

Box A 11

CHRIST JESUS IS
OUR CORNERSTONE;
CHOSEN AND
PRECIOUS



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THE INAUGURATION OF
CHURCH UNION

The Methodist Church

St John's Presbyterian Church

PADDINGTON

Sunday 31st October 1965

OPEN AIR SERVICE.

to be held in the grounds of the
Methodist Church.

Minister: I was glad when they said to
me, "Let us go to the house of the
Lord!"

Congregation: Our feet shall stand within
your gates, O Jerusalem!

M: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

C: May they prosper who love you!

M: Peace be within your walls.

C: And security within your towers

M: For my brethren and companions' sake
I will say, 'Peace be within you!'

C: For the sake of the house of the
Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

- Psalm 122

Prayer:

Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why the Lord our God is good
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
Ans shall from age to age endure.

MORNING SERVICE

The congregation will come into Church
in procession while the hymn is sung.,
the ministers entering last.

Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices, —
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With Them in highest heaven, —
The one, eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Call to worship (all standing)

Minister: Why have we assembled ?

Congregation: We are friends of Jesus,
who came to earth not to be served,
but to serve. We have assembled to
be served by him, through his Word
and his community.

M: Why have you come here?

C: Today his friends assemble in a
thousand places, all over the world.
It is the morning of his resurrection,
and we celebrate his life. We have
come to greet each other with the old
words, 'Peace be with you'.

M: And peace be with you.
What do you desire?

C: We desire to covenant with one another,
so that here in Paddington we may
be renewed to express the life of
Christ. We desire mercy and strength
from God, for ourselves and all
mankind.

M: The Lord be with you.
Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus, who came that we might
have life, and have it to the full,
come and break down all that hinders
life. Come and give us wisdom and
patience, courage and resolution to
discover how your goodwill may show
itself true for all. Give us life
that we may give out life. Give unity,
give brotherhood, give peace, for your
own sake.

C: Amen.

Anthem: Te Deum - 'We praise thee, O God'
(Stanford)

Prayers

Old Testament Lesson: Nehemiah 2: 11 -18

Hymn

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in Thy humble dwelling, /us/
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come almighty to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation:
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

New Testament Lesson:

Philippians 1:27 to 2:4

Anthem: 'O be joyful in the Lord'
(Thalben-Ball)

Sermon

Offering, and prayer of dedication

Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Everflows their thirst to assuage,
Grace, which, like the Lord the Giver,
Never fails from age to age?

Round each habitation hovering,
See! the cloud and fire appear,
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood,
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy Name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

Confession of Faith
(said together, the congregation standing)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and
our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the world into being,
creates man in his own image,
and sets before him the ways of life and
death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people
from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his
righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our
crucified and risen Lord,
he came to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death,
and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of
Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people
of all ages, tongues and races.

He calls us into his Church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be his servants in the service
of men,
to proclaim the Gospel to all the
world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and
eat at his table,
to join in his passion and
victory.

He promises to all who trust him
forgiveness of sins and fullness
of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice
and peace,
his presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in his kingdom which
has no end.

Blessing and honour, glory and power
be unto him.

Prayers

Thanksgiving,
Intercession
Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
health and salvation;
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or
when fainting sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall
daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is
in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breadth, come
now with raises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Benediction.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Preparation

Choral Introit: 'Blessed are the pure in heart'.

Let us pray

M: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord

C: Amen

M: Holy God

C: Holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us

Let us sing

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour,
To our Fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and Moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

M: Brethren, we have come together to hear God's most holy word, and to receive the body and blood of the Lord. Let us therefore examine ourselves in silence, seeking God's grace that we may draw near to him with repentance and faith

You that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from henceforth in his holy ways, make your humble confession to almighty God, that you may be reconciled anew to him through our Lord Jesus Christ

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour. We have walked in darkness rather than in light; we have named the name of Christ, but we have not departed from iniquity. Have mercy on us, we beseech you; for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us all our sins; cleanse us by your Holy Spirit; quicken our consciences; and enable us to forgive others; that we may henceforth serve you in newness of life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

M: Hear the gracious word of God to all who truly turn to him through Jesus Christ.

Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who forgive their brethren and with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: Have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God

Anthem: Te Deum 'We praise thee, O God'
(Stanford)

The Ministry of the Word of God

M: The Lord be with you

C: And with your spirit

M: Let us pray

O God who moves in love
unceasing, and gives to each man his appointed work: Help us steadfastly, and as in your sight, to fulfil the duties of our calling; that when our Lord shall take account of us, we may be found faithful in that which is least, and enter into his eternal joy who in the righteousness of your saints, has given us an example of godly living, and in their blessedness a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling that, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, and with them receive the crown of glory that fades not away.

C: Amen

Let us sing

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
Let us Thine influence prove,
Source of the old prophetic fire,
Fountain of light and love.

Come Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee
The prophets wrote and spoke;
Unlock the truth, Thyself the key,
Unseal the sacred Book.

Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove,
Brood o'er our nature's night;
On our disordered spirits move,
And let there now be light.

God, through Himself, we then shall know,
If thou within us shine,
And sound, with all Thy saints below,
The depths of love divine.

Hear the word of God

The Sermon

The Apostles Creed (all standing)

I believe in God, the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe, in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

The Offering

Let us pray

M: For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of God's holy churches, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For the ministers of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For the rulers of our country, and all in authority, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, and the dying, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For the poor, the hungry, orphans and widows and them that suffer persecution, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: For ourselves, and all who confess the name of Christ, that we may show forth the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: that with all his servants who have served him here and are now at rest, we may enter into the fulness of his unending joy, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy

M: Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knows our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. We beseech you to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, be pleased to give us, for the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord

C: Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

Anthem: "Jesu, Lamb of God, Redeemer."
(Mozart)

M: We, who are many, are one bread, one body, for we all partake of the one bread

C: I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness, I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord

Let us sing

Be known to us in breaking bread,
But do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
Thy table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine,
Thy body and Thy blood.
That living bread, the heavenly wine,
Be our immortal food.

As the congregation stands the bread and wine for the Communion, together with the offerings of the people, are brought forward and placed on the Table

M: Let us pray
Holy Father, who through the blood of your dear Son have consecrated for us a new and living way to your throne of grace, we come to you through him, unworthy as we are, and we humbly beseech our gifts for your glory. All that is in heaven and earth is yours and of your own do we give to you

C: Amen

The bearers of the offertory return to their places.

M & C: Be present, be present O Jesus, good High Priest, as you were in the midst of your disciples, and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

M: The Lord be with you

C: And with your spirit

M: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them up to the Lord

M: Let us give thanks to our Lord God

C: It is meet and right so to do.

M: It is verily meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father almighty and everlasting God, through whom you created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and made man in your own image, and when he fell into sin, redeemed him to be the first fruits of a new creation.

C: Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you and saying,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high.

Blessed be he who comes and is to come in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

M: Truly holy, truly blessed are you, O heavenly Father, who of your tender love towards mankind gave your only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him and to suffer . . .

death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death, until his coming again: Who in the same night that he was betrayer, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the cup, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink you all of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

C: Amen. Your death, O Lord, we commemorate, your resurrection we confess, and your second coming we wait. Glory be to you, O Christ.

M: Wherefore, O Father, having in remembrance the precious death and passion, and glorious resurrection and ascension, of your Son our Lord, we your servants do this in remembrance of him, as he has commanded, until his coming again, giving thanks to you for the perfect redemption which you have wrought for us in him.

C: We give you thanks, we praise you, we glorify you, O Lord our God.

M: And we most humbly beseech you, O merciful Father, to sanctify with your Holy Spirit, us and these your own gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which we break may be the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless

the communion of the blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may all attain to the unity of the faith, and may grow up in all things to him who is the Head, even Christ, our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, O Father almighty, world without end.

C: Amen.

M: As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven. . .

(Silence is kept for a space)

M. & C:

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies and souls may be made clean by his most precious Body and Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen

The Minister breaks the bread saying

The bread which we break, is it not a communion in the body of Christ?

The ministers and congregation receive the bread and wine

When all have partaken the minister says:

Having now by faith received the sacrament of the Body and the Blood of Christ, let us give thanks

Minister and Congregation together:

O almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has accepted us as your children in your beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and has fed us with the spiritual food of his most precious Body and Blood, giving us the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life: We thank and praise you for these inestimable benefits, and we offer and present to you, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice, which is our reasonable service. Grant us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, that we may learn what is your good and perfect will, and so obey you here on earth, that we may at the last rejoice with all your saints in your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.
Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power and might, be to God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Benediction.

Let us sing

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God!
His kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of brotherhood,
And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God!
The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great.

Lift high the Cross of Christ!
Tread where His feet have trod;
As brothers of the Son of Man
Rise up, O men of God!

Organ Postlude as congregation disperses.

From the President,
Australian Council of Churches

I would appreciate it if you would convey my greetings to the congregations of the Paddington Methodist and Presbyterian congregations on their becoming a United Church.

As President of the Australian Council of Churches, I wish them great happiness in their unity, and that the cause of Christ's Kingdom may be furthered thereby.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK MELBOURNE

From the President, N.S.W. Conference

On behalf of the N.S.W. Methodist Conference, I should like to convey to the combined congregations of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Paddington our very best wishes for your venture in a joint ministry.

At a time when we are seriously discussing Church Union it is heartening to learn of this experiment in Union at the local level, and of your attempt at a new form of ministry.

We pray that God may richly bless your enterprise.

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY M. BARRETT

From the Moderator,
N.S.W. General Assembly

It is a far cry back to 1854 and 1857 when the Methodists and Presbyterians first pegged out their denominational claims in old Paddington. It would be a facile criticism of stern history to claim that we have learned more than our fathers knew; but it would be even sadder evidence of our evaluation of history if we did not admit that today's situation compels us to re-think our high calling of mission.

And if we are sensitive to the leading of God's spirit the prospect is exciting and wonderful. I believe that the Paddington members of our joint family will teach something new to the whole Church. Once people bend themselves in genuine obedience to Christ they become bound to a course which is not their own. This is part of the daring pilgrimage of God's family and it leads dangerously into places where the Church can really be the Church.

My personal prayers go with you for great success; and I am confident that the fathers and brethren throughout the State would want to join in your fervent doxologies as the great experiment of joint mission commences.

FRED McKAY

Moderator

ABOUT THE COVER

Christ is the Cornerstone, the base of our strength. We trust that our prayers and our buildings are raised to His glory, for we are judged against the truth of Him who is all truth. The plumb line signifies that judgment.

