



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 13th September 2026 @ 10 a.m.

Season of Creation 2



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

“Land Sunday”

LAND: A Wonderful Place!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 668 – Touch the earth lightly!
Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

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GREETING

Leader: May 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 many different lands we gather on this land, in this place, at this time.

You are with us.

God of the earth, the land, the sky; in difficult times, on rocky ground, when
the landscape seems to have changed,

we gather to worship.

Find us, O God, shaped by the dust grounded in hope and eager to grow.

You are with us.

OPENING PRAYER

REMEMBERING

We remember the dry land that rose from the waters at the beginning of
creation and the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the ground with
vegetation.

***We remember with delight the gardens and the fields of our childhood, the
places where we played in the sand, when we felt close to the ground, to
bright flowers and baby animals.***

We remember and rejoice. Thank you, God, for Land, for soils that sustain our
life.

Adapted from seasonofcreation.com

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We are dust.

Two: *We shall return to dust.*

One: The land is filled with treasure.

Two: *We have taken treasure from the land and left it broken.*

One: The land is rich to nourish and sustain.

Two: *We strip it of goodness, turning fertile plains into wastelands.*

One: The land is plentiful and full of variety.

Two: *We fight for control. From a desire for more, it becomes killing fields
instead of sanctuary.*

One and Two: The land cries out in agony, and the people cry out in misery

One: The land longs for mercy,
Two: and the people yearn for comfort and care.
One and Two: God, are you there? Do you care? (Silence)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

One: God hears Land's cry, and God hears our voices rise.
Two: Let us cry out for an end to the violence – done to the earth and done to one another.
One: There is no thing and no one and no place outside or beyond the reach of God's care.
Two: Let this be our song and our shared labour.
One: God's gift of forgiveness opens the way for transformation and life.
All: Thanks be to God for love that listens and grows.

HYMN/SONG: TiS 100 – All creatures of our God and king!

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia, alleluia;
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear, alleluia, alleluia!
O fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way, O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show;
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness; O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

- *KUCA in the manse lounge after the special time with the children.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Leader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: "A light to our path."

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

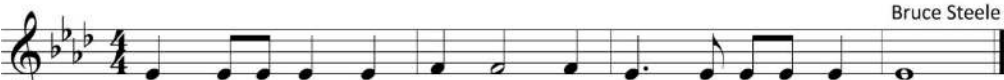
Genesis 4:8-16

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's

keeper?” ¹⁰ And the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen, your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

PSALM 139:7-12

Text and music: Bruce Steele



Search me O Lord and know me! And guide me in the right way.

Response: *Search me O Lord and know me! And guide me in the right way.*

Where can I go to escape your spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there.
If I make my bed in Sheol you are there.

Response

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand shall hold me fast.

Response

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become like night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you,
and night is as bright as day, for darkness is as light to you.

Response

Romans 5:12–17 (NRSVUE)
Adam and Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12:38–40 (NRSVUE)

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!
All: And bear much fruit to your glory!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: LAND: A wonderful place!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

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

HYMN: TiS 168 – For the fruits of all creation!
For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;

for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

What can we offer, what can we bring?

You are the ground of everything: the source of all that is; the hope on which we stand; the promise that reaches out an open hand and leads and holds us fast.

We bring our hopes, our dreams, and our fears.

We bring our hands, our hearts, and our tears. Amen.

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 FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORD OF MISSION & BLESSING

Leader: ... Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

ALL: *We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth!*

DISMISSAL HYMN: TiS 668 – Touch the earth lightly!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Maureen Vallance; **Readers** – Rod Devenish, Greta Christie, Lauren Martin; **Prayer** – Helen Duggan; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Greta Christie, Bron James; **Door Stewards** – Ron Fleming, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Jen Mitchell, Faye Withers, Charlotte Withers, Andy Gault.

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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:
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For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.**