

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



Day of Pentecost

Sunday 24th May 2026 @ 10 a.m.

“Spirit: Companion on the Way!”

Planned-Giving (Stewardship) Program Commitment!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: Covenant Songs 117 - Spirit of the living God.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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GREETING

Leader: 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

The Spirit of Pentecost transforms dry bones into a living, vibrant community.

(Bring balloons that symbolize the Holy Spirit and place on the Communion Table.)

The word of life, inspired by the Spirit, is broken open for us.

(Open the Bible on the Communion Table.)

The Fire of God, rekindled in us, transforms this place and this world.

(Light a candle from the Christ's candle.)

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 412 – God sends us his Spirit!

God sends us his Spirit to befriend and help us,

re-create and guide us, Spirit-friend:

Spirit who enlivens, sanctifies, enlightens, sets us free,

is now our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Father, Spirit-friend, Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit-friend,

Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend.

Darkened roads are clearer, heavy burdens lighter

when we're walking with our Spirit-friend:

now we need not fear the powers of the darkness:

none can overcome our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Father, Spirit-friend, Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit-friend,

Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend.

Now we are God's people, bonded by his presence,

agents of his purpose, Spirit-friend:

lead us forward ever, slipping backward never,

to your re-made world, our Spirit-friend.

Spirit of our Father, Spirit-friend, Spirit of our Jesus, Spirit-friend,

Spirit of God's people, Spirit-friend.

Author: Tom Colvin 1925- © 1969, 1997 Hope Publishing Company.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you are the Vine and we are the branches!

Hear us, O Spirit, as we talk with you about our lives and those parts that are

like dead wood, that need revival, renewal, and recreation.

We want to talk about those parts that are dry and do not give life; those

parts we do not feed with imagination or time or effort.

Kindle a flame and, from this dryness, refresh us and renew.

Hear us, O Spirit, as we talk with you about our lives and those parts that are

broken.

We want to talk about the hurts in our relationships, where our selfishness, or

our insecurity has broken ties with others; those parts that we cannot mend

ourselves, that have broken off from the nourishment of you and others.

Kindle a flame and, from this brokenness, reconnect us and renew.

Hear us, O Spirit, as we talk with you about our lives and those parts that are knotted and gnarled, misshapen because of how we have been treated and how we have treated others; those parts that are scarred and mistreated.

Kindle a flame and, from this twistedness, heal and renew.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - All

Spirit renews our dry lives with justice.

Spirit renews our overspent living with love.

Spirit renews our broken ways with transformation.

Spirit renews our separated humanity with healing.

Spirit renews our scarred experiences with imagination.

Spirit renews us with new life and sends us into the world together.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN – *Early Word*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Reader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: "***A light to our path.***"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 2:1-21 (NRSVUE)

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,

because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews^[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15** Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. **16** No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

Words and music: David Lee



When you send your Spi-rit, they are cre-a-ted: you re-new the face of the earth.

Response: ***When you send your Spirit, they are created:
you renew the face of the earth.***

Lord, how manifold are all your works!
In your wisdom you have made them all;
earth is filled with all your living creatures.

Response

There is the sea, so vast, so spacious,
teeming with life beyond all measuring,
living creatures great and small.

There go the ships, there the creatures of the deep,
they whom you have made to frolic there.

Response

You feed your creatures in due season,
they look to you for all they gather in,
good things from your open hand.

You hide your face: they are troubled and dismayed;
you withdraw your breath: they turn to dust.

Response

May the glory of the Lord endure;
may his works for ever give him joy,
he whose glance can shake the earth's foundations.

Response

I will sing to God while I have life:
throughout all my days I'll sing his praise.
May my song be joyful, may it please him.

Response

John 20:19-23 (NRSVUE)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Reader: "Lord, may your Word live in us."

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: "Spirit: Companion on the Way!"

³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:3-4)

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:22-23)

COMPANIONSHIP COMMITMENT

WE ARE NOT ALONE

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

***We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,***

to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,

***to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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/SONG: TIS 422 – Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Come, Holy Spirit, come! In flame our souls with love,
transforming every heart and home with wisdom from above.

O let us not despise the humble path Christ trod,
but choose, to shame the worldly-wise, the foolishness of God.

All-knowing Spirit, prove the poverty of pride,

by knowledge of the Father's love in Jesus crucified.

And grant us faith to know the glory of that sign,

and in our very lives to show the marks of love divine.

Give us the tongues to speak, in every time and place;
to rich and poor, to strong and weak, the word of love and grace.
Enable us to hear the words that others bring,
interpreting with open ear the special song they sing.

Come, Holy Spirit, dance within our hearts today,
our earth-bound spirits to entrance, our mortal fears allay;
and teach us to desire all other things above,
that self-consuming holy fire, the perfect gift of love.

*Author: Michael Lindsay Forster 1946- © 1992 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(Followed by the Lord's Prayer in the language and version of your heart)

HYMN/SONG: TIS 420 - Holy Spirit, go before us.

Holy Spirit, go before us, every mind and heart prepare
for good news of life in Jesus, for the joyful hope we share.
Gently lead the lost to safety, gently teach them wisdom's way,
till they come to seek you gladly, till we find the words to say.

Holy Spirit, come and help us, give us words to speak of Christ.
Teach us how to tell all people: deepest darkness can be light!
Help us tell how faithful God is, and how Jesus sets us free;
take our words, and make them gospel, so that many may believe.

Holy Spirit, stay to show us how to serve as Christ served us.
May our words of love be grounded in love's actions, first and last.
Your good news is news of justice, and the strong befriend the weak
in your service, till compassion builds the peace the nations seek.

*Author: Elizabeth J Smith 1956.
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WORD OF MISSION

The Spirit is life, **and we will live in the Spirit.**
The Spirit is truth, **and we will speak in the Spirit.**
The Spirit is action, **and we will act in the Spirit.**

The Spirit is imagination, **and we will dream in the Spirit.**
The Spirit is direction, **and we will go in the Spirit.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 655 – Spirit Song!

O, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love;
let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul;
O let him have the things that hold you and his Spirit like a dove,
will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives; (x2)

O, come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy;
lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name;
O, give Him all your tears and sadness, give Him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives; (x2)

*Author: John Wimber. © 1979 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing
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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Bron James; **Readers** – Pam Toom, Manusiu Tu'inauvai, Tofila Fifita; **Prayer** – Mary Hollick; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist** – Ray Hodder; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Bev Hutchinson, Margaret Bennett; **Door Stewards** – Rod Devenish, Ken Jenkin; **Morning Tea** – Jan Souter, Jan Dimond, Betty Stewart, Barb Snibson.

*Prayers are adapted from Spirit of the Season and Uniting in Worship II.
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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:
www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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