

Preparing for worship
Elements for Holy
Communion, or
participate in the liturgy of
the Empty Hands.
You may like to light a
candle to signify the
presence of God.



Worship Online

5 July 2020 Rev Jock Dunbar and Rev Heather Griffin

Holy Communion

To access the worship service go to <https://livestream.com/ggservices/ssuc>

Families with children are encouraged to use family faith materials
Ps Richard Moors has made available.

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Loving God, we give you thanks for the changing of the season that reminds us again that we are part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

In the midst of times of distancing and isolation may we know even more keenly your presence and your plenty.

By your Spirit, prompt us to know where we can serve you and love our neighbour, near and far, in new, unexpected and generous ways. Amen.

(by Rev. John Ruhle, UCA QLD Synod)

Gracious God,
you know our deepest longing, sorrows and anger.
Where there is need for healing,
and conversation,
forgiveness,
and reconciliation,
give us the grace to humbly listen, ask, speak and receive the gifts of God in this moment and through one another.
May your merciful and compassionate heart beat within our own, lifting our gaze from the shadows toward the light of your endless love.
Through Christ, Amen.

Song *Come as you are*

We engage with the Word of God

- *Matthew 9:16-17*

Offering

We make our offering for God's mission
– of ourselves, including our resources.

Song *Come bring your burdens to God*

Holy Communion

If you are participating, please prepare an element to eat, and an element to drink.

Liturgy of the Empty Hands

If you are participating, please prepare an empty plate and an empty cup. A printed liturgy is supplied below.



Prayers of Intercession

What is on your heart to pray for today?

A person, family?

A social issue?

A country in the throws of war, pandemic, or political instability?

LIVESTREAM ONLY:

Text your prayer requests to 0410 400 940.

Please check it is okay to request prayer for someone else as these will be shared during the LIVESTREAM.

Email your prayer requests to prayer@ssuc.org.au

These prayer requests will be distributed to the prayer ministry team of Southside UC.

Let us take time to write any points of prayer, and then bring them and ourselves to God.

Some prayers adapted
from resources produced
by people within the
Uniting Church in Australia

Song *Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)*

Words of Mission and Commission in Place

**We shall not seek God among the dead.
We shall be bearers of hope among the living.
We shall carry the stories of our hurts and losses
that we may tell the story of healing and
resurrection.**

Live then, in the promise of Resurrection Life!
Live according to the story of the One:
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit,
Knowing that the scattered community of God
is placed in the world,
for the sake of the world.

**Glory to God
and Peace to All.**

**ALLELUIA
AMEN.**

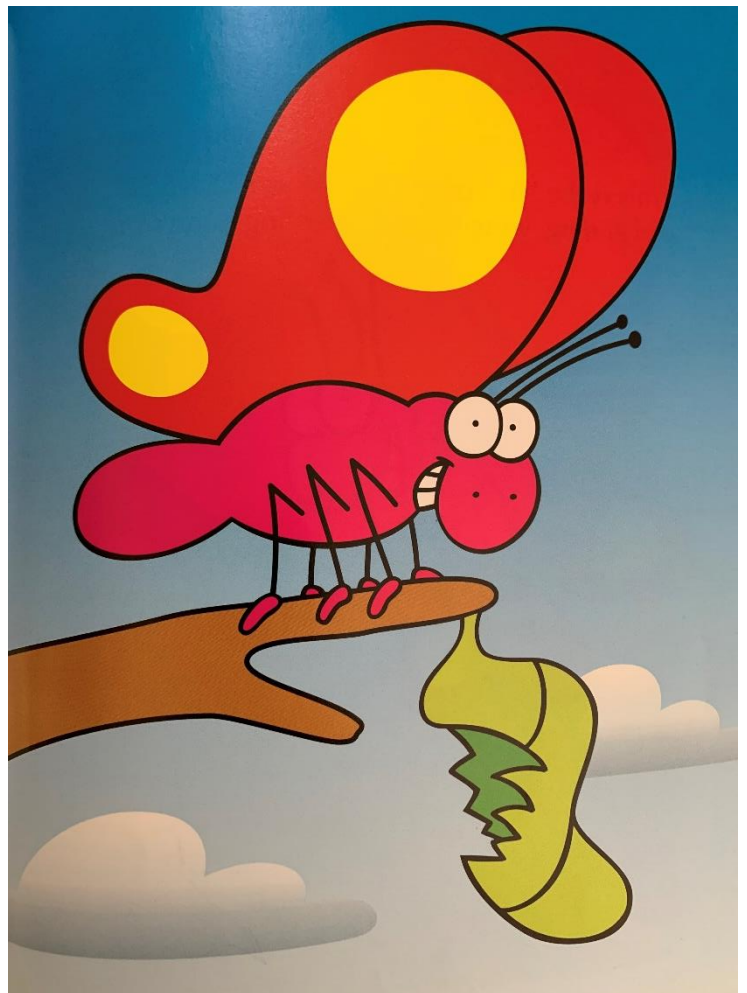


Image taken from *Claudia the Caterpillar* by Andrew McDonough

“Then the chrysalis shook. Rip.
Out popped Claudia – good old Claudia,
wonderful new Claudia.
She flexed and flapped ... and flew.”

A reflection on the message and reading

Rev. Jock Dunbar

Our isolation becomes our solitude.
Our solitude comes with separation.

Separation.
Separate.
Cut off.
Lonely.
Alone.

In our time of solitude, in our homes, in the quiet, God comes. God is present.

Jesus was cut off, alone, separated from the land of the living. In a tomb. Sealed.

He lay in that sealed tomb, a seemingly completed and concluded life.

But on the third day, the tomb became a womb. He was raised to life. The seal was forced open – no longer closed, shut up, locked away. Out he sprung, bursting upon the world in eternal life. Heaven and earth become one.

What can contain the power of Christ? What can remain hidden from the energetic Spirit of God?

Into our spaces, God comes to renew, regenerate, and transform. God bursts into our world.

Prayer

God, you are welcome here.
I acknowledge your presence,
and your will to be near me in my solitude and separation.
Your desire is to commune, with me.
I open my heart to you again.
I choose this moment to connect with your loving and compassionate presence.
Creating and creative Spirit,
you are always welcome.
May my home and my body
be a place and space
of contact with your energy,
love and life.
I ask this in faith,
with hope,
through Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Empty Hands

adapted by Rev. Dr. Amelia Koh-Butler

The liturgy of the empty hands can be used in times when the sacrament of Holy Communion is unavailable to us. To participate in this liturgy, an empty plate and empty cup is used to symbolise the longing we feel for our nourishment – spiritual, physical, social, and in all other ways.

In this empty plate/basket [*lift and show*],
we choose to see the world's hunger.
We remember that millions of people, this day,
lack bread for Communion, bread for breakfast,
bread for life.
We acknowledge that we ourselves hunger, this
day,
in ways that no earthly bread can satisfy.

Hospitable God,
**meet us in our unmet hungers –
and help us to put our abundance
at the service of the poor.**

In this empty cup [*lift and show*],
we choose to see the world's thirst.
We remember that millions of people, this day,
lack wine for Communion, fruit for juicing, water
for life.
We acknowledge that we ourselves thirst, this
day,
in ways that no earthly cup can quench.

Hospitable God,
**meet us in our unmet thirsts –
and help us to put our fullness
at the service of the empty.**

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6)
In the name of Christ, Amen.

INVOCATION

Pour out the Holy Spirit on this empty
plate/basket, this empty cup, that they may be
for us – even in their emptiness – the body and
blood of Christ.

... so that we may take his Life into our lives, and
be taken and blessed, broken and given for the
world.

LORD'S PRAYER

PLATE and CUP

We hold up the empty plate...

It is Christ who is the bread of life,
Who satisfies the hungry heart.

We hold up the empty cup...

It is Christ who is the cup of hope,
Who revives the thirsty.

The plate and cup are placed on the table...

The gifts of God
for the people of God.

In faith and hope, we hold out our empty hands...

**In these empty vessels and in our empty hands,
we celebrate the mystery and wonder of the empty tomb.**

In our hands and in our hearts,
we leave space for resurrection,
for new life, for new meaning.
We hold the sorrows, prayers and hopes of the world
before You, O God.

[intercessions may be shared]

May Your Spirit flow among us and beyond us,
drawing us into loving and caring for Your world.

Jesus Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed!