**Communion Sunday**

**Scots Church Adelaide**

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Scots Church Adelaide is a welcoming,

inclusive, and worshipping community of God,

committed to justice, learning and care,

anticipating a world transformed by the love of God.

**Please sit in the pews marked with the white bows
to facilitate the serving of Communion**

**Scots Church Adelaide acknowledges that we gather on Kaurna Country, and we pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their culture, beliefs and relationship with the land.**

 **Welcome**

An asterisk **\*** indicates that we stand as we are able.

We are invited to speak the words in ***bold* *italics*.**

*Helpful instructions and explanations are in italics*.

**If you require the hearing loop, please sit in the middle of the centre pews.**

**Meditation**

We remember St. Francis for his concern for animals, the poor, and the renewal of the Church and faith in his day.

# As Sassetta’s *Saint Francis renounces his Earthly Father* (1437-1444) shows, Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant who was trying to persuade his son to follow him in the family business.

# Francis, however, chooses a different path and, in a dramatic gesture, strips off his fine clothes, abandons his life of luxury and is literally wrapped in the Church – the bishop of Assisi wraps his cloak around the naked Francis.

Naked, Francis cannot hide who he is—his beauty and his brokenness, his strength and his vulnerability—his God-made, God-given humanity. Francis received his life as a glorious, freely given gift and praises God for Brother Sun and Sister Moon.

**Prelude**

*The music of the prelude invites us to quieten our busy minds and prepare to worship.*

**\*Processing of the Bible**

*We stand and together bring the Bible to the centre of our worship service,*

*expecting to learn and be inspired.*

**Lighting the Candle**

*The candle’s flame represents the presence of God with us now and always.*

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

***Light shining in the darkness***

The light of creation

***The light of the world***

(from the Book of Genesis: 10th–5th Century BCE

and the Gospel of John: late 1st CE)

**Call to Worship**

*We remind ourselves that we are here to worship God together.*

Creator God, we are here, together in hope!
***With community and creation***

With neighbours near and far
***With those known and new***

***Together in hope!***

(from the Southern Asian Initiative of the

United Church of Christ: early 21st century CE)

**\*A Hymn of Praise 100**

All creatures of our God and King,

lift up your voice and with us sing

alleluia, alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,

and silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Swift-rushing winds that are so strong,

and clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, alleluia!

Fresh-rising morn, in praise rejoice,

and lights of evening, find a voice:

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear,

make music for your Lord to hear,

alleluia, alleluia!

O fire, so masterful and bright,

providing us with warmth and light,

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day

unfold rich blessings on our way,

O praise him, alleluia!

All flowers and fruits that in you grow,

let them his glory also show;

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart,

forgiving others, take your part,

O praise him, alleluia!

All who long pain and sorrow bear

praise God and on him cast your care;

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And you, most kind and gentle death,

waiting to hush our latest breath,

O praise him, alleluia!

You lead to heaven the child of God,

and Christ our Lord the way has trod:

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,

and worship him in humbleness;

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

O praise him, O praise him,

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Psalm 100**

*The Hebrew Psalms are an ancient collection of poems long used in Christian worship.*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
***Worship the Lord with gladness;***

come into God’s presence with singing.

***Know that the Lord is God.***

It is God who made us,
***we are God’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.***

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving,

***and God’s courts with praise.***

Give thanks to God, bless God’s name.

***For the Lord is good;***

God’s steadfast love endures forever,
***and God’s faithfulness to all generations.***

(Psalm 100: 10th–5th Century BCE)

**Prayer**

*This prayer acknowledges that God is with us and helps us experience God’s presence.*

Ever-living God,you are infinite, yet compassionate;in you we live, and move, and have our being.One with us in Jesus Christ,you share our life and our death;flowing through us as living water,you quench our thirst.

Holy One, we adore you;Holy Wisdom, we adore you;Holy Spirit, we adore you;accept the praise we bring today and for ever.***Amen.***

(Uniting Church in Australia: 21st century CE)

**Prayer of Confession**

*We are made in the image of God, but so often do not fully live this truth. We do much to damage ourselves and each other. In confession, we acknowledge these hard truths and open ourselves to God’s forgiveness, which comes to us abundantly.*

Before God, we confess in silence:

God of love,

We acknowledge our need for transformation and for grace.

We confess that we have not always lived as your beloved community,

called to embody justice, love, and radical hospitality.

***Forgive us and set us free.***

We confess that we have remained silent in the face of injustice,

that we have failed to see your image in every person

***Forgive us and set us free.***

We confess that we have built walls instead of bridges,

excluded rather than welcomed,

and chosen fear over love.

***Forgive us and set us free.***

We confess our failure to care for your creation with reverence.

We have consumed without consideration,

we have prioritised profit over the planet,

we have forgotten our call to be stewards of this sacred earth.

***Forgive us and set us free.***

As we share the communion meal together,

we confess our hunger—not just for bread and wine,

but for goodness, and for peace;

for a world where all may feast at tables of abundance and dignity.

***Forgive us and set us free.***

***Forgive us and set us free.***

Amen

(Uniting Church in Australia: 21st century CE)

**Assurance of Pardon and Renewal**

Friends, here is good news:

The goodness of God covers the world

as the waters cover the sea.

We are forgiven and set free

***Thanks be to God.***

(Uniting Church in Australia: 21st century CE)

**\*A Hymn of Thanks 179**

Praise with joy the world’s Creator,

God of justice, love and peace,

source and end of human knowledge,

force of greatness without cease.

Celebrate the Maker’s glory,

power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,

frees the captive, finds the lost,

heals the sick, upsets religion,

fearless both of fate and cost.

Celebrate Christ’s constant presence –

Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,

liberating truth from pride,

forging bonds where race or gender,

age or nation dare divide.

Celebrate the Spirit’s treasure –

foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,

one God in community,

calling Christians to embody

oneness and diversity.

Thus the world shall yet believe, when

shown Christ’s vibrant unity.

**WE LISTEN FOR WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO US TODAY**

*In this part of our worship service, we pray that God might help us understand what we hear, we listen to parts of the Bible, and a message exploring what those words might mean for us today.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

May these ancient texts be a lamp to our feet

and a light to our path.

(Psalm 119: 10th – 5th century BCE)

**An Introduction to the Bible readings**

**The Psalm for the day Psalm 8**

*The Psalms express the full range of human emotions before God: joy, sorrow, praise, anger, trust, and repentance. We read the text on the screen in call and response.*

O Lord, our Sovereign,
***how majestic is your name in all the earth!***

You have set your glory above the heavens.
***Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,***

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
***the moon and the stars that you have established;***

what are humans that you are mindful of them,
***mortalsthat you care for them?***

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
***and crowned them with glory and honour.***

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
***you have put all things under their feet,***

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

***the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,***

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
***how majestic is your name in all the earth!***

**The Good News for today**

**Genesis 1:1-8, 24-25, 31**

1 When God began to createthe heavens and the earth, 2the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from Godswept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

24And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

31God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Luke 10:25-37**

25An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself.” 28And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” 30Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

In sacred words of old,

***we have heard the Spirit speak anew.***

**Sermon**

**Reflection:**

*A moment, aided by music, to reflect on what we have heard and said in our worship together.*

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

*In this part of our worship service, we commit ourselves to live out the message of love that we have heard.*

**\*A Hymn of Dedication 137**

For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies,

Christ, our God, to you we raise

this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,

sun and moon and stars of light,

For the joy of ear and eye,

for the heart and mind’s delight,

for the mystic harmony

linking sense to sound and sight,

For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth and friends above,

for all gentle thoughts and mild,

For each perfect gift divine

to our race so freely given,

graces all of your design,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

For the church that evermore,

lifting holy hands above,

offers up on every shore

the pure sacrifice of love,

**Prayers of the People**

*We pray for our world, and we pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples.*

God of all goodness and compassion,

as we gather around this table of abundance,

we remember that your love knows no boundaries,

your grace excludes no one,

and your table welcomes all who hunger for justice and peace.

We pray for your church in all its beautiful diversity—

may we embody the radical hospitality of Christ,

breaking down walls that divide,

opening doors that have been closed,

and setting tables where all your beloved children find nourishment.

We pray for all who hold positions of power and influence.

Grant them wisdom to govern with compassion,

courage to speak truth to injustice,

and humility to listen to the voice of justice.

We pray for those who are hungry— those who are refugees,

and those who are unemployed and underemployed.

We pray for those facing discrimination, violence, or exclusion

because of who they are or whom they love.

As we take bread and wine, fruits of the earth and work of human hands,

we acknowledge our interconnectedness with all creation.

Inspire us to live sustainably, to protect the climate,

and to ensure that future generations inherit a world of beauty and abundance.

God of love, transform us, as we receive this sacred meal.

May the bread strengthen us for the work of justice,

and may the cup fill us with courage to love boldly.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

***Amen.***

(Uniting Church in Australia: 21st century CE)

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Let us pray:

***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 forever. Amen.***

(Matthew 6:9-13: 1st century CE)

**Invitation to the Offering**

*One practical way of responding to God’s love is to contribute money to help others in need.*

When we share what we have been given,

we share in the great relationship at the heart of God.

Our offering will now be received.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*We bring our offerings to God and pray that they might be used wisely.*

Loving God,

receive our gifts.

All we have comes from you.

May what we give

be for the hope of the world.

***Amen.***

**COMMUNION**

*In this part of our worship service, we share the ancient symbolic meal often called the Eucharist, the Lord’s Supper or the Mass. Together we share small amounts of bread and grape juice as a sign of God’s goodness in creation and of God welcoming us into new life through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

*Scots Church Adelaide welcomes all people to participate in the sacrament of communion. Bread and grape juice are distributed to us in our seats.*

*Gluten-free bread will be available.*

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

**Invitation**

This is the joyful feast of Jesus…

…and calls you God’s own.

**Prayer of Approach**

Be present, risen Lord Jesus…

**Narrative of the Institution of the Lord’s Supper**

Hear the words of institution of this sacrament as recorded by the apostle Paul…

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

With all we are, we give you glory, Trinity of love…

… as we join the company of heaven in their song.

**Hymn:** TiS 761 Holy, holy

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes***

***in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

To Adam and Eve, children of dust…

…Through him, in him and because of him, we affirm the Church’s faith:

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

And so, in remembrance of all you have done for us…

…we worship you in joyful song:

***Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.***

**The Breaking of The Bread**

Christ is the bread of joy……let us become what we receive.

***The body of Christ.***

**Lamb Of God**

Jesus, Wisdom of God,***have mercy on us.***

Jesus, Word made flesh***have mercy on us.***

Jesus, Liberator of creation,***grant us peace.***

**The Communion**

Receive this holy sacrament…

**Prayer After Communion**

God of heaven and earth…

…In Christ’s name.

***Amen***

**\*A Hymn of Commissioning 429**

Break now the bread of life,

dear Lord, to me,

as once you broke the loaves

beside the sea;

beyond the sacred page

I seek you, Lord,

my spirit longs for you,

O living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Lord,

to me, to me

as when you blessed the bread

by Galilee;

then shall all bondage cease,

all shackles fall,

and I shall find my peace,

my all in all.

**LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR COMMUNITY**

*We share news about our life together in community.*

**WE GO IN FAITH**

 *Our worship together now moves from this service and this place out into our hours and our days.*

*We continue to make community amongst us by hearing the Blessing, passing the peace and moving to the hall to share tea, coffee, and conversation.*

*If you are visiting with us, we invite you to join us this morning.*

*If you need to go, we understand.*

*You may wish to sign our visitors’ book as you leave.*

**\*Creed**

*A creed expresses things we believe are true. We speak it aloud*

*to remind ourselves of our calling and to embed it in our lives.*

We believe

***that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God***

***and possesses a dignity and value which can never be taken away.***

We believe

***that as children of the one God***

***we are one family with mutual responsibility for each other***

(Cardinal Basil Hume: late 20th century CE)

**\*Passing the Peace**

*We send each other out into our day in peace.*

Peace be with you. ***And also with you***

**\*Blessing**

*The Blessing reassures us that God is with us.*

Go forth into the world in peace;be of good courage;hold fast that which is good;render to no one evil for evil;strengthen the faint-hearted;support the weak;help the afflicted;honour all people;love and serve the Lord,rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.***Amen.***

(St. Chrysostom, The Anglican Book of Common Prayer: 20th century CE)

**Choral Amen** TiS 783 (ii)

**\*Processing the Bible**

*Please remain standing as you are able for the processing of the Bible.*

**Postlude**

*Before we go, we invite you to sit in contemplation as we hear the Postlude.*

**There will be a retiring offering for Parish Relief.**

**Offering plates are located at the back of the church**

Sources used in worship today as noted through worship booklet.

Music reproduced with permission licenses #604419-A, *OneLicense,*

and #496838&#352810, *CCLI*. Image: Page 1 Sassetta, *Saint Francis renounces his Earthly Father* (1437-1444)

**Scots Online**

If you are visiting with us today, you might like to access our services online on the worship page of our website: **scotschurch.org**

You can also find Paul’s blog on the Bible passages used in the sermon at: **sundaybible.substack.com**

**About Scots Church Adelaide**

Scots Church Adelaide began in 1851, formed by local supporters of the Free Church, a reform movement in the Church of Scotland that opposed political control of the church and engaged with the social changes of the 1800s, including industrialisation and urbanisation.

The church was originally named after the leader of the movement, Thomas Chalmers.

In 1865, Chalmers Free Church joined congregations of the Church of Scotland, the United Presbyterians, and the Free Church to form the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

In 1929, the Chalmers congregation amalgamated with the Presbyterian congregation in Flinders St and took the name Scots Church Adelaide. After the church building in Flinders St was demolished, items including the organ, windows and plaques were installed in Scots Church, and the Flinders St stonework was re-used as facing for our office block.

In 1977, most of the Presbyterian Church of Australia joined with the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Congregational Church of Australia to form the Uniting Church in Australia. So, Scots Church Adelaide became a Uniting Church congregation.

Over the years, the congregation has supported many social initiatives. Today, Scots continues its commitment to the city community as a neighbour and place open to all. We host community organisations, including the SA Jazz Archive and The Big Issue. Our facilities are available for use by other community groups.

The building is the second oldest church still standing in the city. The current ministers are Rev Paul Turley, Minister of the Congregation, and Rev Jill Lienert, Minister for Community Connections. Worship services are held at 10.30am each Sunday.

**SCOTS CHURCH ADELAIDE**

**Uniting Church in Australia**

Kaurna Country 237 North Terrace, Adelaide

Ministers: Rev Paul Turley, Rev Jill Lienert

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