

Service Plan | Sunday 10 October

- This service is designed for use in a small group setting, so will function differently with only 1 or 2 people. Feel free to adapt it to suit.
- It will be helpful if one person leads the gathering, and introduces each section using the suggested words, or take turns! There are some things to say together as well (in bold).
- You can access the songs and sermon by clicking on the links where they are found in the outline.

Introduction

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another to love and good deeds.

Optional Song

God of Wonders - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Song

God United - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Video (approx. 9 minutes)

Friendship with God (Part 2 - Restored Friendships) - [Overview with discussion Q's](#)

Quiz Worx Video - [Link](#)

Kids' Activity sheets are here: [Ages 2-4](#) | [Ages 5-8](#) | [Ages 9-12](#)

Confession

The Bible tells us not to hide our sins from God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

So let us approach the throne of our gracious God, with a true heart in full assurance of faith, and pray together,

Merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

**We have followed too much the schemes and desires of our own hearts,
and have broken your holy laws.**

**We have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.**

Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;

restore those who repent,

according to the promises declared to us

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on,
we may live godly and obedient lives,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Notices

[Video link](#)

Bible Readings

The following, or another prayer may be said before the Bible readings

Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us
and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son.
Teach us through your word and equip us for every good work,
for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lamentations 1:1-11

κ Aleph

1 How she sits alone, the city once crowded with people!
She who was great among the nations has become like a widow.
The princess among the provinces has been put to forced labor.

⌋ Beth

2 She weeps bitterly during the night, with tears on her cheeks.
There is no one to offer her comfort, not one from all her lovers.
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

λ Gimel

3 Judah has gone into exile following affliction and harsh slavery;
she lives among the nations but finds no place to rest.
All her pursuers have overtaken her in narrow places.

⌘ Daleth

4 The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the appointed festivals.
All her gates are deserted; her priests groan,
her young women grieve, and she herself is bitter.

⌎ He

5 Her adversaries have become her masters; her enemies are at ease,
for the LORD has made her suffer because of her many transgressions.
Her children have gone away as captives before the adversary.

⌑ Waw

6 All the splendor has vanished from Daughter Zion.
Her leaders are like stags that find no pasture;
they stumble away exhausted before the hunter.

ר Zayin

⁷ During the days of her affliction and homelessness
Jerusalem remembers all her precious belongings that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into the adversary's hand, she had no one to help.
The adversaries looked at her, laughing over her downfall.

נ Cheth

⁸ Jerusalem has sinned grievously; therefore, she has become an object of scorn.
All who honored her now despise her, for they have seen her nakedness.
She herself groans and turns away.

ו Teth

⁹ Her uncleanness stains her skirts. She never considered her end.
Her downfall was astonishing; there was no one to comfort her.
LORD, look on my affliction, for the enemy boasts.

י Yod

¹⁰ The adversary has seized all her precious belongings.
She has even seen the nations enter her sanctuary—
those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

כ Kaph

¹¹ All her people groan while they search for bread.
They have traded their precious belongings for food in order to stay alive.
LORD, look and see how I have become despised.

Acts 19

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ "Into what then were you baptized?" he asked them.

"Into John's baptism," they replied.

⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. ⁷ Now there were about twelve men in all.

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went

on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

¹¹ God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, ¹² so that even facecloths or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

¹³ Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!" ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ The evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ When this became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem.

¹⁸ And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, ¹⁹ while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.

²¹ After these events, Paul resolved by the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem. "After I've been there," he said, "It is necessary for me to see Rome as well." ²² After sending to Macedonia two of those who assisted him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ About that time there was a major disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ For a person named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, provided a great deal of business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said, "Men, you know that our prosperity is derived from this business. ²⁶ You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and misled a considerable number of people by saying that gods made by hand are not gods. ²⁷ Not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one all of Asia and the world worship."

²⁸ When they had heard this, they were filled with rage and began to cry out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ So the city was filled with confusion, and they rushed all together into the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's traveling companions. ³⁰ Although Paul wanted to go in before the people, the disciples did not let him. ³¹ Even some of the provincial officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent word to him, pleading with him not to venture into the amphitheater. ³² Some were shouting one thing and some another, because the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some Jews in the crowd gave instructions to Alexander after they pushed him to the front. Motioning with his hand, Alexander wanted to make his defense to the people. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵ When the city clerk had calmed the crowd down, he said, “People of Ephesus! What person is there who doesn’t know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple guardian of the great Artemis, and of the image that fell from heaven? ³⁶ Therefore, since these things are undeniable, you must keep calm and not do anything rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are not temple robbers or blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ So if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are in session, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it must be decided in a legal assembly. ⁴⁰ In fact, we run a risk of being charged with rioting for what happened today, since there is no justification that we can give as a reason for this disturbance.” ⁴¹ After saying this, he dismissed the assembly.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

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Sermon

Jim Douglass - [Acts 19](#)

Ellen Ward - [Reflection on Acts 19](#)

Optional time for discussion or reflection

Apostles’ Creed

Let’s acknowledge together what we believe.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer

Informal time of prayer or you could use the prayers below:

Father God, we thank you for your amazing love. Make your way known to the people of our world, your saving power among all nations, for you created people in your own image. We stand mindful Father, that you loved the world so much that you gave your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him might have eternal life with you.

Thank you for your Church, scattered across the earth. Guide and govern your church by your Holy Spirit, so that all who call themselves Christians may be led in the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

We pray for those who are isolated from loved ones, grieving in loss, or suffering from pain, or recovering from surgery. Be very near to all our loved ones and keep them safe, in Jesus' name.

Thank you for Wendy Philpott and our members who faithfully pray as part of the Prayer Chain. Please bless them as they seek to bring before you the needs of others, and rely on your goodness and faithfulness for answered prayer.

Father, bless, protect and guide Archbishop Kanishka Raffel and Bishops and Clergy of the Sydney Diocese. In obedience to your word they seek to proclaim Jesus, so that people might become disciples and grow in obedience that comes from faith. We pray for your leading of the individual churches within the Sydney Diocese, that you will bless them and grow them spiritually.

Thank you for keeping us safe through this year, for providing for us and for keeping us in fellowship with each other, even during the isolation caused by COVID. Please continue to keep us safe as we transition out of lockdown. We thank you for those among us who have persevered to keep us in touch and connected.

Bless Jim and Dan as they lead and teach us week by week. We seek your guidance for them as they bring about changes to live church at Narellan Anglican. Keep all our members safe as we transition back to the fellowship of being together. Bless our Wardens and Parish Councillors and guide their decision making every step of the way.

We thank you for your bountiful blessings to each one of us and pray that you will give us generous hearts. Help us to prioritise the events in our lives, day by day and to keep our eyes firmly upon Jesus, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, for he is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

We bring these prayers before you in Jesus' name. Amen

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Optional Song

Made Alive - [Link](#)

Concluding Prayer

Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

September Offertory Update

September Budget: \$28,097 | Actual Giving: \$24,886

Comments? Questions? Feedback?

You can let us know [HERE](#)

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and keep up to date on what is happening!

