



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 7th June, 2026 – 10am
Pentecost 2

Age is Irrelevant.

**AS A GATHERED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY WE COME TO
WORSHIP GOD** Luke 24: 13-24

GATHERING HYMN — TiS 716: Father, we adore you

Father we adore you.

Jesus, we adore you

Spirit, we adore you.

Terrye Coehle 1952

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

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord will never count against them, because He has reckoned their faith as righteousness.

COLLECT:

O God of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac, you called our ancestors to a journey of faith, and in your Son, lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life.

Grant that we, being born of water and being born again of the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life, and faithfully walk in your holy ways. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

HYMN

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that free us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
Marty Haugen

PRAYER OF ADORATION and THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**
Christ in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the cross we see God's amazing love for us. We are His children living in a confused world. In abundant grace God answers our doubt, heals our pain, forgives our failures. Hear Christ's word of grace to us all. "Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Luke 24:25-27

JOYS and CONCERNS

HYMN TiS 125 vs 1,2 4,6. The God of Abraham praise

**The God of Abram praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days and God of love.
The Lord, the great I AM by earth and heaven confessed!
We bow and bless the sacred name for ever blessed.**

**The God of Abram praise, whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide us all our happy days in all our ways.
He calls us each a friend, he calls himself our God;
And he shall save us to the end through Jesus' blood.**

**The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy" cry, "Almighty King!"
Who was and is the same and evermore shall be,
The Lord, our Father, great I AM eternally.**

**The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Spirit blest!" they ever cry.
Hail, Abram's God and ours! With heaven our songs we raise:
All might and majesty are yours and endless praise.**

Thomas Olivers 1725-99 alt

READINGS

Your Word O lord is a lamp to our feet
A light to our path

Genesis 12: 1-9 - *from The Message – Eugene Petersen*

1 God told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you. 2-3 I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make

you famous; you'll be a blessing. I'll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I'll curse. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you." 4-6 So Abram left just as God said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had gotten in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound. Abram passed through the country as far as Shechem and the Oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites occupied the land. 7 God appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your children." Abram built an altar at the place God had appeared to him. 8 He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent between Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there and prayed to God. 9 Abram kept moving, steadily making his way south, to the Negev. '

Psalm 33: 1-12 (Refrain adapted from Tune 'Irish' TiS 126)



Come righteous, in the Lord rejoice, and join with thankful voice.

1 Come righteous, in the Lord rejoice; for it is truly right.

That people join with thankful voice, to praise the Lord of might
Praise God with instruments and voice, make sweet our melody;
Sing out a new song to the Lord, along with heaven's company.

Come righteous, in the Lord rejoice, and join with thankful voice.

2 For right is God's word, all his works are true, are just, are right.

The loving-kindness of the Lord fills all the earth with light.

All things God made by breath and by word, the waters of the sea
He laid up the deep in storehouses, so that we live with reverent fear.

Come righteous, in the Lord rejoice, and join with thankful voice.

3 For when God spoke it came to be, established firm, it stood,

All nation's plans he foils and thwarts he brings our devises to naught.

God's plans and purposes of his heart from age to age endure.

So blessed are we whose God is LORD, inheritance is firmly secure.

Come righteous, in the Lord rejoice, and join with thankful voice.

Romans 4:13-25 *from The Message – Eugene Petersen*

That famous promise God gave Abraham - that he and his children would possess the earth, was not given because of some- thing Abraham did or would not do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him. If those who get

what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out the right forms, properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract. That's not a holy promise; that's a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer with plenty of fine print to ensure that you will never be able to collect. But, if there were no contract in the first place, only a promise, you can't break it! We call Abraham father, not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Abraham was first named a father, and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do only what God could do: raise the dead to life. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do, but on what God said he would do. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously sceptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. The same is for us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were completely hopeless. The sacrifice Jesus made sets us right with God."

Matthew 9: 9-13. 18-26 *from The Message – Eugene Petersen*

9 Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him. 10-11 Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?" 12-13 Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means

18-19 As he finished saying this, a local official appeared, bowed politely, and said, "My daughter has just now died. If you come and touch her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, his disciples following along. 20-22 Just then a woman who had haemorrhaged for twelve years slipped in from behind and lightly touched his robe. She was thinking to herself, "If I can just put a finger on his robe, I'll get well." Jesus turned—caught her at it. Then he reassured her: "Courage, daughter. You took a risk of faith, and now you're well." The woman was well from then on. 23-26 By now they had arrived at the house of the town official, and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and the neighbours bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: "Clear out! This girl isn't dead. She's sleeping." They told him he didn't know what he was talking about. But when Jesus had gotten rid of the crowd, he went in, took the girl's hand, and pulled her to her feet—alive. The news was soon out, and travelled throughout the region.

May your word live in us,
And bear much fruit to your glory.

MINISTER'S ADDRESS. Age is Irrelevant!

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD IN ACTION, WORD AND SONG

Luke 24:28-32

OFFERING (remain seated for the 1st 3 verses, stand on the 4th)

HYMN TIS 564 O God of Bethel by whose hand.

**O God of Bethel, by whose hand
your people still are fed;
Who through this earthly pilgrimage
Have all our forbears led.**

**Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before your throne of grace;
God of our people, be the God
Of their succeeding race.**

**Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread;
for all our needs provide.**

**O spread your covering wings around,
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.**

Phillip Dodderidge 1702-51 and others

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe, from you comes ever good and perfect gift. We bring these gifts which arise from our life of mission, witness and service, and the elements that express the fullness of grace through Jesus so that, in dedicating them we may dedicate ourselves afresh to be your people in the world, in the strength and enabling power of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE— *for the Church and the world*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God is here.

We praise God together.

Let us say thank you to God
who has done so much for us.

Holy are you for your mercy is endless..... glory stretches to the heavens.

It was you who led Abraham and Sarah....reckoned unto him your righteousness. .

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

TiS 756 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

He died for us on the cross so that... And so with thanks we praise you.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

We are here because on the night.... "Do this, and know that I am with you."

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

Later, he took a cup of wine.... Do this, and know that I am with you."

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

TiS 756 **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit.... us strength to live and serve as your people.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

This bread, a sign of our being loved... we shall truly be your church.

And so, as your church gathered... in songs of never-ending praise:

TiS 756 **Blessing and honour and glory and power
Are yours forever and ever, Amen.**

Let us now pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray :

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

As we break the bread together, we become the body of Christ.
As we share the cup together, we receive eternal life.
The gifts of God for us, the people of God

TiS 756 **Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us,
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Distribution

(Minister and Elders share first, then the Choir, then the Congregation)

Prayer after Communion

Holy, gracious God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence.
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life that you offer
Together, by the power of your Spirit, we will go now and share this new life with others in our communities, always giving you thanks. **Amen..**

**FORGIVEN AND RESTORED—WE CAN RETURN
CONFIDENTLY TO THE WORLD** Luke 24: 33-35

HYMN TiS 233 I will sing the wondrous story
I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
How He left the realms of glory
For the cross on Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost, but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me,
back into the narrow way.

Faint was I and fears possessed me
Bruised was I from many a fall.
hope was gone, and shame possessed me,
But His love has pardoned all.

Days of darkness still may meet me,
Sorrow's paths I oft may tread,
But His presence still is with me;
By His guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river,
rolls its water at my feet,
then He'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.

Francis Harold Rowley 1854-1952

BLESSING

Go out now in the power of the Spirit. In all things, at all times, remember that Christ is with you. Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

(Ldr) Go, find your neighbour.
Go, loving mercy,
Go and act justly,
walk humbly with God.

(Cong) **We'll go and find our neighbour,
we'll go loving mercy,
we'll go acting justly,
walking humbly with God.**

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Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Graeme Sutton, **Musician:** Evan Duggan **Elder:** Jean Miton, **Readers:** Margot Cunningham, Susan Pierotti, **Prayers:** Chris Kynoch; **Communion Elders:** Jean Miton, Merriel LeMarchshall, Rod Devenish, Susan Pierotti **Choir Director** - Helen Duggan and **BCUC Choir;** **IT/Video/Audio** Ben Daniel, **Welcome:** Miriam Peck, Anita Hinton. **Door Stewards:** Merriel and Geoff LeMarshall ; **Morning Tea:** Alan Hinton, Greta Christie, Nina Netherway, Jan Souter

Material is adapted from Words for Worship 2014, Resources from "Praying the Lectionary" from the Presbyterian Church of Canada and Uniting in Worship II

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