



GOD INTERRUPTS!

We Listen

DIVINE INTERRUPTIONS, HUMAN IMPLICATIONS

www.ssuc.org.au

16 May 2021 with Rev. Jock Dunbar

God Speaks; We Listen (6)

Gathering with God

I gather, now, with the people of God
in all places
and, through the Spirit,
throughout all time.
In faith I declare:
when two or three are gathered,
Christ is with us.
May God be praised and glorified
through our worship.
Through Christ,
Amen.

*There is no longer Jew
or Greek, there is no
longer slave or free,
there is no longer male
and female; for all of you
are one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

Song *10,000 reasons*

Prayer of adoration and confession

Lord of us all, Creator of us all, Saviour of us all,
we all gather as one.
We come to you,
united through your Son, Jesus Christ,
through whom we become one family.
Forgive us when we try to draw the lines.
Forgive us when we dare to determine who is 'in' and who is 'out'.
As we worship you this day,
may you open our eyes, ears and hearts to fully understand
just what your Son has done for us all.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Preparing for worship...

BEFORE you watch, spend a few
minutes to settle yourself into a
comfortable space.

Practice Box Breathing:
Breathe in for 4 seconds;
hold for 4;
breathe out for 4;
hold for 4; repeat.

While you breathe, remember
that the word for 'Spirit' in
Greek and Hebrew is also the
word for 'breath'.

*'and God breathed into his
nostrils the breath of life...'*
Gen 2:7

Our breathing is an act of
prayer, worship, and praise.
The Breath is itself connection
to God, the Divine.

Bible Reading

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

Reflection

God bless Tom Wright! If you're not familiar with his writings and bible commentaries, they are worth the investment. In his commentary on this passage, he compares Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan to Paul's question to the Galatians: *Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard?* The Galatian churches are turning to a form of gospel expression that compromises a core part of the gospel, that

salvation comes by faith through grace and not by keeping the Law. It mirrors the journey of the Hebrews out of Egypt to becoming the people of Israel in the wilderness, only to desire a return to Egypt.

‘Why would you want to go back to prison, when you have been set free?’

Perhaps the cost of freedom in Christ is too high than we can sometimes bear?

Perhaps we prefer ‘slavery’ because of the sense of familiarity and control it promises (but can’t deliver)?

Paul’s cross-cultural engagement ensured that the gospel message was continually re-evaluated so that its form never became something everyone had to do.

The Holy Spirit takes the gospel of Jesus forward across lines of culture and language. To follow the Spirit there, we need to be flexible, adaptable, and open to learning a different yet just as legitimate form of gospel expression.

As we, through the MEG (Mission Experiment Group), follow the Spirit in engaging with CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) women who are socially isolated, we expect to learn, be challenged, and grow in life and faith. We do so in the hope of deepening our understanding of Paul’s oft-quoted summary: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Song *Refresh my heart*

Offering

*We are a gift of God given for God’s glory and the good of the world;
we offer ourselves and what we have to share with and for others.*

As we bring our gifts together as one,
may we together as one,
use all we have and give
to serve the One.
Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

Prayer concerns can be shared with the congregation by emailing to prayer@ssuc.org.au or ringing the church office on 3848 0793.

God of love and grace, although we are all
different we are united in Christ.
We rejoice in what makes us unique as well as
what links us together.
May this joy one day be found by all, Lord.
May there come a time
when racism and sectarianism are no more.
May all who have the power to make such
change possible speak up and act.
And that includes us, Lord.

Pause

May we do all we can
to seek unity and peace.
May we celebrate our differences,
and uncover all that unites us.
God and lover of us all,
hear our prayers we ask,
Through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Sending Out Prayer

May the God who is Holy Community
reveal and sustain us in diverse community
as we learn to build bridges
across borders
that the Spirit has traversed.
Let us follow in faith,
with the blessing of Creator, Redeemer and
Sustainer given to us, through us, for all creation.
Amen.

Song *No longer a slave to fear*