



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 - LENT 1

@ 10:00 a.m.

## STEWARDSHIP: PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM!

***“LENT - Making Good Decisions!”***

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**INTROIT:** TiS 703 – As the deer pants!

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

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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

A: A wilderness.

B: *A journey.*

**C: A temptation.**

A: A wilderness.

B: *A turning.*

**C: A calling.**

A: A wilderness.

B: *An encounter.*

**C: A renewing.**

A: A wilderness.

B: *A taking up.*

**C: A folding away.**

A: A wilderness.

B: *A movement.*

**C: A season.**

A: A wilderness.

B: *A vision.*

**C: A preparing.**

Leader: We set the space for the thinning of the light - a space of wilderness and renewal. Come and meet God, who calls us beyond where we are now, to where love will find itself to be. Welcome to Lent!

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 591 - Forty days and forty nights!

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled:

let us your endurance share and from earthly greed abstain,  
with you watching unto prayer, with you strong to suffer pain.

And if Satan on us press flesh or spirit to assail,  
Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint or fail.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, ever constant by your side,  
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

*Author: George Hunt Smyttan 1822-70 and Francis Pott 1832-1909 alt.*

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### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, we are held here with all we are and all we are feeling.

God will instruct us and teach us the way to go.  
Steadfast love surrounds us, now and always.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**SONG/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 te adora!  
Mi corazon te sabe decir: Santo eres Señor!

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord.  
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## SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, NOTICES

### SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN – Early Word!

#### 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:

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

### The First Sin and Its Punishment

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You

shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### Psalm 32

*Words and music: David Lee*

Mike Anderson



You are my hid - ing place, you will pro-tect me in trou-ble.\_\_\_\_  
You will sur - round me with songs\_\_\_\_ of de - liv' - rance.\_\_\_\_

**Response:** *You are my hiding place, you will protect me in trouble.*  
*You will surround me with songs of deliverance.*

Blessed are they whose iniquity is put away  
and whose sin is forgiven:

blessed are they whom the Lord declares blameless,  
whose soul does not hold any guile.

**Response**

While I kept silent, I wasted away,  
with my daily complaining and moans.  
Your hand was heavy by night and by day,  
sapped my strength, like a summer of drought.

**Response**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
then I owned up to my guilt and my shame.  
I made confession of all my transgression  
and you pardoned all and forgave.

**Response**

Let everyone who is godly and faithful  
make prayer to you while you are near,  
so when the floodwaters threaten to cover us  
we need not worry nor fear.

*Response*

I will instruct you and give you direction,  
will counsel you, show you the way.  
Act with integrity, show understanding  
and choose to be free to obey.

*Response*

Unlike the wicked whose woes will surround them  
the godly will dwell in his love.  
Sing and be glad, O you righteous of God,  
and rejoice, O you upright of heart.

*Response*

### **Romans 5:12-19 (NRSVUE)**

#### **Adam and Christ**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### **Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSVUE)**

#### **The Testing of Jesus**

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Reader:** "Lord, may your word live in us."

**ALL:** "***And bear much fruit to your glory!***"

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: "*LENT: Making Good Decisions!*"**

### **RESPOND TO THE WORD**

#### **OFFERING**

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

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 624 – Christ be my leader!

Christ be my leader by night as by day;  
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.

Gladly I follow, my future his care,  
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,  
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.  
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand,  
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife;  
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

*Author: Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926- © 1961, 1964 Hope Publishing Company.  
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#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

#### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION *(Followed by the Lord's Prayer)*

*SONG: Josh Groban: Lord, I'm Not Okay, But I'm Still Here. A Prayer of Faith and Endurance!*

***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!***

### SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### HYMN/SONG: TiS 684 – Love will be our Lenten calling!

Love will be our Lenten calling, love to shake and shatter sin,  
waking every closed, cold spirit, stirring new life deep within,  
till the quickened heart remembers what our Easter birth can mean.

Peace will be our Lenten living as we turn for home again,  
longing for the words of pardon, stripping off old grief and pain,  
till we stand, restored and joyful, with the Church on Easter day.

Truth will be our Lenten learning: hear the Crucified One call!  
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion, images and idols fall,  
and, in Easter's holy splendour, God alone is all in all.

*Author: Dr. Elizabeth J. Smith 1956- © 1997, Elizabeth J. Smith.*

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#### WORD OF MISSION

#### BLESSING

**DISMISSAL SONG:** TiS 779 – May the feet of God walk with you!  
May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life.  
May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

*Author: Aubrey W. Podlich 1946- © 1983, Open Book Publishers.*

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**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Anita Hinton; **Readers** – Lesley Lyons, Chris Kynoch, Angus Shearer-Cox; **Prayer** – Chris Kynoch; **Choir Director** - Helen Duggan and BCUC Choir; **Organist** – Ray Hodder; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Claudia Forsberg, Margaret Bennett; **Door Stewards** – Nancy O'Loughlin, Rod Devenish; **Morning Tea** – Alan Hinton, Mary Hollick, Miriam Peck, Barbara Snibson.

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