

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



PENTECOST 4

Sunday 21st June 2026 @ 10 a.m.

UCA 49TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

“ONE: In God and With One Another!”

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.

Author: Henry Smith 1952– © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

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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

Our land is alive with the glory of God;
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing

and mountains breathe their stillness.

All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even stones rap out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;

may our hearts join the beat of her joy,

for our triune God is with us:

the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.

Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.

The Spirit moves within and between us.

Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God the Father, God beyond us, we adore you.

You are the depth of all that is.

You are the ground of our being.

We can never grasp you, yet you grasp us.

The universe speaks of you, and your love comes to us through Jesus.

God the Son, God beside us, we adore you.

You are the perfection of humanity.

*You have shown us what human life should be like. In you we see divine love
and human greatness combined.*

God the Spirit, God around us, we adore you.

You draw us to Jesus and the Father.

You are the power within us.

You give us abundant life and can make us the people we are meant to be.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

God, beyond, beside, and around us; we adore you. Amen.

HYMN/SONG: TiS 210 – O for a thousand tongues to sing!

O for a thousand tongues to sing

my great Redeemer’s praise,

the glories of our God and King,

the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

that bids our sorrows cease;

such music in the sinner’s ears

is life, and health, and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

... For our foolish or careless use of the gifts of your creation: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For our indifference to the needs of others,
our brothers and sisters for whom you died:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For our neglect of the means of grace,
for superficial worship, for selfish prayer:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Those who are in Christ are a new creation;
everything old has passed away;
see, the new has come!
All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY: TiS - 720 – Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah! *(repeat ...)*

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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:

EZEKIEL 37:15-28 (NRSVUE)

The Two Sticks

¹⁵ The word of the Lord came to me: ¹⁶ Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For Judah and the Israelites associated with it"; then take another stick and write on it, "For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it"; ¹⁷ and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. ¹⁸ And when your people say to you, "Will you not show us what you mean by these?" ¹⁹ say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it, and I will put the stick of Judah upon it and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand." ²⁰ When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, ²¹ then say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone and will gather them from every quarter and bring them to their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king over them all. Never

again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴ “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. ²⁵ They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children’s children shall live there forever, and my servant David shall be their prince forever. ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will bless them and multiply them and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. ²⁷ My dwelling place shall be over them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.”

PSALM 122

Words and music: Christopher Walker

Christopher Walker

I re-joiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the Lord's house!"

O my friends, O my friends, let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say:
Let us go to the Lord's house!
O my friends, O my friends,
let us go to the house of the Lord!**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
And now we stand within your gates
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Here the people of God rejoice;
here they worship the name of the Lord.
Here justice reigns within your gates
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Response

Pray for peace in Jerusalem.
All who love you will never be lost.
May peace be here within your walls
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Response

For all you who give praise to God,
I will ask for the peace of the Lord.
May love of God fill all your days
in Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Response

For the law of our God commands
that we always give thanks to our God;
that praise of God be on our lips
in Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Response

HEBREWS 13:1-8 (NRSVUE)

Service Well-Pleasing to God

¹³ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

JOHN 17:20-26 (NRSVUE)

²⁰ “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they

may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

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

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: ONE: In God and With One Another!

²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

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

HYMN/SONG: TiS 457 – The church's one foundation!

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give to us the grace
like them, the meek and lowly, in heaven to seek your face.

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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 OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN/SONG: TiS 607 – Make me a channel of your peace!

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*Author: Sebastian Temple 1928- © 1967, Oregon Catholic Press.
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STATEMENT OF FAITH: We are a pilgrim people!

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.
We acknowledge that we live and work between
the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.
We are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments, and we have the gift
of the Spirit in order that we may not lose the way.
We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.
We affirm that every member of the Church is engaged
to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.***

WORDS OF MISSION

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 755 – You shall go out with joy!
You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth in singing.
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands.
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands
and you'll go out with joy.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Rod Devenish; **Readers** – Mary Hollick, Helen Peart, Tofila Fifita; **Prayer** – Andrew Boatman; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Pianist** – Rev Dr Graeme Sutton; **Flautists** – Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers; **Bass guitarist** – Steve Holoyda; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Maureen Doonan, Carol Gannon; **Door Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea** – Betty Stewart, Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall, Miriam Gibson.

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Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**