

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church



*Sunday 4th October 2026 @ 10 a.m.
Pentecost 19*

HOLY COMMUNION

“Covenant for Fruitful Living!”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 717 – Give thanks!

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son. (x2)

And now let the weak say, ‘I am strong,’

let the poor say, ‘I am rich because of what

the Lord has done for us.’ (x2)

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

Author: Henry Smith 1952– © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

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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

Day to day, there are new wonders. The heavens are full of God’s glory.

We come held by the work of God’s hands.

Above us and below us, the law of God is perfect. It holds us together and
revives our souls.

We rejoice with our whole hearts.

The commandments of God glitter like gold. God's law is sweeter than the sweetest honey. It holds us together and shows us the ways of love.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations on all our hearts praise and honour you today and every day.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Before they became the ten commandments, the people of Israel probably knew them as ten words that served as a rule of life. This prayer reflects the power of words to create heartfelt responses that give shape to community.

Words of Contemplation

(V1) distance, (V2) separation, (V3) oppression, (V4) broken-hearted
(give ample pause between each word);

(V1) harm, (V2) neglect, (V3) pollution, (V4) extinction
(give ample pause between each word);

(V1) disregard, (V2) ignore, (V3) injustice, (V4) impoverish
(give ample pause between each word).

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Leader: Hear now these life-giving words:

Voice 1: receive, welcome, reconcile, enfold;

Voice 2: restore, beautify, care, fruitful;

Voice 3: attend, share, compassion, voice;

Voice 4: forgiven, forgiven, forgiven, forgiven.

Leader: May these words take root within us and become the living reality among and through us.

All: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

HYMN/SONG: TiS 657 – God of freedom, God of justice!

God of freedom, God of justice, God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison, God who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror, God whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest, God who shed the tears and blood;
move in us the power of pity, restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human, open to each other's need.

Author: Shirley Erena Murray 1931-2020 alt. © 1992 Shirley Erena Murray

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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

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:

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 (NRSVUE)

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷ "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

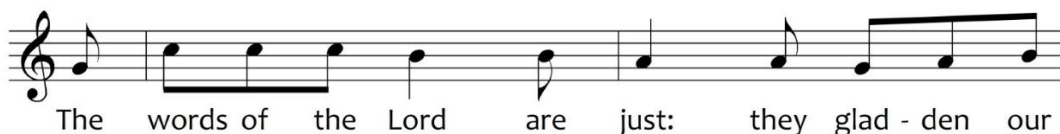
¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

PSALM 19

Text and Music - Bruce Steele



Response: The words of the Lord are just, they gladden our hearts.

The heavens declare the glory of God
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day pours forth song,
night unto night makes it known.

There is no speech nor any word
and no voice is heard
yet their voice goes forth through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

Response

There he has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom -
like a bridegroom coming forth from his tent -
and rejoices like a champion to run his course.

At the end of the sky
is the rising of the sun;
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Response

The law of the Lord I perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Response

The fear of the Lord is pure,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth,
and righteous every one.

They are more to be desired than gold,
the purest gold
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey dripping from the comb.

Response

By them your servant is warned;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
Acquit me from hidden faults.

Restrain your servant from presumption,
may it have no dominion over me.
Then shall I be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Response

Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable to you, O Lord,
my redeemer and my rock.

Response

Matthew 21:33–46 (NRSVUE)
The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!

All: ***And bear much fruit to your glory!***

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: “Covenant for Fruitful Living!”

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 609 – May the mind of Christ my Saviour!

May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self denying, this is victory.

May I run the race before me strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

Author: Kate Barclay Wilkinson 1859-1928 alt. Public Domain.

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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.***

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING OF PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you!

ALL: ***And also with you.***

Please share the sing of peace!

HYMN/SONG: TiS 474 – Here in this place (Gather us in)!

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;

gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Author: Marty Haugen 1950-

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Invitation

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Creator God be with you and all creation.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open them to our Creator.

One: Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

ALL: It is right to join creation in thanking God.

... Encourage us to open ourselves to all that you are in our midst, a creative and divine Spirit ever-present and ever-loving as we sing together:

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.***

... We offer now this bread and this wine, here in the church and at people's homes, made from elements of the earth, formed by human hands, and brought now that we might use them to remember the presence of the Cosmic Christ in our daily lives.

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 at 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 Bread

TiS 756 - JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

***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.***

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

Go with ways of wisdom for the Holy One:

faithfulness, loyalty, reverence, stillness, respect.

Go with ways of wisdom for community:

mutuality, honour, generosity, truthfulness, and contentment.

Go in the wisdom of Christ that enables all creation to flourish in the ways of love:

forgiving, healing, restoring, creating, life, voice.

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 666 – We are marching in the light of God!

We are marching in the light of God. (x4)

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the light of God.

We are moving in the power of God.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu’inauvai; **Elders** – Nancy O’Loughlin, Rod Devenish, Maureen Vallance, Susan Pierotti, Carol Gannon, Merriel Le Marshall; **Readers** – Andy Gault, Manusiu Tu’inauvai, Emily Shearer-Cox; **Prayer** – Adri Stickland; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist** – TBC; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Adri Stickland, Anita Hinton; **Door Stewards** – Merriel & Geoff Le Marshall; **Morning Tea** – Glenice Warner, Lesley Lyons, Bron James, Nur Sisson.

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For more information, visit our website – ***bcuc.org.au*** and

Church Facebook Page – ***Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook.***