

MCC Sydney
Sunday Morning 31st January 2010
Baptism of Oliver James Lawrance-Virago
Closure of Ministry Service of Rev Gavin
Ward

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering song: Praise With Joy

Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate our maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ 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 our Maker, Christ 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.

Call to Worship

Reader: Seek first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness.

All: And all other things will come.

Reader: For God is gracious, merciful and loving.

All: And will provide for all that we need.

Reader: We believe that horizons of hope are never fixed.

All: They always move beyond, in the creativity of God.

Reader: We believe that powers of evil cannot kill God.

**All: God walks on free and leaps ahead of us in the risen
Christ of faith.**

Reader: We believe that the Spirit can never be confined.

**All: She dances forth in the world and is found in surprising
places, leading us on until the end of time.**

Reader: So we come now before God, just as we are, accepted
and welcomed whatever our race, gender or sexuality.

**All: And God does not turn us away, but welcomes us as
beloved children.**

Sign of peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Baptism of Oliver James Lawrance-Virago

Friends, this church has received a request for the baptism of Oliver James Lawrance-Virago from his mothers Suzan Virago and Sheena Lawrance. This important decision has been prayerfully and carefully considered and we welcome them here today.

We also welcome Oliver's sisters, Sofia Virago and Charlotte Lawrance, and the Godmothers, Fabienne Virago and Gabrielle Condon. We welcome to the extended family, especially those who have travelled interstate to be here today. I know that it means a lot to Sue and Sheena that you are here today.

In unity with the whole church, let us stand and affirm the faith into which we were baptised.

Do you believe in God?

We believe in God, the Father-Mother Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Creator.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Holy Catholic Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sin,

The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Song: Shout To The Lord

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord there is none like You.

All of my days, I want to praise, the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength,

Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing,

Power and majesty, praises we bring.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the works of Your hands.

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will

cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Acclamation: Halle Hallelujah

Halle Hallelujah, Your Word, O Lord, is Holy;
We thank you for Your Word with us now, Glory be to God.

Scripture reading: Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Acclamation: Halle Hallelujah

Halle Hallelujah, Your Word, O Lord, is Holy;
We thank you for Your Word with us now, Glory be to God.

Sermon

Rev Gavin Ward

Creed

We believe in God who brought immortality to life
In the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Christ
Who brought faith in a loving God to life
In the gospel of resurrection.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
Who brought hope in ourselves to life
In the Gospel of boundless renewal
We believe in grace that is stronger than evil,
In mercy that is larger than suffering,
And in joy that is greater than death.

Prayers of the people: Lee Dunbar

Closure of Ministry

Rev John Fowler
Alan Maurice

Musical Item: Two Little Words

Michael Tesoriero

Offering Song: Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
Bow down before God now in reverence draw near.
In whom no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around;
And burns with holy fire, with splendour shall be crowned;
How awesome is the sight, our sovereign God of light.
Be still, for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
Who comes to cleanse and heal, to minister with grace.
No work too hard for God. In faith we can receive.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Blessing of Offering and Communion Consecration

The Great Thanksgiving

God dwells in you: **And also in you**

Lift up your hearts: **We lift them up to God**

Let us give thanks to God: **It is a good and joyful thing to do...**

Holy Holy (Mass of Shalom)

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the
highest

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Ho-san-na in the highest

Our God in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your Dominion come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our failings

as we forgive those who fail us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the Dominion, the power and the glory

are Yours. Now and forever. *Amen.*

Lamb of God (Mass of Shalom)

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world
Grant us peace.

Affirmation:

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord we offer to your name;
Young and old, their praise expressing,
Join Your goodness to proclaim
As the saints in heaven adore You,
We would bow before your throne;
As your angels serve before you,
So on earth your will be done.

Benediction

Commissioning song: And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviours blood?
Christ died for me, in scorn and shame,
For me who Christ in death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me.
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me.

‘Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
Who can explain this strange design?
In vain the first born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
‘Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,

Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and natures night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray.
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus and all in Christ, is mine!
Alive in Christ, the living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

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