

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 2nd February 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. Epiphany 4

SELF-WORTH: The Theological Perspective!

HOLY COMMUNION

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 717 – Give thanks!

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (x2)
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong,' let the poor say, 'I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us.' (x2)
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

*Author: Henry Smith 1952– © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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GREETING

Leader: 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.

ALL: *And also with you!*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 71:1–6)

In your presence we find a place of safety where we will never be put to
shame. Your way is good and right and keeps us from all kinds of trouble.

***Tune your heart to the sounds of our voices as we open our hearts to
worship you.***

Shelter us from all that threatens to destroy; for, with you, we do not have
to be afraid. You are our hope and trust from the days of our youth.

***Tune your heart to the sounds of our voices as we open our hearts to
worship you.***

We have trusted you from the time we were born; in fact, it was you who
drew us out of our mothers' wombs and you midwife us along the way.

***Tune your heart to the sounds of our voices as we open our hearts to
worship you.***

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 92 – Sing to God, with joy and gladness!

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*

God unites his scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*

Such is God's great power and wisdom none can calculate or tell;
keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*

God, with clouds, the sky has curtained thus ensuring rain shall fall;
earth responding, grows to order food for creatures great and small.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*

God's discernment never favours strength or speed to lift or move;
God delights in those who fear him, trusting in his steadfast love.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*

Text, music: John L Bell

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, when we forget you in our busyness
make us mindful of your steadfast presence.

When we will not look truth in the face,
turn our eyes to your way.
 When we recoil from the harsh realities of life,
open us to the suffering within and around us.
 When we move on in blissful ignorance,
awaken in us a heart of compassion.
 When we are afraid to speak our minds,
put into our mouths words of your justice.
 When we question the very thought of you in our lives,
become real to us, once again, through love.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (based on Jeremiah 1:5)

God says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart as my own."

Secure in our place within God, we can receive both comfort and challenge, words easy and hard, future hope and present reality. Receive again this message: God says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart as my own."

Amen. Let it be so.

HYMN: TiS 778 - Shalom to you now!

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
 May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
 In all your living and through your loving,
 Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, 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:

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (NRSVUE)

Jeremiah's Call and Commission

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
⁷ But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you."
⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."
⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth."
¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

PSALM 71:1-6

Music: Naomi James

Naomi James

For you O Lord have al-ways been there From be-fore my birth and my first breath of air. I will put my hope and my trust in you for all of my days. I will praise you al-ways.

Response

For you O Lord have always been there
From before my birth and my first breath of air
I'll put my hope and my trust in you for all of my days
I will praise you always

In you, O LORD, I take refuge
 Shelter me,

Let me never be put to shame, enlighten me,
In your righteousness, deliver and rescue me.
Incline your ear to me,
Hear my praises, hear my prayers. *Response*

You are my rock and my fortress
Protect me,
From the hand of the wicked, deliver me,
From the grasp of the unjust and cruel release me
Incline your ear to me,
Hear my praises, hear my prayers. *Response*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NRSVUE)

The Gift of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Reader: "Lord, may your word live in us."
ALL: "*And bear much fruit to your glory!*"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

SELF-WORTH: *The Theological Perspective!*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

(Your offerings for the mission and ministry of God through Ballarat Central Uniting Church will be gratefully received during the hymn. Please remain seated until the last verse.)

HYMN/SONG: TiS 217 – Love divine, all loves excelling!

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:

changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS 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

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the sign of peace.

HYMN/SONG: ATOW 475 – Come to the banquet!

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Though you maybe have no money, though you maybe feel unworthy,
in your strength or in your weakness you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

See, you are an honoured guest, from constant serving you may rest;
so sit you down, be fed and blessed, for you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Woman, wise one, mother, maiden, see your plate with food is laden
and your place is set and waiting. You are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Worker, father, little boy, old man or youth without employ,
come rest your worry, here is joy, and you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Here is one who runs to meet you, loving arms stretched out to greet you.
Do not let your fear defeat you. You are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

Abundant wine, enough for all! Our generous, loving host has called.
The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet communion, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

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INVITATION

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.

... And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining
with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

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.***

NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION

... With this bread and this cup, here in the church and also with those
joining us online, we do as our Saviour commands: we celebrate the
redemption Jesus has won for us.

Let us therefore declare the witness of our faith:

TiS 756

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen!

... Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, here in the church and also at homes, that they may truly be for us the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ is the Bread of Life, ***shared among God's people.***

Christ is the Cup of Joy, ***reviving the faint-hearted.***

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

The Body of Christ.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD - TIS 756

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SENDING FORTH - ALL

God who created us in your image and whose voice cascades in and through this place, pour out your spirited words into our mouths. May we journey beyond these walls as your beloved children, prophets speaking your truth, disciples showing your way, and companions in Christ's name! Amen.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: ATN '87 - NCYC 1987 – Walkin' down the road with you!

When the day has begun, and the darkness is done,
and my eyes see the sky so blue;

I put on my clothes, I'm ready to go
walkin' down the road with you.

*So I'm walkin' down the road, walkin' down the road,
walkin' down the road with you;
yes I'm walkin' down the road, walkin' down the road,
walkin' down the road with you.*

O stay by my side, Jesus, you be my guide,
don't you know how I trust in you.

Show me where I should call, pick me up when I fall,
as I'm walkin' down the road with you.

*So I'm walkin' down the road, walkin' down the road,
walkin' down the road with you;*

*yes I'm walkin' down the road, walkin' down the road,
walkin' down the road with you.*

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai; **Elders** – Jacklyn Tanginoa, Anita Hinton, Maureen Vallance, Miriam Peck; **Readers** – Helen Peart, Glenice Warner, Andy Gault; **Prayer** – Lyn Fleming; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Glenice Warner, Lauren Martin; **Door Stewards** – Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Jan Souter, Jan Dimond, Helen Peart, Nina Netherway.

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