



MERRYLEA  
PARISH CHURCH

**Sunday 12th October**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **All are welcome**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to hear your word, Lord, and to listen for your voice in our lives.  
And yet we let the noise of the world - clanging with distractions, clamouring with lies - drown you out.

**Still us Lord, to hear your quiet voice.**

Too often we are misled by our preconceived ideas of how you work and what you have to say.

**Awaken us Lord, to hear your surprising voice.**

Stubbornly, we impose our views and plans on you, praying only with our demands and expectations.

**Humble us Lord, to recognize your challenging voice.**

Give us today the courage to affirm the words of the prophets:

**Speak, O Lord, for your servant is listening.**

### **Hymn CH4 189**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Come, bow before Him now, with  
reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on  
holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is  
shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour  
He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant  
King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is  
shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is  
moving in this place,  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to  
minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him, in faith  
receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord is  
moving in this place.

*David J Evans*

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### **Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

#### **Hymn CH4 531**

My Jesus, my Saviour,  
Lord, there is none like You;  
All of my days, I want to praise  
the wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength,  
let every breath, all that I am,  
never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us  
sing.*

*Power and majesty, praise to the King;  
mountains bow down and the seas will  
roar*

*at the sound of Your name.*

*I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,  
for ever I'll love You, for ever I'll stand;  
nothing compares to the promise I have  
in You.*

*Darlene Zschech*

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**All age time**

## **HYMN** CH4 543

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered  
today.*

Longing for peace, our world is  
troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are  
homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering  
others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

### **Scripture - 1 Samuel 3: 1-9**

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup> Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

### **Acts 6: 1-7**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews<sup>[a]</sup> among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

### **Sermon**

## Hymn MP 799

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres, and wars to own,  
all I once thought gain I have counted  
loss;  
spent and worthless now, compared to  
this.

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,  
there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know You  
more,  
to be found in You and known as Yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not  
earn,  
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of Your risen  
life,  
and to know You in Your sufferings.  
To become like You in Your death, my  
Lord,  
so with You to live and never die.

*Graham Kendrick  
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## Prayer of Intercession and Dedication



## The Tree of Kindness countdown has started!

Join us in spreading Christmas joy by giving a gift to a child or teenager in need. 🎁💖

It's simple:

- 🎁 Pick up a gift tag from the **Tree of Kindness** - **starting Monday 20 October**
- 🎁 Buy a suitable gift for the age and gender on the tag
- ♥️ Return it unwrapped or in a gift bag with the tag attached by **Sunday 23 November**

**Your kindness will help us support over 1,800 young people this Christmas through  
more than a dozen local charities.**

## Hymn MP 857

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Dan Schutte  
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## Benediction