

## Prayer

Pray That You Would Love Your Neighbours  
Talk to God About Someone in Need  
Pray That You Would Love Your Enemies  
Pray That You Give Your Time, Money and Energy  
Pray for Kindness  
Pray for Humility  
Pray for Teachability  
Pray for The Ability to Forgive

## Reading

Being a Christian is more than 1 to 2 hours of your time on a Sunday morning, it's a 24/7 commitment. Scripture provides us with the actions and teachings of Christ, to serve as the basis for living our daily lives as God would have us do. So, in our daily lives, let's examine what we would do in certain situations and see whether our actions are indeed informed by Scripture. That is, are we living a Christ-like life?

**We sing TiS 650** Brother, sister, let me serve you

## Benediction

Live your values aloud, not alone.

Live your values productively, not pathetically.

Make open-minded, open-hearted, progressive faith communities put justice, love and hope into practice.

We go forward endeavouring to have our faith  
make a difference in the world.

**Amen**

## Notices

## Progressive Christianity Service 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023



<https://housingfirstlia.org/> - downloaded 19:43 11.05.2023  
<http://clipart-library.com/pictures-of-people-helping-others.html> - downloaded 19:48 11.05.2023



## Scripture in Action

## Order for worship

### Welcome

Dr Alan Branford

### Acknowledgement of country

Many have gone before who have honoured God by caring for this land, in the ways they have lived and the stories they have shared.

We give thanks for the Kaurna people, who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land, and living in harmony with it.

### Acknowledgement of diversity

We recognise our diversity and, in terms of the Uniting Church's Safe Church Policy, we acknowledge that this is a safe place in which all people can worship together, irrespective of race, creed, age, ability, sexuality, cultural background, or any other distinguishing feature.

### We light the candle

The light of Christ.

### Call to worship

With action and care, with service and love,  
with respect and grace,  
Let us come to fulfill the teachings of Jesus.

### We sing TiS 629

When I needed a neighbour

## Reading

“This point must be heard: the Gospels are first-century narrations based on first-century interpretations. Therefore they are a first-century filtering of the experience of Jesus. They have never been other than that. We must read them today not to discover the literal truth about Jesus, but rather to be led into the Jesus experience they were seeking to convey. That experience always lies behind the distortions, which are inevitable since words are limited. If the Gospels are to be for us revelations of truth, we must enter these texts, go beneath the words, discover the experience that made the words necessary, and in this manner seek the meaning to which the words point. One must never identify the text with the revelation or the messenger with the message. That has been the major error in our two thousand years of Christian history. It is an insight that today is still feared and resisted. But let it be clearly stated, the Gospels are not in any literal sense holy, they are not accurate, and they are not to be confused with reality. They are rather beautiful portraits painted by first-century Jewish artists, designed to point the reader toward that which is in fact holy, accurate, and real. The Gospels represent that stage in the development of the faith story in which ecstatic exclamation begins to be placed into narrative form.”

— John Shelby Spong, “Why Christianity Must Change or Die: A Bishop Speaks to Believers In Exile”

## Reading

Matthew 25: 37-40

## Presentation - by Dr Alan Branford

### Introduction to Scripture in Action

Contemporary scenario (1)

- What would you do next?
- Alan's response

Contemporary scenario (2)

- What would you do next?
- Alan's response

Contemporary scenario (3)

