



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 26th October 2025

10 a.m. Pentecost 20

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Introit TiS 100 verse 1 All creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia;
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

William Henry Draper 1855-1933. Public Domain

CALL TO WORSHIP *Hear the call of God to us all*

Children of the living redeeming Jesus
be glad and rejoice in the Lord our God;
We shall know that God is among us.

We shall know that Jesus is Lord,
And the Holy Spirit is our enabler.
And his people shall never again be put to shame.

Then God will pour out his Spirit across the world.
His sons and daughters shall prophesy,
his older folk will dream dreams,
and his younger folk shall see visions. (Joel 2:1,27-28)

HYMN: TiS 100 All creatures of our God and King

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
O fire, so masterful and bright, providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds rich blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow, let them his glory also show;
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise him, alleluia!
All who long pain and sorrow bear praise God and on him cast your care;
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! *William Henry Draper 1855-1933. Public Domain*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND WELCOME

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION

Loving God, Lord of the Church, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed: we have not loved you with all our heart or
served you with all our strength; we have been blind to the vision of a
renewed world and deaf to your call to costly discipleship; we have been
indifferent to the suffering of others and unwilling to forgive one another. In
your mercy, Lord, pardon and restore us, that together in the ministry of
Christ we may serve you with joy all the days of our life. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us, 'Our sins are forgiven' and the deep peace of the Lord is always available to us.

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken 1637-1711 alt. - Public Domain.

EARLY WORD - FOR THE CHILD WITHIN EACH OF US

SHARING TIME [Notices, celebrations, requests for intercessions]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTRODUCTION OF THEME: A widening of understanding

OLD TESTAMENT: Joel 2:23-32 I will pour out my spirit

Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. ²⁴ The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. ²⁵ "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm^[a]— my great army that I sent among you. ²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁸ "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.^[b]

PSALM 65 Psalms for Praying words: Nan C. Merrill, music: Gordon Johnston



To You we com-mit our lives, to You who hear our prayers.

Response To You we commit our lives, to You who hear our prayer.

Praise belongs to You, O Indwelling Beloved,
and to You we commit our lives, to You who hear our prayers!
To you we come when we go astray;
When our transgressions fill us with guilt, You do forgive us.

Response

Blessed are those who draw near to You,
those who dwell in your Heart!
Awaken us to your kindness,
enter into the Sacred Chapel of our heart!

Response

At the rise of each morning, and as the sun sets at night,
the people bow their heads in reverent gratitude.
You visited the earth and slaked our thirst,
offering Living Streams of water;

Response

You fed the hungry, and taught of Love's way.
You watered hardened souls, filled with stone and weeds,
softening them with kindness, and blessing their growth.
You crowned your years with abandonment,
inviting all to Eternal Life.

Response

In the desert, flowers come forth, the pastures flourish with fruit and grain;
Creation's diversity is glorious!
May all people honour these gifts with joyful song
while walking the path of Love. **Response**

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14 The pharisee and the tax collector

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

HYMN TiS 609: May the mind of Christ my Saviour

May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self-denying, this is victory.

May I run the race before me strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson 1859-1928 alt. Public Domain

SERMON: Pharisee or Tax Collector

Leaping with joy from our rocking horse

OFFERING

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

HYMN TiS 569: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams 1717-91. Public Domain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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!***

The Sending Forth of the People of God

HYMN TiS 136: There's a wideness in God's mercy

There is a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea,
And forgiveness in his justice sealed for us on Calvary.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own,
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word;
And our lives would be illumined by the goodness of our Lord.

Frederick William Faber; John Stainer

WORD OF MISSION

BLESSING: **Written by my indigenous cousin - Vince Ross**

*May the God of creation warm our hearts like the campfires of old,
Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land,
Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains
Followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.
Let the light of God show us the right path and stand tall like the big
River gums drawing life from the ever-flowing waters.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

GO OUT PRAISING GOD:

HYMN TiS 136: There's a wideness in God's mercy, verses 1 & 4

There is a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea,
And forgiveness in his justice sealed for us on Calvary.

But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own,
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

Frederick William Faber; John Stainer

Worship Leaders – Rev Keith Kynoch; **Elder** – Jen Mitchell; **Readers** – Margaret Bennett, Bron James, Andy Gault; **Prayer** – Graeme Sutton; **Choir Director** - Helen Duggan and **BCUC Choir**; **Organist, keyboardist** – Ray Hodder; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Bev Hutchinson, Susan Pierotti; **Door Stewards** - Ron Fleming; Nancy O'Loughlin; **Morning Tea** – Maureen Doonan, Bron James, Jan Dimond, Theresa Read.

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www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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