

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing,
where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.

Christ, as we serve you in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.

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BLESSING

In this coming week may you
find ways to nourish connections
with one another and may
the beauty and mundane in your lives
be rooted in the wild grace of God's love.

And the blessing of God
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of life,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen

*We invite contributions to the ministry of
Benedictus through the retiring collection
or direct debit to the Benedictus account
BSB: 633 000, Account No: 153841135*

Liturgy by Benedictus Liturgy Group: Jenny Stewart,
Heather Thomson, Meryl Turner, Valerie Albrecht.

Musicians: Roz Namgyal and Ngaire Hosking

Sound and Zoom: Heather Olley



BENEDICTUS
contemplative church

GOD'S GOOD VINTAGE
27 APRIL 2024
EASTER 5

WELCOME – Sarah Bachelard

Christ is risen, alleluia!
He is risen indeed, alleluia!

OPENING RESPONSES

We are parts of a whole,
branches on a vine.

For new life and growth,
dead wood needs pruning.

Flow through us, Spirit of God,
that we may bear your fruit.

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

GATHERING PRAYER

Jesus our Teacher,
you call us to be as one in your vine,
joined in your Father's vineyard.

Help us to grow your
holy fruits within us,
to accept replenishment,
and to aid community –
our spirit with yours, yours with ours.
Amen

SONG

Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you –
because we bear your name.

Help us receive each other, Lord,
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them –
because we bear your name.

Let nothing that we do or say
offend the weak so that they fall
and lose their faith in you –
because we bear your name.

Keep us from missing out on life;
give hands that help, and single sight,
and feet that walk your way –
because we bear your name.

You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out and make us fit
for common life with you –
because we bear your name.

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THE WORD OF GOD

Let us listen for the word of God (*silence*)

John 15. 1-8

REFLECTION – Susanna Pain

MEDITATION

To meditate, sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, 'Maranatha'. Say it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning simply to saying the word.

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PRAYERS

*Lead us to your light, lead us to your love.
Lead us on the one road.
Lead us home to you.*

Loving God,
you draw us out,
you draw us on, you draw us in.
We struggle to love each other,
we struggle to love ourselves.
Remind us that we are one people,
linked through the earth that
supports and connects us all.
Help us to grow in truth as Jesus did.
(*Chant*)

God of the long view,
we remember those who were sent
to war on our behalf, those who came
back but carried lifelong scars,
and those who never returned.
We pray for those who must daily wrestle
with minds that are tired, conflicted or
caught in delusion.
In this time of turbulence, and of
unimaginable horror for many,
Show us all the path of peace. (*Chant*)

God of the verdant metaphor,
we pray for the community of Benedictus
and for all who follow the path of
meditation and contemplative prayer.
Help us to see the truth that thrives when
images are joined in new ways.
**May each vintage that springs from us
be finer than the last!** (*Chant*)

CLOSING RESPONSES

Old habits and desires
that block the flow of God's grace
are like dead wood that needs pruning.

God's grace is sufficient for us.
Trusting it, may we live
in communion with one another.
May God abide in and among us.

SONG

We are your people; Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.