

# Southside Worship Online

18 October 2020

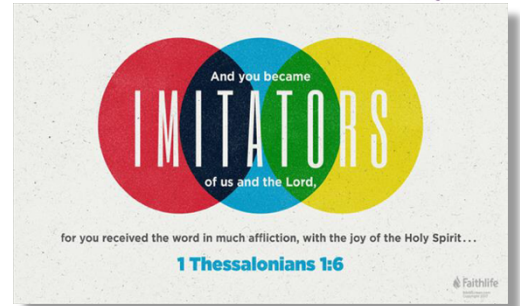
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost [Year A] Rev David MacGregor



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

## Preparing for worship

Find a comfortable space, e.g. around a table or living room ... and light a candle. Families with children are encouraged to use family faith materials  
Ps Richard Moors has made available



## Welcome

Sing to the Lord, and praise him,  
proclaim his glory to all the world,  
for the Lord is great and highly to be praised.  
Sing to the Lord, sing a new song to the Lord.

Holy Spirit be among us as we meet to worship,  
as we sing and as we read,  
as we listen and as we speak,  
as we hear and come to know,  
as we learn and begin to understand.  
Holy Spirit, be among us. Amen.

Southside Uniting Church acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples and clans, and we pay our respects to the elders past, present and future. We continue to work for reconciliation.

Prayer resources adapted from  
[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

## Song of Praise *Make it Joyful!*

## Prayers of Confession

We confess before you, O God, that we are not always a good example of what it is to be a Christian.  
We do not feel worthy that others should follow us.  
And yet, Lord, you encourage us to share your love and reveal your truth and lead others to you.  
We confess that we fail, and we are sorry.  
We confess our inadequacies and carelessness in standing up for what is right against what is wrong.  
Forgive us, Lord, and guide us in the ways of truth and justice.  
We want to be a good example, a shining example of what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Amen.

## A Contemporary Word/Reading *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

## Song *More and More Like Jesus*

## Offering *We take a moment to set aside our offering to God's mission and pray a prayer of blessing over it.*

## Prayers of the People

Lord God, in our corner of the world  
it isn't easy to really feel the pain of persecution for our faith, but we know that it happens.  
We pray for those who are persecuted and punished, violated and scarred because of their faith.  
We pray for those who despite these things speak out and speak up, and witness to you, the living God.  
We pray for the families of these people that they may be given strength and support  
in their own faith and discipleship.

We pray for those who teach us of you, who unpack your truths,  
who explain what living a Christian life is and how to follow you.  
We pray for those who guide us in times of struggles with our faith,  
those who stand by us in times of denial and bewilderment.  
We pray for those who are dying in the faith, and those who are struggling to find their faith before they die.  
For these and all your witnesses, Lord, we pray. Amen.

**Song**      *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

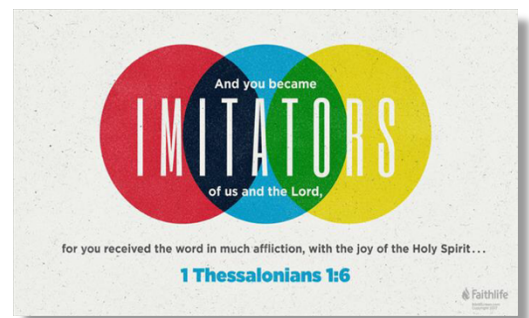
## Sent in Mission / Blessing

Our faith in Jesus is nothing if we keep it hidden,  
if we leave it here in church when we go home.  
God, help us to put into practice what we learn from your Word.  
Help us to share the message of Jesus wherever we are. Amen.

## Sermon notes      *Imitators*      1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Imitators. **Who are the people in this world who inspire you in your life ... people who seek to make the works a better, fairer, kinder, more just, equitable and compassionate place?**

1 Thessalonians was the first book in the New Testament to be written. Paul's letter was written probably a mere 20 years after the time of Jesus. Such was their enthusiasm for this word that they imitated Paul by sharing it and allowing others to receive it. They were indeed role models. Influencers. Disciples.



A “disciple” quite literally is a learner. That’s what the word means. We learn from Christ. Yet a disciple is also an imitator ... one who is as it were the hands and feet and heart and mind of Christ with those around and beyond us. So much so, that by the influence of the Holy Spirit and with the love of Jesus, those we influence, like us, become disciples ... learners ... imitators ... influencers.

Paul, in his opening words to the Thessalonians, commends their excellent example. He talks up their “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”. Paul is pleased when they became “imitators of us and of the Lord.”

**Who have been ...who are the role models of the Christian life for us?**  
**Who are the ones whose walk with Jesus has inspired ... still inspires our own?**  
**In what way might we be role models for others?**

What are the characteristics we should display that will make people want to imitate us?  
What is the legacy you hope would live on about your life in Jesus?

Bears some reflection. For now we have Paul’s words to the believers in Thessaloniki.  
Oh, that they would say this about you ... about me!

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father ... You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place.  
*1 Thessalonians 1:6-8*

**Rev DAVID MACGREGOR**