THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 15th November 2026

Pentecost 25

Call to Worship

What does Jesus look like?
Like the homeless woman who sits on the stairs outside Uniting.
What does Jesus look like?
Like the beggar who sleeps on the railway bridge.
What does Jesus look like?
Like the geeky guys we leave out of our activities.
What does Jesus look like?
Like that nosy neighbour who never misses a trick and shares the gossip.
What does Jesus look like?
Like everyone we meet throughout our day...
Those are the ones Jesus asks us to love.
Lord help us, in loving, to see each other differently,
knowing you are in all.
Amen.

Opening Song: TIS 650 – Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you,
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping:
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Author: Richard Gillard 1953- © 1977 Scripture In Song (Admin. by Maranatha! Music).

Acknowledgment of Country

Welcome and Notices

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God who reigns over heaven and earth,
may we know your presence among us.
Gathered and sent
may we celebrate your reign in our worship here
and our service wherever the week ahead takes us.
You chose to make your dwelling among us.
May we make our dwelling with you.
God forgive us when we forget that our worship
is not confined to a particular space or place

but that you call us to serve you in all things—
not least in creating community and caring for each other.
As we serve and are served
may we see your face before us
in each person we encounter,
those in need and those we need.
Give us the courage to be vulnerable
knowing that you risked vulnerability with us.
May we always be willing to share what we have
and to ask for what we need.
Christ our King,
reign in us and transform us in our daily living,
empower us to serve you by serving one another,
knowing ourselves to be citizens
of the commonwealth of heaven,
forever.
Amen

Early Word

SONG: A Hymn for Today: "Who Will Speak a Word of Warning?"

Jesus served others with a heart full of compassion but never shrank from fulfilling his prophetic call to point out injustice and hypocrisy. Hymn Society member Richard Leach has written a text that reminds the church of its call to carry on that prophetic mission, proclaiming words of warning, wisdom, and welcome in our own day.

Who will speak a word of warning to a world whose wealth expands,
as the growing wealth is gathered into ever fewer hands?
Christ, you speak a word of warning for the church to know and tell:
greed is death and life is giving; hands that give receive as well.

Who will speak a word of wisdom to a world where truth gives way,
as the claims of pow'r and priv'lege shift and shape the truth each day?
Christ, you speak a word of wisdom for the church to heed and share:
truth is not the claims of power! Truth is hurt and hope and prayer.

Who will speak a word of welcome to the greatest and the least,
calling those with pow'r to service, calling all to share the feast?
Christ, you speak a word of welcome for the church to tell and live:
all who hunger, come, be seated; take what Christ is here to give.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953. © 2000, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

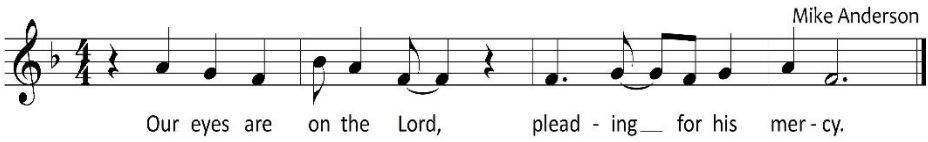
THE SCRIPTURES:

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

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you
do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction
will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape! **4** But you, beloved,] are not in darkness, for
that day to surprise you like a thief; **5** for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So then let
us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; **7** for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the
breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

PSALM 123 Words and music: Mike Anderson (based on Psalm 123)



Response ***Our eyes are on the Lord***
Pleading for his mercy.

I lift my eyes to you, you who dwell in the heavens.
My eyes are fixed upon you, O Lord! ***Response***

The servant's eyes are fixed on the hands of the mistress.
My eyes are fixed upon you, O Lord! ***Response***

We have been mocked too long! Lord have mercy upon us!
Our eyes are fixed upon you, O Lord! ***Response***

MESSAGE Rev. Susan Malthouse-Law

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)

SONG: Take this moment, sign and space

Take this moment, sign, and space,
take my friends around.
Here among us make the place
where your love is found.

Take the time to call my name,
take the time to mend
who I am and what I've been,
all I've failed to tend.

Take the tiredness of my days,
take my past regret,
letting your forgiveness touch
all I can't forget.

Take the little child in me,
scared of growing old.
Help her here to find her worth
made in Christ's own mould.

Take my talents, take my skills,
take what's yet to be.
Let my life be yours, and yet,
let it still be me.

Words & Music John Bell

Blessing of Offering

Prayers 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.

SONG: TIS 537 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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

Chorus: ***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,***
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

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

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. ***Chorus***

Words & Music Fred Kaan

Blessing and Sending:

Our faith asks much of us,
sometimes it can feel too much.
As you go from our time together
know that you are enough.
Your presence and faithfulness
are a great witness to God's love.
Beloved child of God
know God's blessing
with you this day and every day.

SONG: Sent By The Lord Am I

Chorus: Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.
(x2)

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do, to set it really free.
O help me to obey; help me to do your will.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do, to set it really free.
O help me to obey; help me to do your will.

Author: Jorge E. Maldonado © 1991 Abingdon Press
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Worship Leaders – Rev Susan Malthouse-Law; Elder – Susan Pierotti ; Readers – Mary Hollick, Glenice Warner, Emily Shearer-Cox; Prayer – Graeme Sutton; BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director – Helen Duggan; Musicians – Graeme Sutton, Karen Coad, Charlotte Withers; IT, Video & Audio – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; Welcome – Shirley VanderBom Jen Mitchell; Door Stewards – Judy Stone, Ken Jenkin, Carol Gannon; Morning Tea – Ros Sutton, Miriam Gibson, Barbara Snibson, Glenice Warner. Songs are covered for print and livestream under CCLI & OneLicense 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.