



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

SUNDAY the 16th of November, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG: God of Creation, All-Powerful

God of creation, all-powerful, all-wise,
Lord of the universe rich with surprise,
Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all,
we are your children--you hear when we call.

God of the ages, through time's troubled years
you are the One in whom history coheres;
nations and empires your purpose fulfill,
moving in freedom, yet working your will.

God of redemption, who wrought our rebirth,
called out your church from the ends of the earth,
still you are Savior--put darkness to flight;
overcome sin by salvation's pure light!

God of your people, your Word still stands fast--
do for us now as you've done in the past!
Yours is the Kingdom--your triumph we claim,
challenging evil in Jesus' strong name.

God of our now, all our trust is in you,
Covenant-God, ever faithful and true;
Sovereign Creator, Redeemer and Lord,
now and forever your name be adored!

Words By Margaret Clarkson (Tune SLANE) © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome and Notices/Sharing

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

EARLY WORD

SONG: Goodness is stronger than evil

Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours, Victory is ours
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, Victory is ours
through God who loves us.

Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death;
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Music by John Bell GIA (c) 1996 Iona Community

READINGS

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;

the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child;

the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;

they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labour in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to
misfortune;

for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their
descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like
the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

Psalm Isaiah 12 *Text (based on Isaiah 12:2-6) and music: Paul Inwood*



Response: ***We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing
joyfully:
We shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of
salvation.***

Truly God is our salvation; we trust we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, the Lord is our song:
he became our saviour.

Response

Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;
give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all the nations;
proclaim his greatness.

Response

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds.

Make known his deeds to all of the earth;

people of Zion, sing for joy, for great in your midst,

great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Response

Luke 21: 5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with
beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ “As for these things
that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon
another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that
this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led
astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’[Ⓜ] and, ‘The time is
near!’[Ⓜ] Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these
things must take place first, but the end will not follow

immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and
kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various
places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great
signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they
will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought
before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an
opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense
in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words[Ⓜ] and a wisdom that none of your
opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed
even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put
some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But
not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your
souls.

MESSAGE

REFLECTION TIME - SIGNS OF THE TIMES – Paper Chain

LISTENING: Your Labor is not in Vain (Wendell Kimborough)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(followed by the Lord's Prayer)*

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.

OFFERING (Please remain seated until the last verse)

SONG: We sing of our need for God *(Tune: Love Unknown) – John L Bell*

God, give us peace that lasts
not through the fear of might,
but through the force of love
and love of life and right.
Where costly wars and weapons lure,
show us our Lord among the poor.

God, give us love that lasts,
which makes of strangers, guests;
which startles hurt with hope
and for the weak protests;
what hate or guiltiness emboss,
confront with Jesus and the cross.

God, give us hope that lasts
through passion and through pain,
through danger, doubt and death
till life is raised again.
When dread and pessimism loom,
direct us to the empty tomb.

And all these things we ask
in knowledge of your grace
which gave the earth its birth
and bore a human face;
and with our prayers we give a word
to serve and follow Christ our Lord.
(Tune: Love Unknown) – John L Bell

BLESSING AND SENDING

Worship Leaders: Rev. Susan Malthouse-Law, **Musician:** Graeme Sutton, Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers; **Elder:** Maureen Vallance; **Readers:** Graeme Sutton, Helen Peart, Emily Shearer-Cox **Prayer:** Karen Coad; **Choir Director** - Helen Duggan and **BCUC Choir; IT/Video/Audio** Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman **Welcome:** Lauren Martin, Anita Hinton; **Door Stewards:** Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea:** Ros Sutton, Miriam Gibson, Mary Hollick, Nancy O'Loughlin.

To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10 a.m., 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**](#)