



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 @ 10 a.m.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme – Give to God what is God's

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

- *IT – Ben Daniel*

**INTROIT: TIS 53 v1 and chorus. Come sing praises to our Lord above**

1. Come, sing praises to the Lord above  
rock of our salvation, God of love;  
with delight into God's presence move,  
for the Lord our God is king!

**Chorus:**

*God is king above the mountains high,  
the ocean deep, the land and sky;  
mighty continents and islands lie  
within the hollow of God's hand.*

### 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

ONE: Behold, Loving God, these people are your people.

ALL: **At your calling, we have gathered; by your leading, we have arrived at this place and time.**

ONE: As you have promised, your presence is with us;

ALL: **and we seek your renewal and rest.**

ONE: Make yourself known to us, Loving God.

ALL: **Come, be with us as we worship.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Where are you, God?

We long to see you.

We long to feel you near.

We long to be confident of your presence and accompaniment.

We bring our whole selves to this time of discernment and prayer.

See in our faces your creative genius, and hear in our prayers and songs your melodies of life.

Guide and nurture us, we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

we have looked for you in the wrong places,

and have missed your presence when it has been right here.

We have created gods out of powers and principalities;

we have bowed before wealth and privilege;

and we have admired the external glamour that comes with excess and easy access.

But we have missed your presence in meekness and diversity;

we have walked right past your essence in mutual need and interdependence;

and we have neglected to notice the divine beauty of internal grace and shared love.

Forgive us, we pray and help us to see you all around.

Free us from any bondage to fear and greed.  
Reveal yourself and guide us in the ways of mercy and goodness.  
Teach us to see, hear, feel, and know your presence today and always. Amen.

### WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Know that the Divine is present in every breath we take, every kindness we share, every glory we witness, and every beauty we embrace. Be assured of God's forgiveness just as we can be assured of the sun rising each morning.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### HYMN/SONG: TIS 143 Immortal invisible God only wise

Note we will sing a change to the first line of v 4. "Great Father of glory, pure *Mother* of light

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;  
your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. You give life to all, Lord, to both great and small,  
in all life now living, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,  
then wither: but ever unchanged you will be.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
of all your rich graces this grace, Lord, impart -  
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

5. All praise we would render: reveal to our sight  
what hides you is only the splendour of light;  
and so let your glory, Almighty, impart,  
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

**SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES – Eileen Devenish**

**EARLY WORD – Andy Gault and Rod Devenish**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

- Heather Gilbert

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

**ALL: "A light to our path."**

### READINGS

#### 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where

your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

### **Matthew 22: 15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Reader: “This is the Gospel of the Lord.”

**ALL: “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!”**

**REFLECTION: Give to God what is God’s - [Andy Gault](#)**

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

### **HYMN/SONG: TiS671 Made in God's Likeness**

**Refrain:** Made in God’s likeness, moved by the Spirit,  
Called to create a new world for the Lord,  
Called to create a new world for the Lord.

1. Birds in the mountains, sing of your praises,  
Called in the morning to tell of your love;  
Bellbirds and whipbirds, sing of creation,  
Celebrate always that Christ is the King. **Refrain**

2. Summoned at noontide, come now and follow,  
Joyfully marching wherever you lead;  
Roller birds, stuntmen, kingfishers’ laughter,  
Clowns of creation in the circus of God. **Refrain**

3. Called in the night-time to act in your drama  
To take on the Christ-role your script in our hearts;  
Masked owl and bowerbird teach us to study  
The Part we must play and the gifts we can share. **Refrain**

4. Called now at all times to wait on the Father,  
Follow his lead as he partners our dance;  
Brolga bird dances, retreats and returning,  
Bowing at last to his partner, the Lord. **Refrain**

### **OFFERING**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – [Lyn Fleming](#)**

(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!**

## SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### HYMN/SONG: TiS468 We are your people

1. We are you people; Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,  
Christ's living voice, hands and face.
2. Joined in community, treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts in each other,  
Willing to lead and be led.
3. Rich in diversity, help us to live  
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.
4. Glad of tradition, help us to see  
in all life's changing, where you are leading,  
where our best efforts should be.
5. Give, as we venture justice and care  
peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking,  
wisdom to know when and where.
6. Christ as we serve you in different ways,  
may all we're doing show that you're living,  
meeting your love with our praise.

### WORD OF MISSION (Based on the first Thessalonians reading)

We are called to be "imitators" of mercy, goodness, and the love of God. By being imitators, we become examples of Jesus and his life in our community.

### BLESSING

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

### DISMISSAL SONG: TiS782 Go now in peace

Go now in peace,  
Go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you everywhere,  
Everywhere you may go.

Prayers and message are adapted from Seasons of the Spirit (Season of Creation), [seasonofcreation.com/](http://seasonofcreation.com/) and Uniting in Worship II.  
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We sincerely acknowledge the invaluable work of our IT, Music and Worship Teams to continue to connect us in and through our Livestream Worship Service every Sunday at 10 a.m.  
To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10 a.m., go to: [www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch)  
For more information, visit our church website – [bcuc.org.au](http://bcuc.org.au) and church Facebook Page – [Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook](#)