

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

**Ballarat Central & Brown Hill
Uniting Congregations**

PENTECOST 14

Sunday 30th August 2026 @ 10 a.m.

“CHANGING TIMES!”



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 FIRST PEOPLES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN/SONG: TiS 188 – Where wide sky rolls down!

Where wide sky rolls down
and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold
the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One
who made everything well.

Where rain-forest calm
meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush
and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light
of the life-giving Word.

Where red gum and creek
cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise
to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top,
all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

Now, people of faith,
come gather around
with songs to be shared,
for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts
to the Giver of grace.

*Elizabeth J Smith 1956 – Hanover.
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PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF LETTING GO

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

DOXOLOGY: TiS 772 – Worship, honour, glory, blessing!

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,

Lord we offer to your name;

young and old, their praise expressing,

join your goodness to proclaim.

As the saints in heaven adore you,

we would bow before your throne;

as your angels serve before you,

so on earth your will be done.

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND NOTICES

Frontier Services Videos

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:

Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSVUE)

Moses at the Burning Bush

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

The Divine Name Revealed

¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"
¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

PSALM 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Music: Evan Duggan, Text: Athanasius Psalter, Julie Tennant, NRSV



Response: Praise the Lord, remember well, O praise God, peoples all.

Give thanks to the Lord and make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Sing praises to God. Tell all of God's wonderful works.
Glory in God's holy name; Rejoice all those who seek the Lord.
Continually seek the Lord's strength and presence.
Remember the wonderful works God has done,
O, offspring of Abraham, children of Jacob. **Response (twice)**

So Israel came into Egypt and Jacob lived in the country of Ham.
He made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts turned to hate his people and to deal deceitfully with his servants.
Then he sent Moses his servant and Aaron, the man he had chosen.
Response (twice)

Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSVUE)

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

REFLECTION: "Changing Times!"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

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

HYMN/SONG: TiS 650 – Brother, sister, let me serve you!

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*Author: Richard Gillard 1953- © 1977 Scripture In Song
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND OTHERS

(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

CLOSING HYMN: TiS 672 – Lord of earth and all creation!

Lord of earth and all creation,
Let your love possess our land:
Wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
Mountain, forest, shining sand:
May we share, in faith and friendship,
Gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient Dreamtime,
They who found this country first,
Ask with those, the later comers,
Will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
Hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
On our hurts your mercy shower;
Lead us by your inward dwelling,
Guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
In your will her peace and power.

Author: Michael Rayner Thwaites 1915- and Honor Mary Thwaites 1914-1993

Music – R Boughen

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BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 779 – May the feet of God walk with you!
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; **Elder** – Jean Miton; **Readers** – Helen Peart, Adri Stickland, Bron James; **Prayer** – Mary Hollick; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Lauren Martin, Rod Devenish; **Door Stewards** – Nur Sisson, Merriel Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Andy Gault, Larry Griffin, Helen Peart, Nancy O'Loughlin. *Prayers are adapted from Frontier Services Worship Resources 2026. 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.*

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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.**