

Welcome to  
St Mark's Anglican Church  
Buderim

**A Service of Lament, Anger and Hope:  
A Liturgy Protesting Gender-Based  
Violence  
Against Women and Children**

We Gather Outside:

***AN EXPLANATION FOR THE SHOES***

***White was the colour of mourning in the early Church. These shoes represent those who have died in 2022 and 2023 from domestic, family and intimate partner violence. The coloured shoes are a sign of hope as we celebrate and honour those who have survived to live beyond the violence and create new lives. Let us give thanks for those who are alive and mourn the lives of those who have been murdered.***

***Our thanks to the Buderim Branch of the Mothers' Union who are supporting this service.***

*The Ven. Dr. Lucy Morris:*

Welcome to all MU members, friends and visitors who have come to St Mark's Anglican Church, Buderim for this service. It is held as part of the 16 Days of Global Activism with the world-wide Mothers Union seeking justice for the 1 in 3 women suffering from gender-based violence and abuse.

We gather today to raise our voices to our Creator and Mothering God, who knew us before we were knit in our mother's womb, who hears our cries, shares our tears, witnesses our anger, and who is steadfast in love for us all, now and forever. We come together to remember, name, and respond to the violence in all our lives, in families, churches, communities and governments.

**All: Let us walk this way together.**

*Let us move into the church following the shoes, and find our seats; please remain standing as we sing the first hymn.*

*Let us sing:*

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no-one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or strange, fit to wait on you.**

**Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

**Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active, healing just like you.**

**Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too,  
where God conquers evil let me dance with you.  
*Please be seated.***

*Rev'd Deb Bird:*

We have come in solidarity to mourn, to express our anger and outrage as we remember the women and children who have died: to offer witness to their suffering and death, and to share our lamentation. We stand at the foot of the cross with them crucified, and together, look beyond, with hope in God our Creator.

**We bring before you Lord, the lives of all those who have suffered violence in intimate relationships.**

We remember those precious individuals killed during 2021 and 2022 in Australia because of gender-based family, domestic and intimate partner violence. We give thanks to those who are alive and have survived. We give thanks for their courage and resilience. We thank those helpers and encouragers who helped them to survive.

**We pray for healing and hope for us all.**

In our sorrow and anger, with our prayers and tears we gather. We know God suffers with each woman, each child and all humanity. We know God suffered as Jesus in his undeserved persecution, oppression, control, constant abuse, betrayals and innocent death, through state sanctioned murder.

Today we break our silence once again, with the chorus of all who have gone before us, to give voice to the powerless who have been abused by those with power; and to remember the empty cross of Jesus, as the sign of hope for all who are still struggling with violence in their lives and homes.

**We stand together with one another and with Jesus as we remember everyone who has been killed and murdered during the last year.**

*A candle is lit by Jenny Duckworth, Chairperson MU Buderim:*

O God, come to our assistance:  
**O lord, hasten to help us.**

The Lord our God gives us salvation and victory:  
**the Lord our God brings us light and life**

God's right hand has done wonders:  
**so let us proclaim the works of our God.**

Give ear to our words, O God;  
**give heed to our groaning.**

Listen to the sounds of our cries, O God:  
**we're calling out to you.**

O God, you hear our voices:  
**we plead our case to you as we watch and wait.**

*Litany of Acknowledgement: Sue Milwright, MU Buderim*

God in whose image we are made, women and girls are undervalued across the world. Help us to affirm their gifts and their personhood, as they are beautifully and wonderfully created. Spare them from sexual harassment, molestation, and ritual abuse. Defend them from violent crimes, being kept in captivity, and atrocities of war, with rape as a weapon used by soldiers, and help us to love and respect them as part of your good creation. We all live and work with women and children. We live together in a society where violence is real.

**We say clearly, this must not be.**

We pause today to recognise there are many among us who have been wounded, broken, hurt and suffering through violence, exploitation, coercion, and manipulation.

**There are many among us who are suffering and grieving.**

There are many who need support and healing, who need their voices heard, their stories acknowledged, and their experience validated. The weight of oppression is heavy. The effects of trauma are real and long-lasting.

**We recognise all of us are impacted by the culture of violence, intolerance, and entitlement in which we live.**

**May we listen to one another and to God; may we become instruments of God's peace.**

*Reading by Glenda Bryant, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator  
Isaiah 65:17-25*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord – and their descendants as well

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*Rev'd Carole Low*

*Psalm 22:9-20*

But you are the Creator, that took me out of the womb

**That brought me to lie at peace on my mother's breast.**

On you have I been cast since my birth:

**You are my God, even from my mother's womb.**

O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand:

**And there is none to help.**

Many oxen surround me:

**Fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.**

They gape wide their mouths at me:

**Like lions thar roar and rend.**

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint:  
**My heart within my breast is like melting wax.**

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd:  
**And my tongue clings to my gums.**

My hands and my feet are withered:  
**And you lay me in the dust of death.**

For many dogs are come about me:  
**And a band of evildoers hem me in.**

I can count all my bones:  
**They stand staring and gazing upon me.**

They part my garments among them:  
**And cast lots for my clothing.**

O Lord, do not be far away!:  
**You are my helper, come quickly to my aid.**

*Reading by Jenny Duckworth Chairperson, MU Buderim  
1 Corinthians 12:12, 24-27*

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Hear the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection – The Ven. Dr Lucy Morris**

*Maryann Fulton, Spiritual Director*

Loving God, in a culture too easily dismissing us, we know you care. Among institutions slow to come to our aid, we know you help.

**You are our first and last resort.**

**Here is our prayer:**

We ask for comfort and peace.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for courage and strength.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for your justice and healing.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for compassionate listeners.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for faithful advocates.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for bold truth-tellers.

**God hear our prayer.**

We ask for personal and institutional transformation.

**God hear our prayer.**

*Lamentation and Consolation:*

We are all appalled and grieved as we face what has happened to our sisters, our children and men whom we love.

**In silence we reflect on this tragedy together.**

*Silence*

We say with each of you and to everyone affected:

**You are not alone.**

**We grieve with you,**

**We are angry alongside your anger**

**We share your pain**

**We commit ourselves to continue to work to create communities and a world without this violence, in God's presence, and bring God's kingdom alive to all who seek it.**

*Prayers – Jenny Clarke, Diocesan Domestic and Family Violence Working Group*

God of Grace, you nurture us with a love deeper than anything we know, and your will for us is always for healing, peace and

salvation. God of Love, you enter our lives, our pain, and our brokenness, and you stretch out your healing hands to us wherever we are. God of strength, you fill us with your presence.

**We dare to have hope, God of grace.**

*TIS 345 We sing together:*

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

Break the bonds of those imprisoned by fear, coercion, secrecy and silence. Fill with peace those who grieve over separation and loss.

**We dare to be healed, God of peace.**

***Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?***

Restore to wholeness all those broken in life or in spirit by violence within their families; restore to wholeness all those broken by violence with our family of nations, restore to them the power of your love; and give them the strength of your presence.

**We dare to be restored to wholeness and love, God of healing.**

***Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***



We name this brokenness before God, remembering those we have lost for whom we seek healing and peace.

**We dare to remember so we may find sanctuary and shalom, God of hope.**

***Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
O sometime, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?***

In our homes, our workplaces, our communities, our churches, our governments and in this world, we lift up before you all those who have died through gender-based family and intimate partner violence.

***Were you there when he rose from out the tomb?  
Were you there when he rose from out the tomb?  
O sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when he rose from out the tomb?***

*The Tolling of the Bell  
rung for those who have died.*

*You are invited to come up in silence and light a candle in the font or in the tray once the bell has finished ringing.  
Jenny Duckworth, Chairperson MU Buderim*

We light these candles for innocent women and children who died because of the violence inflicted upon them, who have been wounded and murdered. We hold them in our hearts and prayers.

**God of compassion, you feel our pain and cry with us in our grief.**

O God of light, in you all is turned to light, and brokenness is healed. Look with compassion on us and on those for whom we pray, that we may be re-created in wholeness, in love and in compassion for one another.

**God of Justice, you rage with us against the injustice of these experiences. Let our cry of 'never again' come to you in your grace, as you abide with us.**

*Let us stand and sing:*

**Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken.  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old, who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take of the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt of the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*Litany of Commitment - Michelle McDonald, Diocese of Brisbane*

We offer ourselves to you O God, our Creator.

We offer our hands.

**May we use healing touch to comfort our sisters, brothers and children who are afraid.**

We offer our eyes and ears.

**May we see and hear the signs and stories of violence so that all may have someone with them in their pain and confusion.**

We offer our hearts and tears as their hurt and sorrow echo within us.

We offer our own stories of violence to let them go.

**Use our gifts to end violence.**

We offer our faith, our hope and our love.

**May our encounters with violence bring us closer to you and each other as we work together for your peace.**

May these gifts be pleasing in your sight. All this we ask through Jesus Christ who knows the pain of violence. **Amen.**

*(From Striking Terror No More. p.93)*

As a community of faith, friends, supporters and resisters, we will not forget those who are hurting.

**We will listen carefully. We understand there are those among us who suffer in silence.**

We will not silence our neighbour again with platitudes, blaming, ignorance or privilege.

**We commit to holding their pain gently.**

We know we must continue to challenge the status quo, the power, systems, structures that resist our presence, our words and actions.

**We will not collude or hide.**

We will not be silent or apologetic.

**We will not cease to struggle against the brokenness of your world O Lord, as we seek your justice and your peace.**

We will not cease praying for your will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**We commit ourselves to the journey ahead and our friends will walk alone no longer.**

*Chris Cooper, Buderim*

Loving and compassionate God, today we have named the violence and we have lamented the loss of those murdered.

We honour those who are alive and living.

We have broken the silence.

We have felt your presence in our midst.

We have shared our grief.

We have lit candles in the darkness that will not be put out.

We have remembered and celebrated all whom you love.

Bless our time together, our knowing and all we will do in the future. Give us persistent hearts and strong bodies for the work to end violence in our midst.

God of eternity, we give you thanks for those who are no longer with us, those who paid with their lives for crimes never committed, those who died and are now forever free from abuse and torture. Receive them into your eternal keeping, and keep them in our memories, so together we will be empowered to spend our lives working for an end to violence.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit especially to our churches, our church leaders, our Mothers Union and upon our communities and our precious sisters and brothers. Open all our eyes, mouths, minds and hearts to do justice for the women and children in our community. **Amen.**

*Prayer Rev'd Theo Woods*

Lord of justice and mercy, draw us close to those who hurt. Let us reach out our hands I your name to share the sorrow and lessen the pain. Clothe our feet with your living Word to trample the works of unrighteousness.

Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Ours are the feet by

which he is to go about doing good and ours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.

**Lord of justice and mercy, knit us together as the body of Christ that we may speak out with one accord for the kingdom of God to prevail. Amen.**

*Blessing: The Ven. Dr Lucy Morris*

Go forth with courage and persistence, with all women everywhere, saying 'never again' to the abuse of women and children.

Go forth to make justice in your life, in your family, in your church, in your work and in your community.

Go forth knowing we follow in Jesus' footsteps, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Go forth rejoicing in this knowledge; and, the blessing of our Mother God, our Creator, Word and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Let us stand and sing: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*  
**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

***Refrain: O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**  
***Refrain***

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

*The End*

*You are invited to join us in Morning Tea, to be refreshed and to share your stories among friends.*

*If you need to talk to someone, please talk to The Ven. Lucy Morris, or ring: Lifeline 13 11 14 Samaritans 135 247*

**We offer this explanation for our Service:**

Today we raise our voices calling for an end to gender-based violence. Such violence includes physical, emotional, economic and sexual abuse, control and oppression. We know men and boys are also subjected to violence. Their presence among us as survivors, as agents of change, as individuals and family members, who are determined to break the pattern of violence and to support and assist their sisters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and children is a source of great joy and thankfulness to us all.

**Thank You to our Musician: Ailsa Rollston**

**10 COMMITMENTS FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

- 1 Our Church acknowledges and laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed.
- 2 Our Church leaders commit to ensure conditions that support the prevention of violence, a church culture that promotes equality, and support for those who experience violence.
- 3 Our Church consistently teaches about equality, freedom from violence, respectful relationships and the honour/value of every person.
- 4 Our Church affirms that human relationships are to be based on respect and mutuality.
- 5 Our Church acknowledges the different experiences of all people and that these have played a part in whether they have been treated with respect and equality

- 6 Our Church actions are directed by the gospel of love, peace and justice, and are informed and engaged with local, state and national government initiatives as appropriate.
- 7 Our Church supports cultural change in our communities by communicating effectively to our members.
- 8 Our Church trains our leaders, pastoral staff and parish councils to understand and be equipped to respond in ways that prevent and address domestic and family violence.
- 9 Our leaders and pastoral staff hold themselves to account and are guided by the Anglican Church's Code of Conduct: *Faithfulness in Service*.
- 10 These commitments are regularly reviewed and improved.

## **Parish Vision**

Bringing God's Love to Everyone

## **Mission**

To worship and celebrate the grace of God

To respond to human need by loving service

To transform society by pursuing peace and reconciliation

To care for the integrity of creation

## **Values**

Welcoming: being hospitable, generous and always  
inclusive

Compassionate: caring, companionable and loving

Listening: deeply patiently, without judgement and  
with discernment

Learning: humbly, steadily, joyfully.