



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 25th October 2026 @ 10 a.m.
Pentecost 22

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 217 Love divine, all loves excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Author: Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt. Public Domain.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,
And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

WORD 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.

Author: Edward Osler 1798-1863. Public Domain

PRAYER

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

EARLY WORD

Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet,
a light to our path.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’

I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

PSALM 90:1-6,13-17 words: Nan C. Merrill; music: Gordon Johnston



You anoint those who love you, healing wounds of the past.

Response: *You anoint those who love you, healing wounds of the past.*

Eternal and Immortal One, You have been
our refuge in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
before You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting,
You are the Alpha and the Omega.

Response

When our days on Earth are ended,
You welcome us home to your Heart,
to the City of Light,
where time is eternal and days are not numbered.

Response

You gather those who love You as
friends returning from a long journey,
giving rest to their souls.
You anoint them with the balm of understanding,
healing wounds of the past.

Response

Awaken us, O Holy One! Too long have we been asleep!
Have mercy on your people!
Help us to wait in Silence listening for your gentle Voice;
Strengthen us with courage to face the fears within.

Response

O, that we might be converted in our hearts
and walk together in peace and harmony!
Let your Love be known to the nations,
your Glory to our children's children.

Response

Let the grace and gentleness of the Holy Spirit be upon us,
guiding our feet upon paths of Love Consciousness.
Increase the Light within us –
O Beloved, hear our prayer!

Response

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

HYMN: TiS 164 The great love of God

The great love of God is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world, every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low, and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours, O how lavishly giv'n!
The pearl of great price, and the treasure of heav'n.

Author: Daniel Thambyrajah Niles 1908-70. Public Domain

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

SERMON

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 602 O Love that wilt not let me go

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee:
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Author: George Matheson 1842-1906. Public Domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

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: TiS 630 The law of Christ alone can make us free

Refrain: **The law of Christ alone can make us free,
and love is the fulfilling of the law.
As children of our God we're sisters, brothers;
but will God's love to all the world be known
if we do not reflect his love to others?
In charity and justice God is shown.**

Millions believe the law of life is cunning
within a world of cruelty and greed;
how can they know God's charity and justice
if helping hands have never reached their need?

Refrain

Christ is at work through us who are his body,
he chooses us to witness and to teach,
to heal and raise and liberate and strengthen,
to be his hands and eyes, his heart and speech.

Refrain

There is no promise that we shall not suffer,
no promise that we shall not need to fight;
only the word that love is our redemption
and freedom comes by turning to the light.

Refrain

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

DISMISSAL & BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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.

Worship Leaders – Rev David Leach, Andy Gault; Elder – Carol Gannon;
Readers – Andrew Boatman, Corrie Olsen, Emily Shearer-Cox; Prayer –
Andrew Boatman; BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director – Helen Duggan;
Organist – Ray Hodder; IT, Video & Audio – Ben Daniel, Andrew
Boatman; Welcome – Greta Christie, Maureen Vallance; Door Stewards
– Rod Devenish, Barbara Snibson; Morning Tea – Judy Stone, Jan
Dimond, Corrie Olsen, Larry Griffin.

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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.