

BLUE CARE SUNDAY – A Shared Vision for a Better World

Blue Care Sunday: 21st of August 2022

Normal Text – Leader

Bold Italic Text – Congregation

THEME – *A Shared Vision for a Better World*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

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 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 the 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 your vision for a better world, as we respond to the needs of the community in which we live and the wider world. Give us the courage to respond to these needs bearing witness to your abundant love.

Let us worship God.

HYMN/SONG

(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

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

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.

NOEL PRESTON VIDEO

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 13: 10-17

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and

the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

PREACHING OF THE WORD – *A Shared Vision for a Better World*

Notes –

This year's Blue Care Sunday theme is: *A Shared Vision for a Better World*. The theme comes from the video recording of the late Rev Dr Noel Preston. In the video, Noel shares about the origins of the Blue Nursing Service, now Blue Care, and the motivation of those who began and spread this service across Queensland. He reflects on the role of the Church in the world. The Church's call is to have a motivating vision and a team of people who are committed to this vision. The local church can be instrumental in making a difference and contributing to a better world.

As the Uniting Church in Queensland, we are called to have this shared vision for a better world as we work towards justice and act with love and compassion in responding to social needs. As we do this, we are witnessing to God's reconciling love and our actions embody this making known of this amazing love of God. This is part of what it means to live as followers of Jesus.

In the Gospel of Luke, we have Jesus pushing the boundaries of the religion of his day through his compassion for a woman who had been crippled for 18 years. It was the Sabbath which was a sacred day of worship and rest. The woman approached Jesus while he was in the synagogue and Jesus was moved to heal her. But the leaders of the synagogue struggled with Jesus' action as they understood Jesus to be going against the laws about the Sabbath. "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day."

Jesus confronts this mindset by calling out their hypocrisy. The priority of setting a woman free and compassion for her suffering is Jesus' challenge to the religious leaders of his day. In his life, death and resurrection Jesus made known the Creator of the universe, the God who loves every person and the ways of 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 for a better world. 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. In the history of Blue

Care, this same motivation has driven people to step out in compassionate care for the most needy in society. 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.

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. The many people who have a vision for a better world.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God you call us to join in your mission for a better world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Oh You Bring UNITED Matt Crocker

Open the eyes of my heart Lord Paul Baloché

BLESSING

May God, the Creator,
who knows and loves you,
continue to shape you
as witnesses 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.