamb of God</p>
	<p>Distribution</p>
	<p>Prayer after Communion Gracious God, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us in this meal with the life of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened by his life the food of eternal life we go from here to be eager bearers of his word and willing followers of his way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you</p>
	<p>We are sent out Gathered, renewed, nourished and inspired in the love of the God who is always with us, We are now sent out to love and to serve. Go, daring to share who you are, what you have, and what you dare to dream, for the healing and transformation of our world. In the name of Christ. Amen! May the Lord bless us</p>

	and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace
	Benediction I Will Follow Artist: The Faith Crew Album: A Christian Tribute to Third Day & Chris Tomlin
	Thank you

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- ⁱ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.
- ⁱⁱ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.
- ⁱⁱⁱ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.
- ^{iv} Uniting Share Sunday 2020 Resource Pack