

# PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY GATHERING

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Topic:

*What we think are the characteristics of a  
successful church*



A review of our survey into the characteristics of a  
successful church.

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## GATHERING

### Welcome and Introduction

#### Acknowledgement of First Peoples

From time beyond our reckoning the Kurna people have blessed this land through their law and customs, their care and concern for the land. We pay our respects to their Elders and Leaders, past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this land.

#### Lighting of the Community Candle

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.

Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lit the flame within us. *(Albert Schweitzer)*

We light this candle as a symbol of God's wisdom bringing light into our lives and our community.

*The candle is lit*

One: We come from different places to this place of caring and celebration. In the time which we now share may we be open to the creative spirit of kindness and compassion.

And may we be enriched by the company of each other, and drawn closer to the heart of life.

**All: In this quiet hour may our spirits be renewed.**

**In this gathering of old and new friends may we be ready to extend ourselves to those in need, and with trust to receive the hand of friendship that is offered.**

**In this time of celebration, may our minds be open to new truth, and our hearts be receptive to love, as we give thanks for this life we are blessed to share.**

## *CELEBRATING*

**Hymn: TiS 462 Now we come our Heavenly Father**

### **Celebrating the Church**

One: Through the ages and in many places, people have sought to be the church;

**All: Through the ages, prophets, poets, martyrs, sages, have all witnessed in God's name.**

One: Through the ages many have raised their voices to God, the Source of Life.

**All: We celebrate positive influences that the church has had on many lives.**

One: Through the ages the church has sought to care for the sick and the downtrodden.

**All: We celebrate the presence of the church in the community, a presence which becomes real when it bears witness to the love and justice of God.**

## *EXPLORING*

**Hymn: TiS 468 We are your people**

**Reading:** Luke 4:16-21

### **Presentation**

A review of the survey conducted last month as to 'What are the characteristics of a successful church?'

### **Discussion**

## Quotation for reflection

'There is no evidence that the Jesus of history envisioned the establishment of a church' Bishop J S Spong

### *AFFIRMING*

One: We are people of all ages who enter this safe space bringing our joys and concerns.

*(Pause as we silently reflect on our Joys and Celebrations; Grievs and Concerns)*

One: As one heart is lifted

**All: May we share its celebration**

One: As one heart is burdened

**All: May we share the pain it knows.**

One: In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of the sacred among us, and to see new possibilities of the now.

**All: May we be blessed as we embrace the future.**

**Blessed as we lay down the past.**

**And blessed in the present moment with lively hope and unexpected wonder.**

*(Pause)*

## Hymn: TiS 459 In Christ there is no east or west

### *SCATTERING*

#### Words of Blessing

One: Go in peace. Live simply. Practice forbearance in all you do. Speak the truth or speak not. Crave peace for all peoples in this world, beginning with yourselves.

**All: We go with the dream of that peace set firm in our hearts.**

*The candle is extinguished*

#### Notices