

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



PENTECOST 10

Sunday 2nd August 2026 @ 10 a.m.

STRIVE FOR BLESSING

HOLY COMMUNION!

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

Like a hungry crowd,

we come to be fed.

Like an anxious child,

we come to be comforted.

Like a forlorn friend,

we come seeking kindness.

Like an agitated mob,

we come demanding answers.

Like a refugee,

we come needing a home.

Like a joyous bride,

we come to share our joy.

Like a newborn babe,

we come with hearts and minds open to all life offers.

Like pilgrims of old,

we come looking for truth.

Here we reach out to grasp your hand, striving for your blessing.

Here we come to worship.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 209 – And can it be!

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain - for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!
Amazing love! how can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies: who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray - I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread: Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown,
through Christ, my own.

bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Author: Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt. Public Domain.
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

God always reaches out to us, striving to hold us and assure us.
Our weaknesses reveal God’s strength, our doubts reveal God’s grace, our indifference reveals God’s never-ending love.
God’s grace shines in and through us.
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 32:22-31 (NRSVUE)
Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

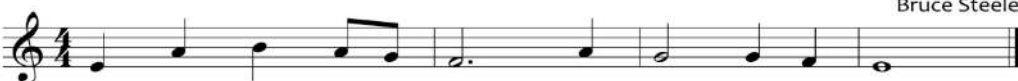
²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying,

“For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

PSALM 17:1-7,15

Words and music: Bruce Steele

Bruce Steele



Lord give ear to my prayer; pay heed to my cry.

Response: Lord, give ear to my prayer; pay head to my cry.

Lord, hear a cause that is just,
pay heed to my cry.
Give ear to my prayer;
no deceit is on my lips.

May my vindication come from you:
let your eyes discern the truth.
If you search my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wrong in me,
my mouth does not transgress.

Response

As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
My steps have held fast to your paths;
there was no faltering in my steps.

I call on you, for you will answer me O God,
incline your ear to me: hear my words.
Display your steadfast love O saviour of those
who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

Response

As for me, I shall see your face in righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied,
beholding your likeness.

Response

MATTHEW 14:13-21 (NRSVUE)

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *Strive for Blessing!*

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.)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

HYMN/SONG: TiS 624 – Christ be my leader!

Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness,
for he is the way.

Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him,
though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting
nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign

*Author: Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926- © 1961, 1964 Hope Publishing Company.
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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!*

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you!

ALL: *And also with you.*

Leader: Please share the sign of peace.

HYMN: ATW 475 – Come to the banquet!
Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Though you maybe have no money,
though you maybe feel unworthy,
in your strength or in your weakness
you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
See, you are an honoured guest,
from constant serving you may rest;
so sit you down, be fed and blessed,
for you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Woman, wise one, mother, maiden,
see your plate with food is laden
and your place is set and waiting.
You are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Worker, father, little boy,
old man or youth without employ,
come rest your worry, here is joy,
and you are welcome, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Willing hands have made this bread
with yeast and salt and labour shared.
Let all the hungry ones be fed.
It's time for feasting, come.

Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.
Abundant wine, enough for all!
Our generous, loving host has called.
The cup of blessing now is poured
for sweet communion, come.
Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

INVITATION

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore, with the whole creation: with all your people gathered across time and space, with all the works of your hands with everything visible and invisible, imagined and unimaginable, we sing:

Sanctus 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 the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Holy Spirit, O God, that these gifts in creation, here at the church and at people's homes, may also be for us the gift of re-creation in Christ and in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Shape us into one body; press us into one wine; bake us into one bread – the Bread of Abundant Life and Cup of Abundant Salvation – for the feeding of all your sheep and the nurture of creation.

Acclamations TIS 756

[i] Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

As we break bread, may we be reconnected to the Christ.

As we drink from this cup, may we be strengthened to go forth in Christ's name, offering forgiveness, blessing and wholeness to all people.

TiS 756 [ii] Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

... May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.
Let us receive what we are; let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Agnus Dei: 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.**

SHARING COMMUNION TOGETHER

The Body of Christ, Abundant Life, to keep us to eternal life!
The Cup of Salvation, Abundant Forgiveness, to keep us to eternal life!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most gracious God, as you have blessed and fed more than 5 thousand people with bread and fish beside the sea,
You also have blessed and fed us today with Jesus body and blood and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation and renewed us for your service.
Now we give ourselves to you, and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom.
May our love be your love, reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORD OF MISSION

God never lets us go. We are eternally held in the loving embrace of God: Creator, Saviour, and Spirit.
Go with this blessing and peace. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the Father 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.

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 779 – May the feet of God!

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.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai; **Elders** – Susan Pierotti, Margo Cunningham, Jen Mitchell, Anita Hinton, Bron James; **Readers** – Adri Stickland, Greta Christie, Glenice Warner; **Prayer** – Mary Hollick; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Nancy O'Loughlin, Margaret Bennett; **Door Stewards** – Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Miriam Peck, Helen Peart, Angy Gault, Larry Griffin.

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