



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 9th November, 2025 – 10am
Pentecost 22

My Spirit Remains Among You

AS A GATHERED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY WE COME TO
WORSHIP GOD

Luke 24: 13-24

GATHERING HYMN — TiS 723 Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you.
Holy are you, Lord.

Santo, santo, santo, Mi Corazon tea dora
Mi Corazon te saba decir,
Santo eres Senor.

Holy, holy, holy, My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you.
Holy are you, Lord.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day of memories, we gather to sing and to pray;
we remember the past and look to the future.

On this day when the guns and cannons fell silent,
we come before you, God, seeking your peace.

On this day of hope in the face of terror,
we come before you, God, believing in your promise.

Let us worship God together, in peace.

HYMN: God of Creation Tune: Highland Cathedral

**God of creation, God of grace and love
Maker of all things here below, above,
While all the heav'ns declare your glory, Lord
all on the earth sing praise with one accord.**

**Son of the Father, Christ our Saviour, King,
Who on the cross did our salvation bring;
Risen to life in resurrection power,
Prays to the Father for us hour by hour.**

**Wonderful and wise Counsellor
Lord, do that which is just
Do that which is right
Mighty God and the Prince of Peace,
Come, rule over our life today.**

**Life-giving Spirit, God's good gift of grace,
Presence of Jesus through all time and space;
Come and empower us so our lives may be
Spent in your service for eternity. Amen.**

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PRAYER OF ADORATION and THANKSGIVING

God, our Creator and Redeemer, we gather in your presence at this time of worship. We come to you today proclaiming your power and your promise in a world where there are many things that frighten us. Today we proclaim your power to defeat the forces that work against your hope for the world.

God of might and mercy, we proclaim that your love that cracks open our hearts and draws us to you and to one another.

As we approach Remembrance Day we are aware of how much war has cost the world you love. In spite of fighting between nations and neighbours, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, carrying no sword, calling us to serve as peace makers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn our swords into ploughshares, and lead the world from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples.

We proclaim your promise in Jesus Christ that nothing can separate us from your love.

Strengthen us that we may live out our trust in your power and promise in friendship with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that the world around us is in a mess.

Countries turn arguments over territory into threats of terror.

Old enemies stir up conflict within their tribes and nations.

The threat of violence keeps us all on edge. Forgive us for not learning from past conflicts what leads to peace with justice.

God of grace, we are sorry for times when anger or bitterness made us resentful.

We are sorry that the desire to get even turns us from your mercy. Forgive us, O

God, and shine the light of Christ on us, so that we can know his peace and his purposes for us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. To all who turn away from hostility and seek reconciliation in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace. We hear with joy again the words of Christ - your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Luke 24:25-27

JOYS and CONCERNS

EARLY WORD

READINGS Your word O Lord is a lamp to our feet
a light to our path

Haggai 1: 15b– 2:9

^{15b}In the second year of King Darius, ¹In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ²"Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say: ³Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? ⁴Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, ⁵according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. ⁶For thus says

the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, ⁷and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. ⁹The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts."

Psalm 145 1-5, 17-21

CHOIR/CONG RESPONSE

Graeme Sutton/H Smart



**Cong: I will proclaim your greatness, my God and King
I will thank you for ever and ever.**

I will proclaim your greatness my God and King, and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will thank you and I will praise your name forever and ever.

Cong: I will proclaim.....for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised and his greatness is beyond understanding. What you have done will be praised from one generation to another, they will proclaim your mighty acts. We will speak of your honour and majesty and of your wondrous acts.

Cong: I will proclaim.....for ever and ever.

The Lord is righteous in all he does and merciful in all his acts: He is near to those who call to him, who call to him with sincerity.

He supplies the needs of those who honour him, he hears their cries and saves them He protects everyone who loves him but he will destroy the wicked.

Cong: I will proclaim.....for ever and ever.

I will always praise the Lord: Let all creation praise his holy name for ever.

Cong: I will proclaim.....for ever and ever.

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day

of the Lord is already here. ³Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Luke 20: 27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

May your word live in us,
And bear much fruit to your glory.

MINISTER’S ADDRESS. *When Life Hurts, my Spirit remains among you.*

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD IN ACTION WORD AND SONG

Luke 24:28-32

OFFERING (remain seated for the 1st and 2nd verse, stand on the 3rd)

Hymn: We cannot measure how you heal (Ye banks and braes)

**We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.**

**The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.**

**So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.**

c Iona Community 1989, 1996

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of justice and generosity, when we consider that Christ gave his very life for our sakes, we are humbled to offer our gifts. We are also humbled by the memory of those who gave up their youth, their families, and their very lives in conflict so that justice and truth would prevail. Bless our small gifts with the possibilities your Spirit can create, so that justice and truth continue to prevail in the world you love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE— *for the Church and the world*

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.

FORGIVEN AND RESTORED—WE CAN RETURN CONFIDENTLY TO THE WORLD Luke 24: 33-35

HYMN TIS 28: God is our strength and refuge:

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear
though the earth should change,
though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling waters are raging:
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.

here is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her,
she shall not be moved.
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence:
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.

Come, see the works of our Maker,
learn of his deeds all powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear.
Be still and know your Creator,
uplift him in the nations;
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore. Richard Thomas Bewes.

WORD OF MISSION and BLESSING

Jesus called us to be peacemakers. So pray for peace. Work for peace. Trust that peace is possible through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and the blessing of God, Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life, be with you now and always. Amen.

RECESSIONAL: Deep stillness (sung twice)

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland.
For you, deep blue of the desert skies.
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ.
In the name of Christ.
In the name of Christ

c 1996 Words: Julie Perrin, Music: Robin Mann

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Graeme Sutton, **Musician:** Roger Peck **Elder:** Susan Pierotti, **Reader:** Jen Mitchell, John Schultz, **Prayers:** Helen Duggan; **Choir Director** - Helen Duggan and **BCUC Choir;** **IT/Video/Audio** Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman **Welcome:** Maureen Doonan, Glenice Warner. **Door Stewards:** Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea:** Betty Stewart, Faye Withers, Charlotte Withers, Barb Snibson

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go to: www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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