



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 10 a.m.

Easter 3

**“Harvest Thanksgiving:  
Sharing with Warmed Hearts!”**

**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.

*Author: Henry Smith 1952– © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.*

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**GREETING**

Leader: May 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**

When we are parched: **God refreshes.**

When we are hungry: **God sustains.**

When we are naked: **God covers.**

When we are barren: **God provides.**

O God, you are our God: we seek your face.

***Every thirst may be quenched in the waters of God.***

Every hunger may be fed at the table of God. Let us worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 130 – We plough the fields and scatter!

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand;

he sends the cold in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for such abounding love.*

We glorify the maker of everything that is,

who gives to us to care for the earth, the air, the seas,  
who wills that all the peoples might have their daily bread,

that we might share our plenty as channels of God’s love.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for such abounding love.*

We thank you, gracious giver of all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.

Help us in our thanksgiving to use your gifts with care,  
to serve as friends and neighbours your children everywhere.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for such abounding love.*

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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Fellow travellers, alive to God’s constant word of faith, hope, and love, may  
we journey into life in new ways. May we take God’s gift of presence, peace,

and forgiveness to heart. Receive it gladly. Live it with passion and boldness.  
Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

**HYMN:** ATOK 376 - Faith, hope and love!  
Faith, hope, and love, this is what we long for.  
Faith, hope, and love, this is what we need.  
Faith, hope, and love, this is what we cry for.  
Oh, teach us how to live.

Trust in the Truth, this is what we long for.  
Trust in the Truth, this is what we need.  
Trust in the Truth, this is what we cry for.  
Oh, teach us how to live.

Freedom for all, this is what we long for.  
Freedom for all, this is what we need.  
Freedom for all, this is what we cry for.  
Oh, teach us how to live.

Faith, hope, and love, this is what we long for.  
Faith, hope, and love, this is what we need.  
Faith, hope, and love, this is what we cry for.  
Oh, teach us how to live.

*Author: Trisha Watts-Solness © 1994 Trisha Watts, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd.  
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## SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

### SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN – EARLY WORD

- *KUCA in the manse lounge after the special time with the children.*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Leader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".  
**ALL:** "A light to our path."

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**ACTS 2:14a, 36-41 (NRSVUE)**

**Peter Addresses the Crowd**

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

<sup>36</sup> "Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

### The First Converts

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19 (TiS 71)

*Words: Helen L. Wright; Music: Richard Proulx*

### Response

***I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.***

I love the Lord who has heard my prayer,  
who bends down to hear my call;  
The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me.

Then I called on the name of the Lord,  
"I beg you, save my soul!"  
Our Lord is gracious and just,  
our God is merciful.

*Response*

How can I repay the Lord  
for the goodness done for me?  
The cup of salvation I raise,  
and call on the name of the Lord.

To the Lord I will pay my vows  
before all the people.  
How precious the death of the saints,  
those who remain faithful to God.

*Response*

Lord God, I am your slave,  
the child of a faithful mother.  
You have loosed my bonds,  
your have set me free.

*Response*

A sacrifice of thanks I bring  
and call on your name.  
To the Lord I will pay my vows  
before all the people.

*Response*

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the courts of God,  
In the midst of Jerusalem.  
Alleluia.

*Response*

### **LUKE 24:13-35 (NRSVUE)**

#### **The Walk to Emmaus**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts

burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!

**All: And bear much fruit to your glory!**

#### **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:**

***"Harvest Thanksgiving: Sharing with warmed Hearts!"***

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

#### **OFFERING**

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

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 168 – For the fruits of all creation!

For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;  
for his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour God's will is done;  
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*Author: Frederick Pratt Green 1903-. © 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd.*

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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.***

### **SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**DISMISSAL SONG:** The Butterfly Song (If I were a butterfly)!

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings.  
If I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.  
If I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee,  
but I just thank you Father for making me, me.  
*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

If I were an elephant, I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk.  
If I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you.  
If I were an octopus, I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks.  
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.  
*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

If I were a wiggly worm, I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm.  
If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair.  
If I were a crocodile, I'd thank you Lord for my great smile,  
but I just thank you Father for making me, me.  
*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.  
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

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### **WORD OF MISSION & BLESSING**

**DISMISSAL SONG:** TiS 162 - Thank you for giving me the morning!  
Thank you for giving me the morning.  
Thank you for ev'ry day that's new.  
Thank you for all my hurts and troubles I can take to you.

Thank you for all my friends and helpers.  
Thank you for people everywhere.  
Thank you for showing me Lord Jesus, How to help and care.

Thank you for speaking to me, Jesus.  
Thank you for meeting with me here.  
Thank you, because you love all people, Those both far and near.

Thank you, that you're so good and loving.  
Thank you that I am filled with you.  
Thank you, you make me feel so glad and thankful as I do.

*Martin Gotthard Schneider 1930 – Translated D. A. Schubert 1942.*

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**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Margo Cunningham; **Readers** – Miriam Peck, Helen Peart, Tofila Fifita; **Prayer** – Ron Brown; **Pianist** – Rev Dr Graeme Sutton, **Flautists** – Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers, **Bass Guitar** – Steve Holoyda; **Choral Director** – Helen Duggan & BCUC Choir; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Heather Brown, Maureen Vallance; **Door Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea** – Mary Hollick, Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall, Nancy O'Loughlin.

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