

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



**PENTECOST 3**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 10 a.m.

***RESPONDING IN COMMUNITY!***

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**INTROIT:** 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*

*Reproduced with permission under CCLI and One License copyrights.*

**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** *(Based on Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 and Matthew 9:35–10:8)*

God calls us together as a community listening to this moment.

***We incline our ears.***

God calls us together as a community listening to what matters.

***We are ready to listen.***

God calls us together as a community listening to what is true.

***We have come from Ballarat and neighbours to hear the good news  
proclaimed.***

Together, in this community, we will hear so much.

***God calls us together to listen again.***

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 147 – To God be the glory!

To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life in atonement for sin

and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God!

and every offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer, and higher, and greater will be

our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

*Author: Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820-1915 alt. Public Domain.*

*Reproduced with permission under CCLI and One License copyrights.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us to be disciples and proclaim the good news of your love and forgiveness. Yet often, we are timid, uncertain, and afraid.

***Forgive us, God, and send us once again.***

Sometimes we hesitate to go, feeling that we are not good enough and need special gifts and training.

***Forgive us, God, and send us once again.***

Jesus told his disciples to travel lightly. Yet we often carry emotional baggage and struggle under the weight of tired traditions and stale ideas.

***Forgive us, God, and send us once again.***

We can be afraid of rejection. And when we are rejected, we can be tempted to bury ourselves in self-pity.

***Forgive us, God, and send us once again.***

Jesus never told us that being a disciple would be easy. Help us, God, when we are afraid to take risks for your sake and the sake of the gospel.

***Forgive us, God, and send us once again.***

*(Pause.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news: Christ Jesus died to show God's unending love for us, even though we were sinners. So be assured that your sins are forgiven. As forgiven children of God, go and proclaim the good news.

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

## SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

### TIME WITH GAMBLER'S HELP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

– Joanne Smith (CAFS)

## 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 18:1-15 (NRSVUE)**

## A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" <sup>13</sup> The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

## PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

Words and music: David Lee (v.1-2 RSV)

How shall I re - pay the Lord for all the b...  
fits that he has gi - ven to me?

**Response: How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits that he has given to me?**

I love the Lord  
because he has heard my voice and my supplications,  
because he has inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live. **Response**

I will lift up the cup of salvation:  
and call upon the name of the Lord,  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord:  
in the presence of all his people. **Response**

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.  
O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid:  
you have freed me from my bonds. **Response**

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord:  
in the presence of all his people.  
In the courts of the house of the Lord:  
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. **Response**

**MATTHEW 9:35-10:8 (NRSVUE)**

**The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

**The Twelve Apostles**

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every

sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

**The Mission of the Twelve**

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Reader: “Lord, may your Word live in us.”  
**ALL:** “*And bear much fruit to your glory!*”

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: Responding in Community!**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**OFFERING**

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

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 658 – Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*Daniel Schutte 1947. Oregon Catholic Press*

*Reproduced with permission under CCLI and One License copyrights.*

## 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 OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**HYMN/SONG:** TiS 473 – Community of Christ!

Community of Christ, who make the cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:  
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound -  
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

*Author: Shirley Erena Murray 1931 © 1992, Hope Publishing Co.*

*Reproduced with permission under CCLI and One License copyrights.*

## BLESSING

Go out into the world with eyes open to seeing the lost, with ears that hear  
the cry of the forlorn, and hearts filled with joy and strengthened by the love  
of God, ready to serve God's people and all creation.

And may the blessing of God, the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit  
go with you all. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL SONG:** TiS 779 – May the feet of God walk with you!

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life.  
May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

*Author: Aubrey W. Podlich 1946- © 1983, Open Book Publishers.*

*Reproduced with permission under CCLI and One License copyrights.*

**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Joanne Smith (CAFS); **Elder** –  
Miriam Peck; **Readers** – Glenice Warner, Helen Duggan, Lauren Martin;  
**Prayer** – Helen Duggan; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen  
Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben  
Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Shirley Vanderbom, Bron James;  
**Door Stewards** – Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Faye Withers,  
Jan Dimond, Corrie Olsen, Jan Tozer.

*Prayers are adapted from Seasons of the Spirit and Uniting in Worship II.  
Songs are covered for print and livestream under CCLI License copyrights  
- 92505 Size D; 956612 Size D; 100813 Size A; 51350 Size C; 23869 Size B  
and One License 625332-A.*

To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:

[www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch](https://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.**