

## ***BLUE CARE SUNDAY – Let's be known as people of love and compassion.***

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**Blue Care Sunday:** 22<sup>rd</sup> of August 2021

**Normal Text** – Leader

***Bold Italic Text*** – Congregation

**THEME** – *Let's be known as people of love and compassion*

### ***THE PEOPLE GATHER***

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Today we remember and celebrate the work of Blue Care and the many people who have served in God's mission of compassionate care and love.

We give thanks for those who have sought to make a difference in the lives of people in their community and the wider world.

We too are invited to see and respond to the needs of others and join God's mission of reconciling and renewing our world.

We gather to worship God who looks at all people with love, justice and compassion.

***Through God's hospitality we become the receivers of God's love that we may be givers of God's love.***

We do this, not as strangers, but as a reconciled community.

***We retell the story of Jesus that we may find our lives in His life***

In grateful thanks for what God does for us, we are called to do what is just, to show mercy and kindness, and to journey in humility with God.

***Open our eyes Lord, to see the needs of the community in which we live and your wider world, and give us the courage to respond to these needs bearing witness to your abundant love.***

Let us worship God.

## HYMN/SONG

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### **(Suggestions)**

*Here in this place, new light is streaming TIS 474*  
*How lovely is your dwelling TIS 44 AHB 347*  
*Immortal, invisible, God only wise TIS 143 AHB 80*  
*I'll praise my maker while I've breath TIS 90 AHB 44*  
*Let all the world in every corner sing TIS 105 AHB 13*  
*O for a thousand tongues to sing TIS 210 AHB 141*  
*Community of Christ TIS 473*  
*Indescribable Chris Tomlin*  
*Shout to the Lord Darlene Zschech*

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

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Generous God – giver of all good things, with humility and thanks we recognise all we have comes from you. You are the one who sees us and provides for our needs.

***With thankfulness we open our lives to share in your faithfulness and mercy and to respond to the needs of our world.***

### Silence

We give thanks for the many people who have gone before us as witnesses to your great love through serving those in need.

***Loving God forgive us when we miss the mark of your heart for our family, our friends, our neighbours, strangers and enemies.***

### Silence

We give thanks for present witnesses who continue to join in God's mission of compassionate care and loving service.

***Forgive us for neglecting the poor, the marginalised and those who we define as different from "us". Forgive us our sins...as we forgive those who sin against us.***

Silence

## ***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS***

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God hears and sees our regrets, our brokenness and our heart.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins are forgiven!

***Thanks be to God.***

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## **LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

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13NOW WHEN JESUS CAME INTO THE DISTRICT OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI, HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?" 14AND THEY SAID, "SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST, BUT OTHERS ELIJAH, AND STILL OTHERS JEREMIAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS." 15HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" 16 SIMON PETER ANSWERED, "YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD." 17AND JESUS ANSWERED HIM, "BLESSED ARE YOU, SIMON SON OF JONAH! FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HAS NOT REVEALED THIS TO YOU, BUT MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. 18AND I TELL YOU, YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HADES WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. 19I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH WILL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU LOOSE ON EARTH WILL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN." 20THEN HE STERNLY ORDERED THE DISCIPLES NOT TO TELL ANYONE THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH.

PREACHING OF THE WORD – ***Let's be known as people of love and compassion***

**Notes –**

–This year's Blue Care Sunday theme is: Let's be known as people of love and compassion.

We are all known for things. This is our 'reputation'; what we are known for by others. Some people are known by some good actions. Some people by some

negative actions. Some people are known by their family and its legacy. Some people are known for their character. All of us are known for something.

As the Uniting Church in Queensland, we are called to be known as people of love and compassion. That is, we are called to be known by the God who knows us, loves us and reconciles us and the world to himself. Our actions embody this making known of this amazing love of God.

In Matthew, we have Jesus asking his disciples the question of who do people say that the Son of Man is? After the disciples give their initial response, Jesus then asks: Who do you say that I am? Simon Peter jumps in first and responds that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God'.

Jesus was well known for his actions and his words. He often refers people beyond his words and his actions towards his 'Father in Heaven'. In his life, death and resurrection Jesus made known the Creator of the universe, the God who loves every person and the Kingdom of God. This is a Kingdom in which there is no hierarchy of valuing people based on gender, age or ethnicity. Jesus was known for his loving actions, his compassionate care, justice and vision of the Kingdom of God. He was known for the God who knows us and loves us.

The origin of the Uniting Church and its community services has many stories of people being known for their compassionate care and love. One such example of this compassionate care took place just five years after Brisbane opened as a free settlement. In 1847 Reverend William Moore took up his post as the first Methodist Minister in Brisbane. Before he held his first church service, before any hymns were sung or sermons delivered, this newly arrived minister conducted his first official duty - a funeral service for a prostitute who had died penniless with no one to mourn her.

The compassion and humility shown by the Reverend Moore towards someone who was so harshly judged in nineteenth century society is typical of the character and motivation of the members of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian congregations. In living out Christ's mission, our forebearers served their local communities with love, respect, mercy and justice, recognising the worth and dignity of all people.

In the history of Blue Care, this same motivation has driven people to step out in compassionate care for the most needy. People like Olive Crombie in 1953 who started work as a nurse with only a guarantee of three weeks of wages and Rev Arthur Preston from the West End who started Blue Nursing that is now Blue Care.

These and many other people have been part of this making known of the God who loves us . In our compassionate care, in upholding the intrinsic dignity of all people in every circumstance of life, in our care for the frail, in our prayer for the dying; in all of this we are seeking to be known for the One who knows us and loves us; our heavenly Father made known in Jesus Christ.

On this Blue Care Sunday we remember the people who have served across Blue Care. For the many volunteers, chaplains, carers, managers, cleaners, nurses, executives and so many others. In acts of love and compassionate care, all of these people are pointing beyond themselves to the God who loves the world.

### ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***

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God you see your people...you see your world. Enable us to be your witnesses through our actions and words.

***We believe in God:***

***who has created and is creating,***

***who we see in Jesus,***

***the Word made flesh,***

***to reconcile and make new***

***who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

***We trust in God.***

We are called to be the Church –  
To be known for the One who knows and loves the world:

***to celebrate God's presence,***

***to live with respect in Creation,***

***to love and serve others,***

***to seek justice and resist evil,***

***to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death,  
in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
Thanks be to God.***

### ***HYMN/SONG***

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*Be thou my vision TIS 547 AHB 455*

*Great is your faithfulness TIS 154*

*Your words to me are life and health TIS 430 AHB 337*

*All people that on earth do dwell, TIS 59 AHB 10*

*Christ is our cornerstone TIS 433 AHB 344*

*Lord in the strength of grace TIS 483 AHB 408*

*Brother, sister, let me serve you TIS 650 SA 14*

*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered TIS 617 SA 15*

*God! when human bonds are broken TIS 683*

*How shall I sing to God? TIS 667*

*When I needed a neighbour, were you there TIS 629 AHB 558*

*Mighty To Save Hillsong Worship*

*Compassion Hymn Keith Getty, Kristyn Lennox Getty, Stuart Townend*

*No Other Name Hillsong Worship*

*I Will Follow Chris Tomlin*

*Oh You Bring UNITED Matt Crocker*

*Open the eyes of my heart Lord Paul Baloche*

## **OFFERING**

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OFFERING PRAYER

***Gracious and eternal God, to whom we turn in every need;***

***receive the gifts we offer, our lives and***

***the symbols of our living that, inspired by your holy Spirit***

***we may love you, heart, soul, mind and strength***

***and our neighbour, to your glory and praise.***

***In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

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## **NOTICES AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

### **PRAYERS FOR BLUE CARE**

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Loving God, hear us as we offer prayers for the work of Blue Care –

for the staff and volunteers

for the Chaplains and pastoral and spiritual care volunteers

for those in leadership positions.

We ask that you guide and bless the activities of Blue Care as it continues to be part of your mission in Queensland:

for those whose home is a Blue Care residential facility  
for those who are supported and cared for by Blue Care staff in their own homes  
for those whose lives are enriched by activities at Blue Care respite centres  
we ask that they may experience compassionate care based on your love  
Risen Christ, wherever we are,  
grant us the faith and courage  
to recognise you in our midst. Risen Christ, Lead us deeper into resurrection life.  
Amen.

### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

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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.



## *HYMN/SONG*

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*God gives us a future* TIS 687

*Let all the world in every corner sing* TIS 185 AHB 13

*Lord, you are the light of life to me* TIS 216

*Be thou my vision* TIS 547 AHB 455

*Great is your faithfulness* TIS 154

*Your words to me are life and health* TIS 430 AHB 337

*All people that on earth do dwell,* TIS 59 AHB 10

*Christ is our cornerstone* TIS 433 AHB 344

*Lord in the strength of grace* TIS 483 AHB 408

*Brother, sister, let me serve you* TIS 650 SA 14

*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered* TIS 617 SA 15

*God! when human bonds are broken* TIS 683

*How shall I sing to God?* TIS 667

*When I needed a neighbour, were you there* TIS 629 AHB 558

*Mighty To Save* Hillsong Worship

*Compassion Hymn* Keith Getty, Kristyn Lennox Getty, Stuart Townend

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*Open the eyes of my heart* Lord Paul Baloché

### ***BLESSING***

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May God, the Creator,

who knows and loves you,

continue to shape you

as a witness of the Gospel.

May Christ Jesus, whom you bear,

mark your life with the good news.

May the Holy Spirit, dwelling within,

fill you with the healing,

liberating power of Christ.

That we might see your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

***Amen.***