

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation

Easter 4 - Sunday 11th May 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Mother's Day Celebration!

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.

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GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

ALL: *And also with you!*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP - *A responsary and action Call to Worship!*

Response:

We are rooted in God

(Gently stomp feet and plant arms straight at sides)

maturing in Christ

(Bring arms up and out like branches)

and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

(Turn palms down and make fists like fruit)

Christ makes known to us the Living God and we belong to Christ forever.

Response:

We are rooted in God

maturing in Christ

and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Christ speaks words from God and we receive them and know the truth.

Response:

We are rooted in God

maturing in Christ

and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Christ is glorified in us as we gather in unity for prayer and worship.

Response:

We are rooted in God

maturing in Christ

and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Christ's Spirit is going out into the world and we follow as bearers of God's love.

Response:

We are rooted in God

maturing in Christ

and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Mothering God, you are the source of all life and being.

In you, we bear the glory of creation.

In you, we receive the mystery of grace.

In you, we find the wisdom of community.

We honour you, Holy Trinity:

Mother of Creation,

Midwife of Liberation,

and Nurturer of Faith.

Amen.

HYMN/SONG: ATOW 435 - Wellsprings

*Like the woman of old, each day
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*
Some days the well seems dry.
We can't reach the water—it's too hard.
Some days our legs won't take us,
our hearts are aching, crying.

*Like the woman of old, each day
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*
Some days our minds are reeling.
There's too much happening—we need to stop.
Some days our souls are parched,
we need the water—so thirsty.

*Like the woman of old, each day
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*
Some days there's no escape
life's routine and madness.
Some days we don't want to go—
we can't see the rhyme or reason.

*Like the woman of old, each day
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*
Some days we're resurrected,
we feel new life—inside us.
Some days our faith moves mountains,
we feel life's glory—earth and heaven.

*Like the woman of old, each day
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died and resurrected for the ungodly. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

HYMN/SONG: P&W 243 – I love you Lord!

I love You Lord, and I lift my voice,
to worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy my King in what You hear.
Let me be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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:

ACTS 9:36-43 (*nrsvue*)

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she

sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

PSALM 23

Words and music: Stuart Townend

Stuart Townend

And I will trust in you a - lone, and I will trust in you a - lone, for your
 end - less mer - cy fol - lows me, your good - ness will lead me home.

**Response: *And I will trust in you alone,
 And I will trust in you alone,
 For your endless mercy follows me,
 Your goodness will lead me home.***

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
 He makes me lie in pastures green.
 He leads me by the still, still waters,
 His goodness restores my soul. *Response*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
 And he anoints my head with oil,
 And my cup, it overflows with joy,
 I feast on his pure delights. *Response*

And though I walk the darkest path,
 I will not fear the evil one,
 For you are with me, and your rod and staff
 Are the comfort I need to know. *Response*

**JOHN 10:22-30 (NRSVUE)
 Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews**

²² At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of

Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

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

MOTHER'S SHARING:

*Susan Pierotti
 Margo Cunningham
 Glenice Warner*

Let us spend a moment of silent reflection on these mother's words.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

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

HYMN/SONG: TiS 659 – The Lord is my Shepherd!

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow
 wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
 Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,
 valleys and highways he's waiting for me.
*I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.
 The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
 wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey to where we are going
 he promised to be there to help us along,

and over the mountains we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders he's given to me.
*I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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!***

WORD OF MISSION

Mothering God, going from this place we can hear you on the wind, calling,
we will follow as your people.

Going from this place, we can feel your spirit in us, comforting,
we will trust in you forever.

Going from this place, we can tell your story, as witnesses,
we will proclaim your love.

Going from this place, We can meet with you, forever,
as we journey into the world.

BLESSING

God the Father make you holy in his love;
God the Son enrich you with his grace;
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with joy;
the Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 650 – Brother, sister, let me serve you!

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Laleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault, Susan Pierotti, Margo Cunningham, Glenice Warner; **Elder** – Maureen Vallance; **Reader** – John Schulz, Nina Netherway; **Prayer** – Karen Coad; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist** – Ray Hodder; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Rod Devenish, Anita Hinton; **Door Stewards** – Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Men and boys of BCUC. *Prayers are adapted from Uniting in Worship II and Seasons of the Spirit. Songs are covered for print and livestream under CCLI License copyrights - 92505 Size D; 956612 Size D; 100813 Size A; 51350 Size C; 23869 Size B and One License 625332-A.*

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