



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
Ballarat Central Uniting Church  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 10 a.m. Easter 5

*“Called, Chosen, Appointed?”*

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**INTROIT: TiS 398 Come Down O Love divine (v.1)**

Come down, O love divine,  
Seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

**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!**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

We might not enter this building if we only knew ourselves to be slaves, what good would we be to our world if all we could do is the will of a slave owner? This is not our fate, we enter this building as companions and friends of the living Christ, known and loved, the recipients of joy.

**Let us together worship the One who welcomes us into fellowship and community with God. Amen.**

**HYMN: Father welcomes all his children TiS 491**

**Chorus:**        *Father welcomes all his children  
to his family through his Son;  
Father giving his salvation,  
life for ever has been won.*

Little children, come to me,  
for my kingdom is of these;  
life and love I have to give,  
mercy for your sin.    **Chorus**

In the water, in the word  
in his promise, be assured:  
those who are baptized and believe  
shall be born again.    **Chorus**

Let us daily die to sin,  
let us daily rise with him,  
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
live in the peace of God.    **Chorus**

**MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER:**

Loving and nurturing God, we thank you for mothers.  
For all they mean or have meant to us.

We thank you for the love they have shown and the care they have given.  
We thank you for their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding,  
in so many ways reflecting who you are.

**We thank you for the part they play in our lives,  
and for this special day of saying ‘thank you’ to them.**

As a mother protects her children, you watch over us day by day.

We thank you for your loving care which always encircles and protects us,  
Loving God, we pray for those for whom Mother's day brings heartache rather than  
celebration. We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers  
have died.

**We thank you for your mothering heart and your tender love, which nurtures all  
who feel abandoned and lost.**

We wait with those who long to be mothers, but as yet have not had their own  
children. We grieve with those who ache because they will never be mothers. We  
pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives.  
And we grieve with those who are orphaned or have a difficult relationship with their  
mother.

We thank you that when we long for a mother's love you do not abandon us.  
**We thank you that you gave birth to all of us with delight and joy, Lord in your  
mercy mother us all with your love. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

But, although we like to think we are free, so often we enslave ourselves, we bind ourselves in the expectations of society and become unwilling to speak out when we see injustice and wrongdoing in case it leads to us being ousted from the 'in' crowd. We buy into ideologies that set one person's worth above another's, depending on arbitrary things – wealth, looks, deal-making, political influence. We let the winds of popular opinion buffer us from one cause to another without fully engaging in anything life changing or transformative. We devalue friendship, making it about networking and connections that benefit us, and promote an ideal image of friendship that no one can ever live up to.

**Loving friend, open our eyes to what true friendship is and how we too might be true friends. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Christ is a gracious friend who loves us at all times and in all circumstances. Through his act of salvation we are brought into right relationship with God our loving creator. We need not hold onto fear and shame, for we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: I danced in the morning TiS 242**

**Chorus**

**Dance then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;  
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth: **Chorus**

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance  
and they wouldn't follow me. I danced for the fishermen,  
for James and John, they came with me  
and the dance went on: **Chorus**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die: **Chorus**

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
but I am the dance and I still go on: **Chorus**

They cut me down and I leap up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you as you live in me:  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he: **Chorus**

## **SHARING JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES**

### **Special Time with Children**

**READINGS:** Lesley Lyons

### **EARLY CHURCH HISTORY: Acts 10:44-48**

{44} While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.  
{45} The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, {46} for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, {47} "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" {48} So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**PSALM 98:** (words: The Grail; music: Kate Keefe)

### God, the Ruler of the World

Musical notation for Psalm 98, consisting of two staves of music in treble clef. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The name 'Kate Keefe' is written in the top right corner of the notation area.

The Lord has re - vealed to the na -  
tions his sa - ving power.

**Response** *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **Response**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **Response**  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **Response**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **Response**

### EARLY CHURCH LETTER: 1 John 5:1-6

{1} Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. {2} By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. {3} For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, {4} for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. {5} Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? {6} This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

### HYMN: Holy Spirit, come, confirm us TiS 413

Holy Spirit, come confirm us in the truth that Christ makes known;  
we have faith and understanding through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come console us, come as advocate to plead,  
loving Spirit from the Father, grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come renew us, come yourself to make us live:  
holy, through your loving presence, holy, through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come possess us, you the love of Three in One,  
holy Spirit of the Father, holy Spirit of the Son.

### GOSPEL: John 15: 9-17

{9} As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. {10} If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. {11} I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. {12} "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. {13} No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. {14} You are my friends if you do what I command you. {15} I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. {16} You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. {17} I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### REFLECTION: "Called, Chosen, Appointed?"

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Based on Psalm 98

We sing to you, our God, a brand-new song. For the world is a place of wonder. You are the composer of the symphony that made all things, the one who enfolds us and carries us in the heart of your family.

**The orchestra of creation fills the earth –  
trumpeting birds, and calling whales,  
beaming stars and dancing winds,  
groaning mountains and whirring seas,  
everything lets loose and sings and plays  
and fills the earth and waters and heavens with joyful sounds.**

For God has set things right, what was old has been restored,  
the crooked has been made straight,  
the Lord of the dance lives and renews all things. **Amen!**

**HYMN: To God be the glory, great things he has done TiS147**

**Chorus:**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!***

To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in. **Chorus**

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God!  
And every offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. **Chorus**

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see. **Chorus**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** Richard Jordan

**Offering & Offertory Prayer:**

**Spirit, companion and friend, may the friendship we offer with these gifts we  
bring be known and bring light and love wherever they land. Amen.**

**HYMN: Filled with the Spirit's power TiS 411**

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord  
the infant church confessed its risen Lord:  
O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
that unity may be our great desire:  
give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,  
and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace  
in your strong care all those of every race:  
like wind and fire with life among us move  
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

**BENEDICTION:**

**DISMISSAL SONG: This is my will, my one command TiS 641 (v.1,2)**

"This is my will, my one command,  
that love should dwell among you all.  
This is my will, that you should love  
as I have shown that I love you.

No greater love can be than this:  
to choose to die to save one's friends.  
You are my friends if you obey what I command that you should do.

**Worship Leader: Rev Bill Clark; Organist: Roger Peck; Reader: Lesley Lyons;  
Prayer: Richard Jordan; Elder: Clark Chester; IT & Sound: Ben Daniel**

Prayers are adapted from Seasons of the Spirit and Uniting in Worship II.

Songs are covered for print and livestream under CCLI Licenses and Services  
copyright - 92505 Size D; 956612 Size D; 100813 Size A;  
51350 Size C; 23869 Size B and One License 625332-A.

We sincerely acknowledge the invaluable work of our IT, Music, Hospitality 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/BallaradCentralUnitingChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/BallaradCentralUnitingChurch)

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