



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 7th August 2022

10 a.m. Pentecost 9

“Dynamic Faith!”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: SiS 34 – Turn your eyes upon Jesus!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.

Author: Helen H. Lemmel © 1922 New Spring

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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 CUSTODIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP

For three voices or two voices and response

ONE: All day long, God calls to Earth.

ALL: All day long, Earth answers.

TWO: The rivers run, and grasses blow, sand shifts and shifts again. Lava
churns deep within Earth.

ONE: All day long, God calls to Earth.

ALL: All day long, Earth answers.

TWO: Ocean tides rush in and out, and creatures swim along. Trees bend and
straighten, and mountains sing the song of the ancients.

ONE: All day long, God calls to Earth.

ALL: All day long, Earth answers.

TWO: Dusk to dawn, day to night, six days turn to seven.

ONE: All day long, God calls to Earth.

ALL: All day long, Earth answers.

TWO: God’s people come together, friend and stranger. Let us join with all
creation in praising our wondrous God.

ONE: All day long, God calls to Earth.

ALL: All day long, Earth answers.

TWO: Come, let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God of our past, present, and future, we plant our faith in hope for a
future that is yet to be seen.

When we want it all now, may we find the realm of love growing piece
by piece, word by word, act by act.

ALL: Forgive our impatience, O God.

ONE: When we want immediate results remind us of the slow unfolding of
faith day by day, prayer by prayer, generation to generation.

ALL: Forgive our impatience, O God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: Like an oak, faith grows purposefully and firmly.

As roots stretch down, so faith grounds itself in our living.

As branches and leaves provide life, so our faith produces the fruit of
love and justice.

Through God’s forgiveness, we continue to grow in faith.

Secure in the love of God, we endure.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet one another with God’s peace and love in a Covid-safe way.

HYMN/SONG: TiS 596 – Fill my whole life, O Lord my God!

Fill my whole life, O Lord my God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
your being and your ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor ev'n the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part!

Fill every part of me with praise;
let all my being speak
of you and of your love, O Lord,
poor though I be, and weak.

So shall no part of day or night
from sacredness be free;
but with you, Lord, in every step
be fellowship will be.

Horatius Bonar 1808-1889. Public Domain.

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

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

ALL: "A light to our path."

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 (NIV)

Faith in Action

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she^[b] considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

PSALM 50:1-8, 22-23

Music: Jonathan Battishill; Words: Joel Stamooolis

Joel Stamooolis

Give un - to the Lord an off - 'ring of thanks - giv - ing;
of - fer un - to God a sac - ri - fice of praise.

Response: *Give unto the Lord and offering of thanksgiving;
offer unto God a sacrifice of praise.*

The Lord, the God of Gods has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God re-veals himself in glory.

Response

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging
storm. He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of his people.

Response

"Gather before me my loy-al followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God him-self is judge.

Response

"Hear, O my people and I will speak;
O Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God your God.
I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your offerings are always before me.

Response

Consider this well, you who forget God,
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.
Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me;
but to those who keep in my way I show the salvation of God.

Response

Luke 12:32–40 (NIV)

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchfulness

³⁵ "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was

coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!

All: And bear much fruit to your glory!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *Dynamic Faith!*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN/SONG: TiS 691 – Faith will not grow from words alone!

Faith will not grow from words alone,
from proofs provided, scriptures known;
our faith must feel its way about,
and live with question-marks and doubt.

The pattern Jesus showed, we share:
life comes through death, hope through despair.
God is made known in brokenness,
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.

Faith takes the little that we know,
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!
Love and take courage, come what may;
Christ will be with us on the way.

Words: Elizabeth J Smith (1956-), Music Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)

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OFFERING

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (*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!***

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN: TiS 533 – I come with joy to meet my Lord!

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world
we'll live and speak his praise.

*Author: Brian Arthur Wren 1936- © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.
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Invitation

One: When we are travelling,

All: *God is with us.*

One: When we are alone,

All: *God comes to us.*

One: When we feel weak and unsure,

All: *God offers us food for the journey.*

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore, with the whole creation: with all your people gathered
across time and space, with all the works of your hands with everything
visible and invisible, imagined and unimaginable, we sing:

***Sanctus* TIS 756**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Holy Spirit, O God, that these gifts in creation, may also be for
us the gift of re-creation in Christ and in the power of your Holy Spirit.
Shape us into one body; press us into one wine; bake us into one bread –
the Bread of Abundant Life and Cup of Abundant Salvation – for the
feeding of all your sheep and the nurture of creation.

***Acclamations* TIS 756**

[i] Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

As we break bread, may we be reconnected to the Christ.

As we drink from this cup, may we be strengthened to go forth in Christ's
name, offering forgiveness and wholeness to all people.

***[ii] Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen***

The Breaking of Bread

Christ is the bread of life, food for healing and wholeness.

Christ is the cup of peace, the justice of God.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

Let us receive what we are; let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Agnus Dei: Jesus lamb of God, have mercy on us
TIS 756 Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Sharing Together

The Body of Christ, Abundant Life, to keep us to eternal life!
The Cup of Salvation, Abundant Forgiveness, to keep us to eternal life!

Prayer after Communion

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN/SONG: TiS 619 – Have faith in God my heart!

Have faith in God, my heart,
trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfil in every part
each promise he has made.

Have faith in God, my mind,
though oft your light burns low;
God's mercy holds a wiser plan
than you can fully know.

Have faith in God, my soul,
his cross for ever stands;
and neither life nor death can pluck
his children from his hands.

Lord Jesus, make me whole;
grant me no resting place
until I rest, heart, mind and soul,
the captive of your grace.

*Author: Bryn Austin Rees 1911-83 alt. © 1994 Selah Publishing Company, Inc.
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WORDS OF MISSION

ONE: Full of faith,
ALL: we will work together for justice.

ONE: Full of faith,
ALL: we will have hope for the future.

ONE: Full of faith,
ALL: we will live together in peace.

ONE: Full of faith,
ALL: we will move together into the world.

ONE: Full of faith,
ALL: we will follow in the way of Christ together.

DISMISSAL SUNG BLESSING: TiS 781 – Father bless us as we go!

Father, bless us as we go,
Jesus, walk beside us.
Holy Spirit, guide us.

Author: Robin Mann 1949-. © 1977 Robin Mann.

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Worship Leaders – Revs Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Lyall Reid;

Elder – Pam Toom; **Communion Elders:** Alice Haley, Rod Devenish,
Tricia Martin, Lauren Martin, Barry Wilkins; **Reader** – Greta Christie;

Prayer – Barry Wilkins; **Musician** – Evan Duggan;

IT, Video & Audio – Ben Daniel;

Welcome – Glenice Warner, Tupou Family, Linda Macaulay;

Door Stewards – Eileen & Rod Devenish;

Morning Tea – Glenice Warner, Alice Haley, Helen Peart.

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

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For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and
Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**