



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 13th September 2020 @ 10 a.m.

Season of Creation 2

“Land Sunday!”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

- **Organist – Roger Peck**
- **IT – Ben Daniel**

INTROIT: TiS 135 - All things bright and beautiful! *(One verse)*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all.*

The coloured walls of gorges, the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees, the sparkling waterfall,

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all.*

*Author: Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95 (vv. 2 alt., 5, and refrain) Brian Black
1926- (vv. 1 and 3) Compilers (v 4.). Covered under CCLI Licence copyright.*

GREETING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you!

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into worship, remembering the land and the place where you drew your first breath

(name places of birth and family origin).

Come into worship, acknowledging the lands and places which have and continue to break open the gift of God’s presence

(name places where sacred presence is experienced).

Come into worship, trusting and anticipating those places where God may yet bring you

(name landscapes you hope to see one day).

Come into worship, companioned by these lands of origin and revelation and hope.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION

One: In holy presence, we gather:

We come with the land ...

... What does God hear when listening to the land?

Two: I am land, crying out, soiled by pollution.

Three: I am land, crying out, stained by the shedding of blood.

All: *What have we done to the land, O God, what have we done to you?*

Two: I am land, crying out, torn apart by hatreds.

Three: I am land, crying out, used up and discarded without thought for the future.

All: *What have we done to the land, O God, what have we done to you?*

One: What do we hear when listening to the land?

All: *I am land, crying out...*

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

One: God hears the cry of land – and God hears the cries we raise.

Two: Let us cry out for an end to the violence – done to the earth, done to one another.

Three: Let us cry out – and let us work for – a renewed commitment to Earth’s healing.

All: *God forgive us...
God empower us...
God help us ... for the sake of the land.
Thanks be to God! Amen.*

HYMN/SONG: TiS 626 – Lord of creation, to you be all praise!

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if ever I leave you I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Author: Jack Copley Winslow 1882-1974 alt. Covered under One License copyright.

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES – Rod Devenish

SPECIAL TIME WITH CHILDREN

– Andy Gault

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

– Helen Duggan

Reader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: "A light to our path."

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16 NRSV

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among
all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your
offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring
forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule
over you."

¹⁷And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you,

'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you
shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants
of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the
ground, for out of it you were taken you are dust, and to dust you shall
return."

Genesis 4:8-16

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they
were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. ⁹Then
the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know;

am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Psalm 139:7–12 NRSV

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ ***If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.***

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ ***even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.***

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹² ***even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.***

Romans 5:12–17 NRSV

Adam and Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12:38–40 NRSV

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

Reader: "Lord, may your Word live in us."

ALL: "And bear much fruit to your glory!"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN/SONG: TiS 668 – Touch the earth lightly!

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

*Author: Shirley Erena Murray 1931. Music C Gibson. Hope Publishing Company.
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OFFERING

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

– Mary Hollick

(Followed by 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: TiS 690 – Beauty for brokenness!

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

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WORD OF MISSION

One: Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion and to serve Earth by caring for creation, especially the land that God has given life so that we and all our kin may live. Hold again the fragrant symbol in your hands as you go forth to serve.

ALL: *We will remember the land! We will groan with creation! We will rejoice with the fields!*

One: Will you care for creation?

ALL: *We will care for creation! We will nurture the soil! We will celebrate life! Blessing.*

One: May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you. Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

ALL: *We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth.*

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 755 - You shall go out with joy!

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth in singing.
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands
and you'll go out with joy.

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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10 a.m., go to: www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

For more information, visit our church website – bcuc.org.au and church Facebook Page – [Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook](#)