



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 11th October 2026 @ 10 a.m.

Pentecost 20

“You are Invited!”

Commissioning of Office Bearers!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: 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.

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.

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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

How could we ever tell how good our God is?

What would we say?

How would we move into such praise?

How would it feel to be there together with such joy?

Play instruments.

Bring every joy. Come with every bit of delight.

Gather it all in this pleasing, commendable, and worthy of excellence, with
drum, trumpet, and tambourine. Praise God!

Play instruments.

How could we live into God’s love?

We could rejoice and shout.

We could jump and sing.

We could tell the truth and hold space for every emotion including sadness,
frustrations, rejections.

Yes! This is what we come to praise.

Praise God, who gathers us together.

Play instruments.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

... For our foolish or careless use of the gifts of your creation, Lord have
mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For our indifference to the needs of others, our brothers and sisters for whom
you died, Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace in worship and private
prayer, Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for
us. -- *Romans 5:8*

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: TiS 92 – Sing to God with joy and gladness!
*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*
God unites his scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*
Such is God’s great power and wisdom none can calculate or tell;
keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*
God, with clouds, the sky has curtained, thus ensuring rain shall fall;
earth, responding, grows to order food for creatures great and small.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*
God’s discernment never favours strength or speed to lift or move.
God delights in those who fear him, trusting in his steadfast love.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.*
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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:

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9 (NRSVUE)
4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Exhortations
² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23
Text: New Heart English Bible; Music: Bruce Bolsma



Response: Bless’d are those who uphold justice, who practise righteousness.

Praise the LORD and give thanks, for the LORD is good,
for God’s loving kindness endures forever.
Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD,
or fully declare all God’s praise?
Blessed are those who uphold justice,
who practise righteousness at all times.

Response

Remember me, LORD, with the favour that you show to your people.
Visit me with your salvation,
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen, that I may
rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in with your inheritance.

We have sinned with our forebears.
We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly.

Response

They made a calf in Horeb,
and worshipped a molten image.
Thus they exchanged their glory
for the image of a bull that eats grass.
They forgot God, their Saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
Wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome things by the Sea at the End.
Therefore you would have destroyed them, had Moses
your chosen, not stood in the breach,
to turn away your wrath from destroying them.

Response

Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSVUE)

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 ¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer

darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!

All: And bear much fruit to your glory!

EARLY WORD & MESSAGE – “You are Invited!”

COMMISSIONING OF LEADERS/OFFICE BEARERS

Elders, Church Councillors, Presbytery Representatives, Leaders ...

SENTENCES

There are diverse gifts;

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God:

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways:

but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

and there is no gift without its corresponding service.

There is one ministry of Christ:

and in this ministry we all share.

Together we are the body of Christ:

and individually members of it.

PRESENTATION

The Uniting Church provides for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them for the building up of the Church.

Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are now to commission as elders, church councillors, Presbytery Reps and leaders those whom we have elected to this ministry.

The Chairperson of the Congregation presents the candidates and says:

On behalf of the people of this congregation, I present the following persons to be commissioned and recommissioned as elders, church councillors, representatives to the Presbytery and leaders:

The Chairperson of Congregation reads the names of the candidates. The candidates come to the front and stand together facing the congregation and the Minister addresses them:

THE VOWS

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to this ministry?

I do.

Being guided by the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia, will you live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic (universal) and apostolic Church?

With God's help I will.

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to carry out the duties of your office?

I do.

To the congregation:

Will you, the members of this congregation, accept these brothers and sisters as elders, church councillors, representatives to the Presbytery and leaders?

We will.

Will you encourage them in love and support them in their ministry, serving with them the one Lord Jesus Christ?

We will.

May God give you strength to fulfil these vows, and to him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation for ever.

Amen.

ACT OF COMMISSIONING

BLESSING

Minister:

God of grace, through the Holy Spirit empower your servants *NN* for the ministry of elders/church councillors/Presbytery representatives/leaders.

ALL: Amen.

THE AARONIC BLESSING – AHB 572

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

DECLARATION

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare you continue to be elders, church councillors, Presbytery Reps and leaders of the Uniting Church in Australia in the Ballarat Central Congregation.

The congregation may applaud.

Giving the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the congregation!

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 592 - Stand up, stand up for Jesus!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, as soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss;
from victory on to victory his army he shall lead
till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day!
All Christians true now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone:
the arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armour, each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long:
this day the noise of battle, the next the triumph song.
To those who are victorious a crown of life shall be;
they with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

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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.***

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

Leader: Whatever is true,

All: *whatever is noble,*

Leader: whatever is right,

All: *whatever is pure,*

Leader: whatever is lovely,

All: *whatever is admirable ...*

Leader: think about such things.

**All: *Whatever we have learned or received or heard from Christ and
Christ's people, or seen in Christ and Christ's people—put it into
practice.***

Leader: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: *Amen!*

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, Andy Gault; **Elder** – Miriam Peck; **Readers** – Adri Stickland, Manusiu Tu'inauvai, Lauren Martin; **Prayer** – Helen Duggan; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** – Roger Peck; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – Nancy O'Loughlin, Bron James; **Door Stewards** – Ken Jenkin, Judy Stone; **Morning Tea** – Nina Nethrway, Nur Sisson, Faye Withers, Betty Stewart.

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