

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation



PENTECOST 11

Sunday 9th August 2026 @ 10 a.m.

HOMELESSNESS WEEK:

3-9 AUGUST 2026!

“Homelessness Action Now!”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: 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.

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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

In a world overwhelmed by waves of bad news,
we feel tossed and turned in the chaos of current events.
Here we are, carrying our dreams in our spirits,
wondering what God dreams in the storms and turmoil.
It is God’s dream of abundant life,
and we are stirring to interpret its meaning.

We come together to listen and wonder,
to praise and celebrate.

We come in hopeful anticipation to awaken our hearts to God’s dream
fulfilled.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN/SONG: TiS 629 – When I needed a neighbour!

When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

When I needed a shelter,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

When they put me in prison,
were you there, were you there?
When they put me in prison, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won't matter, were you there?*

Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.
*And the creed and the colour and the name
won't matter, were you there?*

*Author: Sydney Carter 1915- © 1965 Stainer & Bell Ltd.
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

With God, the impossible is made possible. Even when our hearts are closed to God, even when we cannot see the Spirit's presence in our midst, still, God is here with us, ready to catch and comfort.

Thanks be to God. 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 37:1-4,12-28 (NRSVUE)

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

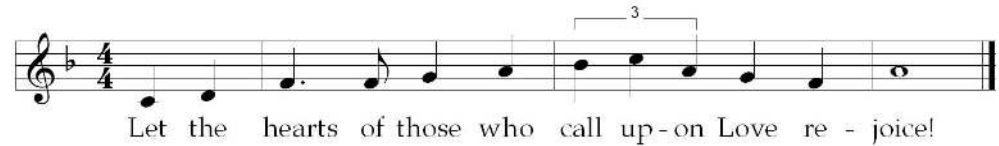
¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the

pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

PSALM 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Words: Nan C Merrill, Music: Gordon Johnston



Response: Let the hearts of those who call upon Love rejoice.

O give thanks to the Beloved, and open your hearts to Love.
Awaken! Listen in silence for the Voice of the Counsellor.
Sing praises with a glad heart
and give witness to the truth with your lives!

Response

Glory in the radiance of the Beloved;
let the hearts of those who call upon You rejoice!
Seek the One who is Life, your strength,
walk harmoniously in Love’s Presence!

Response

Remember that you are not alone, for
through Love doubt and fear are released;
O people of the earth, ever bear in mind
the unity of diversity in the Divine Plan!

Response

O Divine Presence, as we surrender our hearts to You,
teach us to be worthy of trust.
O, that what we think and speak
might be in accord with our highest aspirations.

O, that our faces might shine with openness,
reflecting integrity and honesty within,
That we would choose to live in peace and harmony,
our decisions made in accordance with Love.

Response

Upon the path of trust, O friends,
we need not judge ourselves or others,

For, as we reverence all life,
the beauty and unity of diversity will be seen.

Response

Romans 10:5-15 (NRSVUE)
Salvation Is for All

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:
HOMELESSNESS ACTION NOW: Ballarat Snooze Buc Inc.

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 468 – We are your people!

We are your people; Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.

Christ, as we serve you in different ways,
may all we're doing show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.

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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

WORD OF MISSION

Send us forth, O God, as carriers of your dreams, with worshipful hearts to
keep, adapt, and persist in your love that threatens the way things are.
In the dim as well as bright times, we will seek you and your strength;
we will seek your presence continually.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 666 – We are marching in the light of God!

We are marching in the light of God. (x4)

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are **moving** in the power of God. (x4)

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault, Rod Devenish;
Elder – Rod Devenish; **Readers** – Helen Duggan, Margo Cunningham,
Tofila Fifita; **Prayer** – Andy Gault; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** –
Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** –
Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Maureen Doonan, Merriel Le Marshall; **Door**
Stewards – Ron Fleming, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Faye Withers, Carol
Gannon, Corrie Olsen, Nina Netherway.

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www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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