

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 8th November 2026

Pentecost 24

OPENING HYMN: TIS 135 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Chorus: *All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful
the Lord God made them all.*

The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call, **Chorus**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Thanks be to you O God, that we have risen this day
TO THE RISING OF THIS LIFE ITSELF
Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose
THE HAND OF GOD BETWEEN US AND EACH HAND
The pain of Christ between us and each pain
THE LOVE OF CHRIST BETWEEN US AND EACH LOVE
O God, who brought us to the light of this new day
BRING US TO THE GUIDING LIGHT OF ETERNITY

HYMN TIS 135 All Things Bright and Beautiful

The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden
– he made them every one. **Chorus**

The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall, **Chorus**

The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free, **Chorus**

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well. **Chorus**

Author: Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95 (vv. 2 alt., 5, and refrain)

Brian Black 1926- (vv. 1 and 3) Compilers (v 4.) Public Domain.

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS

LAND: We acknowledge the people who were here long before us.

The Waddawarrung People of the Kulin nation have nurtured this land for thousands of years. The people of the red soil hold the stories of Bunjil the Eagle Hawk and continue their great history from which we second peoples honour and continue the journey of reconciliation.

WE HONOUR THEM FOR THEIR CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER TODAY.

HYMN OF PRAISE – TIS 179 Praise with joy the world's Creator

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence —
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure —
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

*Authors: John L. Bell 1949- & Graham Maule 1958- © 1987 WGRG,
Iona Community (Admin. by Willow Publishing Pty. Ltd.)*

PRAYER and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

EARLY WORD

THE SCRIPTURES:

Your Word O lord is a lamp to our feet,
A LIGHT TO OUR PATH.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Joshua 24:1-3a & 14-25

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the

people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” ¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” ²² Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³ He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

PSALM 78:1-7 words and music: Greg Scheer

Response

Setting © 2006 Greg Scheer

What we have heard, what we have known, let our tongues
tell our sons and daughters the wonders of our liv - ing
God, that they may join us in the cho - rus.

Response: *What we have heard what we have known
let our tongues tell our sons and daughters
the wonders of our living god*

that they may join us in the chorus
People of the Lord listen to my voice
Hear the ancient words Once again rejoice.

Response

Tell of God's great deeds Teach His loving law
That faith's precious seed in each heart may grow. **Response**

Tell the news till each generation knows
They in turn will teach those yet to be born.

Response

May we trust in God rest in His strong hand
Live in His strong love follow His commands

Response

Matthew 25:1-13

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

REFLECTION – Light and Oil

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 690 – Beauty for Brokenness

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Chorus: *God of the poor, friend of the weak,
 give us compassion we pray;
 melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
 Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need. ***Chorus***

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise. ***Chorus***

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick 1950- © 1993 Make Way Music.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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 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.

Author: Frederick Pratt Green 1903-. © 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

WORD OF MISSION & BENEDICTION.

DISMISSAL SONG: For You Deep Stillness:

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ, in the name of Christ.

© 1997 Robin Mann. Words: Julie Perrin

Worship Leaders – Rev John Thornton, Andy Gault; Elder – Jean Miton; Readers – Jen Mitchell, Helen Duggan, Fila Fifita; Prayer – Susan Pierotti; BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director – Helen Duggan; Organist – Roger Peck; IT, Video & Audio – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; Welcome – Betty Stewart, Bron James; Door Stewards – Ron & Lyn Fleming; Morning Tea – Faye & Charlotte Withers, Shirley VanderBom, Helen Peart. Prayers are adapted from Uniting in Worship and A Wee Worship Book and Spill the Beans. 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. To connect to our Sunday Livestream Worship at 10am go to: For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and Church Facebook Page – Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.