

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

## Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Easter 6 – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

@10:00 a.m.



### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

***“Connecting with/in Love!”***

#### **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.

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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**

We come together, O God, lifted in song to hear our voices harmonize with  
others,

***and to tune our hearts to love.***

We come together today, O God, to find welcome and affirmation,

***to be seen and heard and become aware of the warmth, the breath, the life  
we share.***

The spirit of Christ abides in the shared space between us.

***May we inhale deeply of this sacred presence and exhale words and actions  
of godly love.***

May the Spirit bring us together and bring us back to life.

***Amen.***

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN/SONG:** MHB 866 - When mothers of Salem!

When mothers of Salem,  
their children brought to Jesus,  
the stern disciples drove them back  
and bade them depart;  
but Jesus saw them ere they fled,  
and sweetly smiled, and kindly said:  
“Suffer the children to come unto me.”

How kind was our Saviour  
to bid those children welcome;  
but there are many thousands  
who have never heard His name.  
Dear Saviour, hear us when we pray,  
that they may hear Thee to them say:  
“Suffer the children to come unto Me.”

And soon may the heathen  
of every tribe and nation  
fulfil Thy blessed word, and cast  
their idols all away.  
O shine upon them from above,  
and show Thyself a God of love;  
teach them, dear Saviour, to come unto Thee.

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#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

No one has seen God.

Yet Jesus has shown us God, and God is love.

God is the love that we find in community and the commandment we hold together.

You are loved. We are loved. All is forgiven. All is love.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN/SONG: P&W 243 – I love you Lord!

I love You Lord, and I lift my voice,

to worship You, O my soul, rejoice!

Take joy my King in what You hear.

Let me be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

*Author: Laurie Klein © 1978, 1980 House Of Mercy Music*

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## SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND 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:

### ACTS 17:22-31 (NRSVUE)

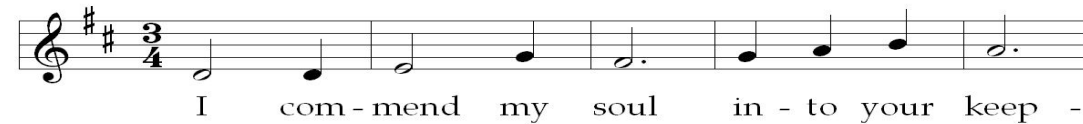
<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps

fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

## PSALM 66:8-20

Text: Nan C. Merrill; Music:



**Response: I commend my soul into your keeping.**

Bless the Beloved, Heart of our hearts,

let the sound of our praises be heard.

You keep us attuned to life and guide our feet on solid ground.

For You, O Love, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried. **Response**

You have allowed us to fall into the net;

You have watched us reap all that we have sown;

we went through fire and through water,

Yet You have brought us through out pain and into your indwelling place.

**Response**

I enter your Heart surrendered to Love;

I commend my soul into your keeping;

all that my lips uttered, all that my mouth promised when I was in trouble and pain,

I offer up to You;

I abandon myself into your hands.

**Response**

Come and hear, all you who reverence the Most High,

and I shall tell what the Beloved has done for me.  
I cried aloud to the Silent Watcher of my life;  
from my tongue came forth words of praise.

**Response**

Had I cherished greed and power, I would have separated myself from Love;  
the voice of my prayer was heard.  
Blessed be the holy Name of the Beloved, Loving Companion Presence,  
who embraced me, and renewed my life.

**Response**

**JOHN 14:15-21 (NRSVUE)**

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**Reader:** “This is the Gospel of the Lord.”

**ALL:** “*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!*”

**MOTHERS’ SHARING: Manusiu Tu’inauvai, Maureen Vallance, Jan Souter**

<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” (John 14:21)

**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:** ATOW 435 - Wellsprings

*Like the woman of old, each day  
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.  
Some days the well seems dry.  
We can’t reach the water—it’s too hard.  
Some days our legs won’t take us,  
our hearts are aching, crying.*

*Like the woman of old, each day  
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.  
Some days our minds are reeling.  
There’s too much happening—we need to stop.  
Some days our souls are parched,  
we need the water—so thirsty.*

*Like the woman of old, each day  
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.  
Some days there’s no escape  
life’s routine and madness.  
Some days we don’t want to go—  
we can’t see the rhyme or reason.*

*Like the woman of old, each day  
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.  
Some days we’re resurrected,  
we feel new life—inside us.  
Some days our faith moves mountains,  
we feel life’s glory—earth and heaven.*

*Like the woman of old, each day  
we go to the wellsprings of life to find Jesus there.*

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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

### WORD OF MISSION

Mothering God, going from this place we can hear you on the wind, calling,  
*we will follow as your people.*

Mothering God, Going from this place, we can feel your spirit in us, comforting,  
*we will trust in you forever.*

Mothering God, Going from this place, we can tell your story, as witnesses,  
*we will proclaim your love.*

Mothering God, Going from this place, We can meet with you, forever,  
*as we journey into the world.*

### BLESSING

God the Father and Mother make you holy in his love;  
God the Son enrich you with his grace;  
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with joy;  
the Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### HYMN/SONG: TiS 659 – The Lord is my Shepherd!

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,  
valleys and highways he's waiting for me.  
*I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey to where we are going  
he promised to be there to help us along,  
and over the mountains we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders he's given to me.

*I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.  
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

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**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Maureen Vallance; **Readers** – Jen Mitchell, Barb Snibson, Tofila Fifita; **Prayer** – Helen Duggan; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Greta Christie, Bron James; **Door Stewards** – Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Men & Boys of BCUC.

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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:  
[www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch)

For more information, visit our website – [bcuc.org.au](http://bcuc.org.au) and Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**