



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 1st November 2026

HOLY COMMUNION/REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Introit: TIS 703 As the deer pants

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.

Martin J. Nystrom 1983 © Sovereign Music, UK.

Call to Worship

As we gather in this place,

We know that God is present.

In the day-to-day ordinariness of life,

We know that God is present.

In the times of challenge and difficulty,

We know that God is present.

In the joys and celebrations we feel,

We know that God is present.

As we remember and give thanks,

even as we still feel pain of loss,

We know that God is present.

Let us worship our God today,

And know that God is present.

Let us pray:

We thank you that you are our God who shares every journey of life with us.
We thank you that you are a God who loves us unconditionally. We thank
you that you are our God and we are your people.

Bless us as we worship today and may we feel the gentle wind of your Spirit blowing in our midst. Amen.

Acknowledgement of Country

On this day as we remember those dear to us whom we have lost. We acknowledge the loss of the first people....especially for us in Ballarat, the Wathawurrung people.

Their loss of land, their loss of identity, their loss of independence.

We pay our respects to elders, past and present.

We remind ourselves again, of the commitment of the uniting Church to walk together as first and second peoples.

We pledge to continue to seek justice for all first peoples.

Hymn: TIS 693 Come as you are

Come as you are: That's how I want you.

Come as you are: Feel quite at home.

Close to my heart, loved and forgiven.

Come as you are: Why stand alone.

No need to fear, Love sets no limits;

No need to fear, Love never ends:

Don't run away, Shamed and disheartened.

Rest in my love, Trust me again.

I came to call sinners, Not just the righteous;

Came to bring peace, Not to condemn.

Each time you fail to live by my promise,

Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are: That's how I love you;

Come as you are, Trust me again.

Nothing can change The love that I bear you;

All will be well, Just come as you are.

© Deirdre Browne as in TIS 693. Spectrum Publications, Melbourne.

Prayer of Confession

For the times we have forgotten your presence with us.

Lord have mercy...**Lord have mercy.**

For the times we have doubted your faithfulness.

Christ have mercy...***Christ have mercy.***

For the times we have not loved as you love us,

Lord have mercy...***Lord have mercy.***

Declaration of Forgiveness

We know that our God, whose promise is sure, hears the call from our hearts. God responds to our pleas with the promise of presence and the well-known words: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Joys, Concerns and Notices

Remembrance of those who have died

PRAYER

Dwell with us, O God, in the mystery of your great story. We have loved, and we have lost. Mourn with us as we name those who died this year.

Come forward if you would like to place a flower and light a candle for your loved ones.

MUSIC during remembrance:

Dwell with us, O God, in the mystery of your great story.

We have loved, and our hearts have grown.

Rejoice with us in the wonder of new life.

Stories end, and stories begin. The sadness of death mingled with the joy of birth, and your story continues to be told. O God, dwell with us in this tender place.

Prayer We read together

O Christ, I am at such a loss. I want to help, but I don't know what to do or what to say. I don't know how to act in light of everything that has changed. But I know this: I love my friend.

Give me wisdom, grace and empathy O Lord, to simply walk beside, to let my friend lead as they learn to navigate this grief, and not ever in arrogance believe that I can somehow set them straight, or make it right, or give advice they do not need from me.

Teach me how to set aside my own discomfort, so that I might compassionately perceive what true encouragement and helpfulness would mean.

Above all, let me learn to remain present in their life, not forcing them to speak of loss, but being ever ready to listen, to share their tears, to steward their story – however much they choose to entrust me – and so let me serve my dear friend well by a close and constant willingness to bear some small part of their long burden. Amen.

Hymn: TIS 659 The Lord is my Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd - and I want to follow-
wherever he leads me - wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and by ways,
valleys and high ways, he's waiting for me.

Refrain *I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on journey - to where we are going-
he promised to be there - to help us along.
And over the mountains, we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders, he's given to me.

Refrain

I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

Refrain

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

ALL: *"A light to our path."*

Readings:

Joshua 3:7-17

⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.

⁸ You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’ ” ⁹ Joshua then said to the Israelites, “Draw

near and hear the words of the LORD your God.” ¹⁰ Joshua said, “By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out

from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: ¹¹ the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the

earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. ¹² So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ When the soles of the

feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing

from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.” ¹⁴ When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing

the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest.

So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the

priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶ the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the

city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over

opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry

ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Psalm 34 words: NRSV; music: Helen Duggan

Response



I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

Response

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Response

Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.

Response

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Response

O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Response

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reader: “Lord, may your Word live in us.”

ALL: “*And bear much fruit to your glory!*”

Sermon Learning from the past – pointers for the future

Prayers of the People *(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 and offering: TIS 537: Let us talents and tongues employ

(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.)

Let us talents and tongues employ.
Reaching out with a shout of joy,
bread is broken, the wine is served,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain *Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the word around: loaves abound.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the word around, loaves abound.*

Christ is able to make us one;
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God-Immanuel everywhere.

Refrain

Words by Fred Kaan

Passing of the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

We share a sign of peace with each other.

Communion

INVITATIONS TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this table here in the church and also at homes, is the table of the
Lord and God calls us to this sacred feast.

Come, not because you are strong, but because you are weak;
come, not because of any goodness of your own, but because you need
mercy and help;
come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love God more;
come, because God loves you and gave God-self for you.

NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hear the words of institution of this sacrament as recorded by the apostle
Paul:

For I received from the Lord What I also delivered to you,
That the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,
And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
This is my body which is for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this as often as you drink it,
For the remembrance of me.
And we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks for the glorious hope of our calling
In the blessedness of the saints before us,
Following their examples
and strengthened by their lives we have shared,
We run with determination the race that lies ahead of us,
That with them we may receive the blessing of your promises.
And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place,
Joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation
In the eternal hymn:

Sanctus TIS 756

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

With this bread and this cup, both here in and in our homes, we do as our
saviour commands:

We celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

TiS 756

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine, here in the church and also in homes with those joining us online, may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Gather us, who share this feast, into the kingdom of your glory that with all your people in every time and place we praise and worship you for ever.

TIS 756

***Blessing and honour and glory
and power are yours for ever and ever.***

Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread of life.

The cup of salvation.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

TIS 756

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

THE COMMUNION – People to come to rail as usual practice

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom.

May our love be your love, reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: AHB 551 I sing a song of the saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew;

And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:

they were all of them saints of God: and I mean, God helping to be one too.

They loved their Lord so good and dear, and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus sake, the whole of the good lives long;

And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:

and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus will;

You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea:

for the saints of God began just like me, and I mean to be one too.

John Henry Hopkins

Benediction

Today we have spent some time with the saints that have been a significant part of our lives. We have remembered them with a deep sense of the love we continue to hold for them. We have remembered that God is faithful and God's presence never failed our remembered saints and will never fail us.

As we leave:

May the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, travel with you on this day and always. Amen.

Song: TIS 779 May the feet of God

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.

We invite you to join us for a special Morning Tea.

Worship Leaders – Rev. Trevor Bassett; **Elders** – Bron James, Miriam Peck, Jen Mitchell, Margo Cunningham, Rod Devenish; **Readers** – Barb Snibson, Miriam Peck, Lauren Martin; **Prayer** – Adri Stickland; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist** – Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Betty Stewart, Glenice Warner; **Door Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming, Maureen Vallance; **Morning Tea** – Shirley VanderBom, Andy Gault, Jan Jenkyn, Nina Netherway.

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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.***