

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

**Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation**



**PENTECOST 6**

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026 @ 10 a.m.*

**\*NAIDOC Week Begins Today!**

**\*Coin Trail Month begins today to help plant new trees!**

***THE POWER OF CHOICE!***

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**INTROIT:** TiS 253 – O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr!

O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr,  
All the power belongs to you.  
Hold me by this power, O Lord,  
You alone are king.

Now we praise you for your Word,  
Living, true, and full of light.  
Yours the hands that rest on me:  
Hold me for all time.

*Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land, versified by D'Arcy Wood 1936 -  
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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**

From the whirlwind of the week,  
***we come to find rest.***

From all that feels unknown and uncertain,  
***we come to remember what matters.***

We come to worship from generation to generation,  
***to find our place among the ancestors  
choosing to know more about God's love.***

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN:** TiS 533 – I come with joy to meet my Lord!

I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world  
we'll live and speak his praise.

*Author: Brian Arthur Wren 1936- © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.  
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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

**One:** Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” God’s love never leaves us. We are loved, understood, forgiven, enabled to begin again. For God’s great grace toward us.

**ALL: *Let us praise our God! Amen!***

**DOXOLOGY:** SiS 34 – Turn your eyes upon Jesus!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in His wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of His glory and grace.

*Author: Helen H. Lemmel © 1922 New Spring*

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## 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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>34</sup> So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. <sup>35</sup> The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

<sup>42</sup> “I came today to the spring and said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup> I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” <sup>44</sup> and

who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

<sup>45</sup> “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ <sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” <sup>59</sup> So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.”

<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup> Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup> And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel <sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

#### PSALM 45:10-17

*Words and music: George Black*



**Response: Every age will recall your name.  
This song will fix it in their memory.**

King's daughters stand among the ladies of the court;  
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.  
"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely;  
forget your people and your father's house. **Response**

The king will have pleasure in your beauty;  
he is your master; therefore do him honour.  
The people of Tyre are here with a gift;  
the rich among the people seek your favour." **Response.**

All glorious is the princess as she enters;  
her gown is cloth of gold.  
In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king.  
After her the bridesmaids follow in procession. **Response**

With joy and gladness they are brought to the king;  
and enter into the house of the king.  
"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons;  
you shall make them princes over all the earth." **Response**

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>16</sup> "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

**Jesus Thanks His Father**

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: The Power of Choice!**

**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 560 – All my hope on God is founded!**

All my hope on God is founded;  
all my trust he will renew,  
through all change and chance he guides me,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
all we build with care and labour,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness lasts for ever,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought;  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springing out of naught.  
Evermore from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Hear Christ call one and all:  
those who follow shall not fall.

*Author: Robert Bridges 1844-1930 alt. after Joachim Neander 1650-80.  
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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

**HYMN:** TiS 505 – Jesus invites his saints!

Jesus invites his saints  
to meet around his board;  
here pardoned rebels sit, and hold  
communion with their Lord.

For food he gives his flesh,  
calls us to drink his blood;  
amazing favour, matchless grace  
of our descending God!

Our heavenly father calls  
Christ and his members one:  
we the young children of his love,  
and he the first-born Son.

We are but several parts  
of the same broken bread;  
one body has its several limbs,  
but Jesus is the head.

Let all our powers be joined  
his glorious name to raise;  
pleasure and love fill every mind  
and every voice be praise.

*Author: Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt. Public Domain.  
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## INVITATION

One: When we are travelling,

**All: God is with us.**

One: When we are alone,

**All: God comes to us.**

One: When we feel weak and unsure,

**All: God offers us food for the journey...**

...<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *(Matthew 11)*

## 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.**

## SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

... 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 in the church and with those joining online, 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 and wholeness to all people and make Godly choices.

**TIS 756 [ii]**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### WORD OF MISSION

Go with the love of God and the compassion of Rebekah to choose love and rest for all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens. Go with the blessing of God, who rests in your every hope. May the peace of Christ be with you all now and always.

### BLESSING

**DISMISSAL SONG: ATOK 412** – Sent by the Lord am I.

Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now  
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes. (x2)

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do, to set it really free.

O help me to obey; help me to do your will.

*Author: Jorge E. Maldonado © 1991 Abingdon Press.*

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**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai; **Elders** – Margo Cunningham, Carol Gannon, Susan Pierotti, Bron James, Miriam Peck; **Readers** – Bron James, Miriam Peck, Emily Shearer-Cox; **Prayer** – Adri Stickland; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Anita Hinton, Glenice Warner; **Door Stewards** – Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Alan Hinton, Greta Christie, Shirley Vanderbom, Maureen Doonan. *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](http://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.**