

Toorak Ecumenical Movement

**Service for the Celebration of Pentecost
and
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**



23 May 2010

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Holy Spirit,

Come awaken our hearts with your song.

Come like a mother, **to tend the wounds of a hurting world.**

Come like a lover, **to inspire the unloved.**

Come like a worker, **to labour for justice and peace.**

Come like a child, **to open our eyes to God's love**

Come like a sister, **to support us in our need.**

Come with power and tenderness to rule our hearts.

HYMN: 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

INTRODUCTION

PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, come fire of love,

warm the earth with your touch,

cleanse the polluted waters of creation,

restore balance, bring healing,

pour out energy,

lighten the skies darkened by our sin.

Come Holy Spirit, come renewer of life,

nourish the potential of us all.

In our work and in our leisure

waken us to fresh opportunities.

In our families and community life

nurture and inspire our creativity in all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come wind of God,

whisper your tender words of healing

in the ears of the sick,

breathe your spirit of comfort

around those who mourn,

stir hearts hardened by despair

to new life and hope.

Drive us out of our pious getthos

to glimpse new ways to witness,

new ways to use our wealth,

new ways to work for peace,

new ways of being the people of Christ

in this world.

Come Holy Spirit renew the whole creation.

Amen.

HYMN 425: Come, Spirit blest, our hearts inspire

READINGS: Joel 3:1-5, John 20: 19-23

SERMON: Father Brendan Hayes

JOINT CHOIRS

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester - O holy Jesus

L J White 1910 -

Soloist: Bente Lancaster

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit come.

To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the vine,
to the Church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come Holy Spirit, to a wounded world
where hunger, violence and oppression are the order of the day.
Come, to a world where power rules and the weak and vulnerable are treated with contempt.
Come, to a world where despair rages and many lay awake dreading the dawn of a new day.

Come Holy Spirit, bring healing and unity to your Church and wholeness to the world. Give us, as your people, the power and the courage to give shape to the body of Christ, follow in his footsteps and live out his example and commands.

Come Holy Spirit, bring new life and light to the nations:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN 418: She sits like a bird

RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

TOORAK ECUMENICAL AGREEMENT

In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We the clergy and people of the churches of Toorak, today ratify the Agreement with one another, established in 1980, in gratitude for the unity in Christ which we now experience, and in prayer and hope for our greater unity. We acknowledge with gratitude to God the way in which we have increasingly come to know and understand each other.

Through the regular meeting of our Clergy, through united services of worship on Palm Sunday and at the seasons of Pentecost and Advent, through a common programme of Christian education to the children of the local State School and the children's services held each year in our respective churches, through joint celebration of the World Day of Prayer, through study together in Lenten studies, through our joint operation of the Toorak Opportunity Shop and by its offering financial assistance to welfare projects both at home and abroad, through Food for Friends and Prayers for Christian Unity.

We acknowledge that we have fallen far short of God's standard; yet through what has been done, many in our Churches have glimpsed something of the fullness of the Body of Christ. God has been bringing us closer together in understanding and love and for this we thank Him.

In ratifying this Agreement with one another we affirm the reality and joy of what has been done so far: we pledge ourselves to seek further opportunities of working together for the glory of God; and we renew our promise to pray for one another and to deepen our understanding of one another's traditions. In so doing, we recommit ourselves to God for his guidance towards the fuller unity which is Christ's will for his church.

We renew our pledge -

To pray for each other's parishes by name regularly at our Sunday services.

To continue the regular meetings of the clergy of our parishes, and of the Ecumenical Council.

In appropriate ways to observe together the great Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

To continue to celebrate together the World Day of Prayer.

To continue the joint programme of Religious Education for children in the local state school.

To continue to develop the programme of ecumenical Bible studies.

To continue our annual Food for Friends collection.

To make available to each other, so far as possible, the facilities and programmes sponsored by each congregation.

To encourage our members to act as volunteer helpers in joint community ventures.

To work together, as need or opportunity may arise, on social justice or welfare projects for the wider community in Australia and overseas.

To continue to pray together for Christian Unity.

To seek in every way to demonstrate to the world that we are united in our commitment to Christ and to the coming of his kingdom.

We ask all our members to join us in prayer and in renewing this Act of Affirmation. It is for us a further step towards God's future. It is our corporate response today to the Master's prayer to the Father. "That they all may be one as We are One ... that the world may believe."

This we reaffirm. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

HYMN 459: In Christ there is no east or west

BENEDICTION:

We have been enlightened by Christ and filled by his Spirit
May we go out bearing witness to the Spirit
who shows the path to unity where there is division,
to reconciliation where there is estrangement,
to justice where there is inequity,
to peace where there is hurt.

**And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with us all. Amen.**

POSTLUDE: Toccata from Toccata and Fugue in F Major - BWV 540

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 - 1750

Organ: Andrew Blackburn

Front picture: Salvador Dali, the Descent of the Spirit, used with permission