

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



PENTECOST 8

Sunday 19th July 2026 @ 10 a.m.

Coin Trail Month to help planting new trees!

Blessed to Shine / Prosper!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 52 – Let us sing!

Let us sing to the God of salvation,
let us sing to the Lord our rock!

Let us come to his house with thanksgiving,
let us come before the Lord and sing!

*Praise our Maker, praise our Saviour,
praise the Lord our everlasting King.*

Every throne must bow before him, God is Lord of everything!

In his hands are the earth's deep places
and the strength of the hills is his;
all the sea is the Lord's, for he made it,
by his hands the dry land was formed.

*Praise our Maker, praise our Saviour,
praise the Lord our everlasting King.*

Every throne must bow before him, God is Lord of everything!

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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 - *Follow the movements suggested below.*

Here in this space, heaven and Earth touch,

*bring one arm from over your head and one from below your waist together until
they touch.*

Here in this place, the gateway to grace is wide open,
open arms wide.

Here the people of God come to worship

extend open arms toward the congregation

and God enfolds us close in a welcoming embrace,
mime an embrace.

"I am with you," God declares.

Once again, extend open arms out toward the congregation.

***We repeat God's welcome in this community of grace,
I am with you. Let us worship.***

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: Alexander's 123 – Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!

Visions of rapture now burst at my sight!

Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Our God is patient and understanding. We are waiting and groaning, but God is at work already revealing hope that we cannot quite see. Still, this hope saves us. Our God redeems us and revives our spirits again.

This is the mystery and the glory. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

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:

Genesis 28:10-19a (NRSVUE)
Jacob’s Dream at Bethel

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring

shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel.

PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24

Words: NRSV, music: Isaac Everett (Emergent Psalter)
Verses by one of the readers for the day.

Emergent Psalter

I praise you for I am won-der - f'ly made.
I praise you for I am fear - ful - ly made.

Response: *I praise you for I am wonderfully made.*
I praise you for I am fearfully made.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

Response

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

Response

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Response

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Response

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Response

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSVUE)

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will

throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *Blessed to Shine / Prosper!*

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 675 – Shine, Jesus, shine!

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us—shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness—shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story—shine on me, shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;

*blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*
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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: Hillsong Collection 1, Vol. 3 - Everyday!

What to say, Lord? It's
You who gave me life and I
can't explain just how
much You mean to me now
that You have saved me, Lord.
I give all that I am to You,
that everyday I can
be a light that shines Your name.

Everyday Lord, I'll learn to stand
upon Your Word.
And I pray that I, that I may come
to know You more,
that You would guide me in every
single step I take,
that everyday I can be Your
light unto the world.

*Everyday, it's You I live for.
Everyday, I'll follow after You.
Everyday, I'll walk with You, my Lord. (x2)
It's You I live for everyday. (x6)*

*Everyday, it's You I live for.
Everyday, I'll follow after You.
Everyday, I'll walk with You, my Lord. (x2)
Everyday!*

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WORD OF MISSION & 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.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Anita Hinton;
Readers – Margaret Bennett, Corrie Olson, Miriam Peck; **Prayer** – Rev Dr
Graeme Sutton; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Pianist**
– Rev Dr Graeme Sutton; **Flautists** – Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers; **IT, Video
& Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Claudia Forsberg, Susan Pierotti; **Door
Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea** – Miriam Gibson, Ros Sutton,
Mary Hollick, Carol Gannon.

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For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and
Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**