

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central & Brown Hill
Uniting Congregations



TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 31st May 2026 @ 10 a.m.

BAPTISMS: Mikayla Scilini, Alana Scilini,
Archie John Reeves, Jack Charles Reeves.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 772 – Worship, honour, glory, blessing!
Worship, honour, glory, blessing, Lord we offer to your name;
young and old, their praise expressing, join your goodness to proclaim.
As the saints in heaven adore you, we would bow before your throne;
as your angels serve before you, so on earth your will be done.

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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

ONE: Friends, we gather here today because we have some small sense
of God's love for us,

ALL: *and we long to grow in our understanding of this blessing.*

ONE: We gather because God has gifted us with questions and curiosity,

ALL: *and we long to learn more about God's holy nature.*

ONE: We gather because God has called us to this place seeking our
service.

ALL: *May we be equipped to serve with integrity, generosity, and joy.*

ONE: We gather because God has claimed us as children.

ALL: *May we trust that good news with the fullness of our being.*

ONE: We gather because we trust that God meets us in this place.

ALL: *Let us worship God.*

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 132 – Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning to you our praise shall be;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore you,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
though the sinful human eye your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A SONG OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING (and lament and regret)

Psalms H by Heather Shields, Elder at Weeroona Uniting Church, Bendigo

God, thank you. You gave us a complete, beautiful and wonderfully resourced
earth; And we have managed to use its resources and leave it scarred and
ugly.

Sorry, God.

God, thank you. You gave us all the food we would need to live healthy lives;
And we have created more 'foods' which have created illness and suffering.

Sorry, God.

God, thank you. You gave us the sun, moon and stars and clean air; And we have polluted your pristine environment.

Sorry, God.

God, thank you. You gave us people of all different nationalities and told us to live in peace; But we have ignored your commands and have created division and discrimination.

Sorry, God.

We lament our many failings and failures but we thank you for being a forgiving and loving God, who gave us Jesus as proof of our hope in a better life to come.

Please help us to leave this world in a condition that is able to nurture and sustain those who come after. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: Friends, where does God come to us with words of forgiveness and grace?

VOICE 1: Here in this worship space...

VOICE 2: *When we are alone and troubled with questions...*

VOICE 3: When we experience God’s majesty in mountains, ocean, earth, and sky...

VOICE 4: *Whenever we open our hearts with honest desire for forgiveness.*

LEADER: And what does God promise?

ALL: ***Mercy that reigns from everlasting to everlasting; freedom from the past, strength for the present, hope for the future.***

LEADER: Hear and believe the good news: by the grace of God we are indeed a forgiven people.

ALL: ***Thanks be to God. Amen!***

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

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:

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a (NRSVUE)

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

1 ¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with

which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

PSALM 8

Text: The Grail, Music: Gerry Fitzpatrick



**Response: *How great is your name, O Lord, our God.
How great is your name.***

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you have made,
what are mortals that you should keep them in mind,
mortals that you should care for them.

Response

You have made them little less than gods,
with glory and honour you crowned them,
gave them power over the work of your hands,
put all things under your feet.

Response

You have put all things under their feet,
all of them, sheep and cattle:
Yes, even the savage beasts, birds of the air,
and fish that make their way through the waters.

Response

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (NRSVUE)

Final Greetings and Benediction

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSVUE)

The Commissioning of the Disciples

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reader: “Lord, may your Word live in us.”

ALL: “*And bear much fruit to your glory!*”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

Baptism: Triune God, Father, Son, Spirit, in Action!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***Mikayla Scilini, Alana Scilini,
Archie John Reeves, Jack Charles Reeves.***

HYMN: TiS 491 – Father Welcomes all his children!

(During the hymn the Elders will invite the families to the front)

*Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation, life for ever has been won.*

Little children, come to me, for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give, mercy for your sin.

*Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation, life for ever has been won.*

In the water, in the word in his promise, be assured:
those who are baptized and believe shall be born again.

*Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation, life for ever has been won.*

Let us daily die to sin, let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God.

*Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation, life for ever has been won.*

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PRESENTATION:

The Elder: Friends, the church council of this congregation has received a request for baptisms of ***Mikayla*** and ***Alana Scilini*** from *Katie*

and *Perrin Scilini* and ***Archie John*** and ***Jack Charles Reeves*** from *Amy* and *Nathan Reeves*. These important decisions have been prayerfully and carefully considered, and I am glad to welcome them here today.

PHOTO PRESENTATIONS:

RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION:

The Minister: *Katie* and *Perrin* what do you ask of God’s Church for *Mikayla* and *Alana*?

Katie & Perrin: **We ask that *Mikayla* and *Alana* be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.**

The Minister: *Amy* and *Nathan* what do you ask of God’s Church for *Archie* and *Jack*?

Amy & Nathan: **We ask that *Archie* and *Jack* be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.**

The Minister: *Mikayla* and *Alana*; *Archie* and *Jack* have been brought for baptism that *they* may be grafted into Christ as members of his body the Church, to grow up into the faith of Jesus Christ and become his faithful witness and servant.
Mikayla, Alana, Archie, Jack, may the Lord open your ears to hear his word and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

THE SCRIPTURE:

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM:

The Minister: The Uniting Church, in baptising children, takes responsibility for their instruction and nourishment in the faith.

That we may know that you hold the Christian faith and claim your membership in Christ’s Church, we ask you *Katie* and *Perrin*, *Amy* and *Nathan*: Do you repent of your sins?

Katie & Perrin, Amy & Nathan: **I repent of my sins.**

The Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ who has defeated the power of sin and death and brought us new life?

Katie & Perrin, Amy & Nathan: **I turn to Christ.**

The Minister: Do you commit yourself to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and in the Holy Spirit as God's power and presence along the way?

Katie & Perrin, Amy & Nathan: I commit myself to God.

The Minister: In unity with the whole Church, let us stand and affirm the faith into which we were baptised.

The people stand!

The Minister: Do you believe in God, who made you and loves you?

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

The Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord?

ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

The Minister: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, and the continuing work of our salvation?

ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: *(The elder pours water into the font!)*

THE BAPTISM:

People Stand

Archie, Jack, Mikayla, Alana, are now received into the holy catholic/universal church according to Christ's command.

The people may applaud.

The Elders will take Archie, Jack, Mikayla and Alana around the congregation while we sing the Aaronic Blessing!

TiS 776 - THE AARONIC BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

THE RESPONSES:

The Minister: *Nathan and Amy, Perrin and Katie, I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to Archie, Jack, Mikayla and Alana by making these solemn promises:*

Will you provide for your children a Christian home of love and trust?

Nathan & Amy, Perrin & Katie: With God's help, we will.

The Minister: *Will you set before your children the example of a Christian life, and will you pray that they will learn the way of Christ?*

Nathan & Amy, Perrin & Katie: With God's help, we will.

The Minister: *Will you encourage your children to grow within the fellowship of the church, so that they may come to faith in Christ?*

Nathan & Amy, Perrin & Katie: With God's help, we will.

The Minister: *To the God's parents, Jake and Lauren, will you support and help Perrin and Katie to encourage their children to grow within the fellowship of the church, so that they may come to faith in Christ?*

God Parents: With God's help, we will.

The Minister: *To all of you who are here today and people of this congregation (please stand), I charge you, as representatives of all of God's people, to maintain the life of worship and service, that Archie, Jack, Mikayla and Alana and all the children among you may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God.*

ALL: With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service.

PRAYERS:

PRESENTATION: BIBLES, BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES AND CANDLES!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

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

HYMN/SONG: TiS 453 – We limit not the truth of God!

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial and confined:
now, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred:
the Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

Our faithful forebears searching went the first steps of the way;
this was the dawning, yet to grow into the perfect day.
And grow it shall, our glorious sun will brighter rays afford:
the Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

O Father, Son, and Spirit, send us increase from above;
enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;
and make us all go on to know, with nobler powers conferred,
that you have yet more light and truth to break forth from your word.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: ATW 459 – God. Version 1.0!

I don't believe in a God up in the sky
who sits in heaven and never hears me cry.
I don't believe in a God who's far away –
I believe in Jesus living here with us today.

I don't believe in a watchmaker above,
set this world going but now is not involved,
who from a distance is watching as we fall –
I believe in Jesus' God, who suffers with us all.

I don't believe in a God who keeps a shop,
who checks each item and puts a price on top,
who wants a dividend on each investment made –
God is always giving and refuses to be paid.

I don't believe in a patriarchal chief,
a judge who never had mercy on a thief,
the lord and master who must be waited on –
God is mother-sister just as much as father-son.

God is beside us, God has no other home,
no other family, we are God's flesh and bone;
he-she is with us and with all humankind –
loving his creation always occupies her mind.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai; **Elders** – Jen Mitchell, Maureen Vallance, Rod Devenish; **Readers** – Andy Gault, Lesley Lyons, Maureen Vallance; **Prayer** – Karen Coad; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Adri Stickland, Miriam Peck; **Door Stewards** – Nur Sisson, Nancy O'Loughlin; **Morning Tea** – Tongan Families.

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