



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Ballarat Central Uniting Congregation

PENTECOST 21
Sunday 18th October 2026 @ 10 a.m.
God's image in the world

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Introit - As the deer pants for the water TiS 703

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*Words: Martin Nystrom 1956- © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc.
(Admin. by Maranatha! Music). Used with permission*

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

OPENING PRAYER

Hymn Lord of earth and all creation TiS 672 (ii)

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.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

When we treat this land as if we were owners of a commodity
rather than stewards of a gift:
God, have mercy.
God, have mercy.

When we act as though our indigenous brothers and sisters
have nothing to teach us:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we fill your silences with the sound of our own voices
for fear of what we might otherwise hear:

God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

AFFIRMATION OF FORGIVENESS

It is God's right to punish and God's right to forgive sin.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
we have seen God's goodness and generous mercy.

Jesus has rescued us from separation from God.

Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

Song Halle, halle, hallelujah TiS720

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah! *(repeat ...) Caribbean Traditional. Public Domain.*

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."*

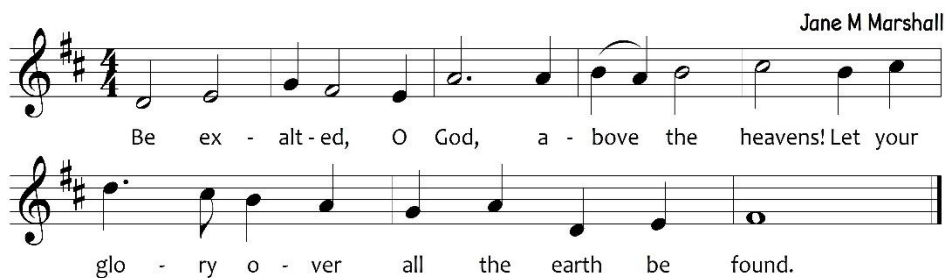
Exodus 33:12-23 (NRSVue) *Moses's Intercession*

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' Now if I have found favour in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Psalm 99

Jane M Marshall



Be ex - alt - ed, O God, a - bove the heavens! Let your
glo - ry o - ver all the earth be found.

Response ***Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory over all the earth be found.***

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!
The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion,
and is exalted over all the peoples.

Response

Let them praise your great and wondrous name!
Holy is the Lord!
Mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Response

Extol the Lord our God,
Worship at the Lord's footstool! Holy is the Lord!
Moses and Aaron were among God's priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on God's name.
They cried to the Lord, who answered them,

Response

God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud.
They kept God's testimonies and the statutes God gave them.
Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
Surely the Lord our God is holy!

Response

Matthew 22:15-22(NRSVue) *The Question about Paying Taxes*

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

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

Proclamation - God's image in the world.

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 Rock of Ages, cleft for me TiS222

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labours of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone: thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Author: Augustus Montague Toplady 1740–78. Public Domain.

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!***

HYMN Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand TiS 188

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 b1956 © Reproduced with permission

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORD OF MISSION & BLESSING

Go now as those who have found favour in the sight of God.
Be imitators of Jesus Christ
and an example to all of the life of faith.
To the world in which you live, give your love and service,
and to God, give all that you are and all that you shall be.

And may the glory of God's goodness be revealed to you;
May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ take root in you;
And may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

SONG May the feet of God walk with you Ti5779

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.

Sources: Uniting in Worship CD; LaughingBird.net ©2002 Nathan Nettleton <https://digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/learning-modules/1/migration-sahul>

Worship Leaders – Rev. Peter Mather, Andy Gault;
Elder – Margo Cunningham; **Readers** – Karen Coad, Helen Peart, Glenice Warner; **Prayer** – Karen Coad; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Pianist** – Rev Dr Graeme Sutton; **Flautists** – Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers; **Bass guitar** – Steve Holoyda; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Lauren Martin, Anita Hinton; **Door Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea** – Mary Hollick, Fila Fifita, Bev Hutchinson, Ros Sutton.

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To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to:

www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

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