

Pitt Street Uniting Church

*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia
Founded 1833*



SUNDAY GATHERING

ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

19th November 2023

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Image: from a Trans Day of Remembrance prayer gathering, Brisbane

Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Wherever you are on your faith journey,
wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.
All we ask for is mutual respect.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold italics***.
We will sing the hymns without announcement. Stand if you are able, but feel free to remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.

A quiet activity area is available at the back of the church for young children.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

A gong sounds – centring prayer / meditation.

We gather as the people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

This Day God Gives Us

TIS 642

Tune: Many Mansions
based on the song of St. Patrick

This day God gives us
strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in our hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.

This day God sends us
strength to sustain us,
might to uphold us, Wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, Your ears are list'ning,
Your lips are speaking, friend at our side.

God's way is our way,
God's shield is round us,
God's host defends us, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from us always
all that would harm us, stand by us still.

Rising, we thank you,
mighty and strong One,
heart of creation, giver of rest,
firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deep within the universe, there is a leap of joy,
a quivering of hope, and a trembling dream:
for the Christ is coming.

Even as dark greets the coming dawn,
so the hearts of the people stir in wondering expectation:
for the Christ is coming.
Let us worship God.

GATHERING PRAYER

Please sit.

GREETINGS *Budyeri gamarruwa*

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY – TOWARD JUST RELATIONSHIPS

From their beginnings, the Spirit of God
has dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land.
*We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora,
pay our respects to their elders, past and present,
and commit ourselves to walk for just reconciliation.*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ candle is lit.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

Let us ask for forgiveness for our own part in the hurts of the world and pray for peace in our own hearts and lives:

*We keep a time of silence
as we reflect upon all that leads to suffering in our world
and all hurts we experience and/or inflict.*

Christ who greets us like a longed-for guest,
we acknowledge the things that keep us from your full embrace:
our reluctance to be disturbed;
our privileging of wealth, power and success;
our meanness towards your spirit;
our resistance to your joy.

When we would rather be full than empty:

make us hunger again for your mercy.

When we would rather be rich than poor:

make us see what truly matters.

When we are deaf to calls for justice:

leap in our bellies until we recognise the real.

TAIZE CHANT

(sung twice)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone O God are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Like Elizabeth and Mary, steadfast love and faithfulness have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

May the peace of God be with you now and always!

And also with you!

We are invited to greet one another, sharing a sign of peace.

HYMN**Source of Diversity**

Words: Jo Inkpin
Tune: Slane TiS 547

Source of Diversity, Giver of Life,
You create wonder and transform our strife.
Within all our bodies – sex, gender and shape –
give us Love’s energy to inspire and reshape.

Bearer of Suffering, Breath-giving Grace,
You are still broken in each oppressed face.
Out of our struggles, our hurts and false norms,
grant us the power which renews and re-forms.

Soul force of all genders, O Spirit of Love,
You give us freedom to soar like a dove.
In our transitions, our healing and hope,
flow through our being, rich Kaleidoscope.

Pathway to Mystery, Journey of Joy,
You thrive in difference that does not destroy.
In our life’s changes help us to rejoice,
glittering siblings with your divine voice.

We listen for God’s Word

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

A Contemporary Reading: from the *Works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*,
in “The Church and the Jewish Question”

For words of Christian ethical counsel in times of struggle.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

Goodness is stronger than evil

Words: Desmond Tutu
Tune: John Bell (*sung twice*)
music over page

Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death;
Vict’ry is ours, Vict’ry is ours, through God who loves us.
Vict’ry is ours, Vict’ry is ours, through God who loves us.

We respond in love

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are invited to affirm faith together:

*There is no death from which you cannot rise in us, O God.
The power to fail can never kill the gift of life,
unless we choose not to receive it from you.
Your Spirit is never defeated by the woundings of life,
however unjust, however painful.*

*Your grace in Christ goes well beyond our understanding
and your love for us is never measured
by our love for ourselves.
Even as we walk hard journeys
we will claim together this great hope. Amen.*

HYMN

Moved by the Gospel, let us move

Words: Ruth Duck

Tune: Ellacombe TIS 361

Moved by Gospel, let us move
with every gift and art.
The image of created love
indwells each human heart.
The Maker calls creation good,
so let us now express
with sound and colour, stone and wood,
the shape of holiness.

Let weavers form from broken strands
a tapestry of prayer.
Let artists paint with skillful hands
their joy, lament and care.
Then mime the story; Christ has come.
With reverence dance the word.
With flute and organ, gong and drum
God's praise be ever heard.

O Spirit, breathe among us here;
inspire the work we do.
May hands and voices, eye and ear
attest to life made new.
In worship and in daily strife
create among us still.
Great Artist, form our common life
according to your will.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Let us pray:

In response to the words: Loving God, you do great things for us
We say together: ***Holy is your name.***

Pause for silence

We pray in silence for all that rests heavily or joyfully upon
our hearts and minds ...

*Please feel free to offer your own prayers in silence,
(or, if online, use the chat facility on Zoom)*

Loving God, you do great things for us:
holy is your name.

Living God, joy of all desiring,
as you journeyed with Elizabeth and Mary,
so guide us in the way of courage and faithfulness,
that our lives may be a constant hymn of praise
to you from whom all good things come.

We ask these things in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

JESUS PRAYER

In the Spirit of Jesus, in these words, or in those of your own language or tradition, we pray:

Loving God beyond all imagination, glory be to you!

Your Way of love transforms the earth.

In your name, we share in that renewal:

to help, and not to harm, to caring, and not coerce.

May we receive with thanks

the bread we need, the money we need, the warmth we need.

May forgiveness and freedom flow through our lives.

Teach us to share life and live it to the full.

Remind us that evil is real.

Yet help us not be afraid of it, but confident

that love is stronger than hate, justice other than revenge,

true peace the work of your Spirit. Amen.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO GIVING

OFFERING

For God's grace and healing, we give thanks.

In response, we bring our gifts:

to share grace and healing in our lives and world.

BANK DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERING

Account name: Giving Direct

BSB: 634-634. Account: 100025916

Reference: your name

Donation Tap Point is available at the back of the Church.

Contact the Church Office if you would like information about planned giving.

HYMN

Alchemy of Healing

Words: Gio
Tune: Columcille TiS 287

The courage we borrow, the courage we bring
shall bind us in strength to the healing we sing.
The courage to face any wound that we fear
shall bind us in beauty and bless every tear.

Bring grace and bring kindness to all that you sing,
to heal and to honour each fierce tender thing.
Each shame left unspoken may yet shine a light,
a place that seemed broken, that place can give life.

The darkness we banish, the shadow we blame
though hidden, may help us to find our true name.
So bring all your courage that all be made whole,
transforming your story in body and soul.

Come gather your power with good friends around.
Together we stand in the truth of this ground.
Our courage can make us, can heal and can mend,
and a wound can be sacred, any wound we transcend.

*We give thanks for the gifts brought to the table, and gifts given
to support the work of the Church through automatic payment.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

***God, of strength and compassion,
through your love you have given us these gifts to share.
Accept our offerings as an expression
of our deep thanks and of our desire
to share your mercy and justice with all. Amen.***

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

We go out to the world God loves

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Gracious healing God,
we thank you for the many ways that you touch our lives:
giving us hope in the midst of despair;
***and comfort and strength to live
when we are at our most vulnerable.***

Renew our commitment to all who are suffering,
living with brokenness and pain.

***Open our eyes and give us wisdom to see
where we can bring your healing and hope
in our relationships and communities.***

Give us courage and insight, power and passion

***that we may work with you for justice
and the liberation of all those who are abused and oppressed.***

BLESSING

HERITAGE HYMN

Who would true valour see

TIS 561

Who would true valour see,
let them come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
shall make them once relent
their first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset them round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound;
their strength the more is.
No lion can them fright,
they'll with a giant fight,
but they will have a right
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin, nor foul fiend,
can daunt their spirit;
they know they at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away,
they'll fear not what folk say,
they'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Ross McDonald

*Everyone onsite is welcome to stay for morning tea and coffee,
and everyone on Zoom is invited to stay on for community time
together.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


*Christ/Christa/Christx may be used in our liturgy to point to the reality that the risen Christ is beyond gender and evidenced in communities following the Way of Jesus.
Hymns used under CCLI Copyright Licence No. 208789 unless otherwise noted.
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Call to Worship and Affirmation of Faith by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in *Liturgies for Holy Days*.
Gathering Prayer by Janet Morley in *All Desires Known*.
Prayer of Confession & Renewal by Penny Jones.
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity based on liturgy for The Visitation from the Church of England and adapted by Josephine Inkpin.
Jesus Prayer adapted from unknown source.
Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.

Quarterly Luncheon





Our next Quarterly Luncheon will be after Church on **Sunday 26 November**.
Mark the date in your diaries to join in
lunch and community time together.

PRAYERS
FOR WORLD PEACE



ORGANISED BY

 **SRI SATHYA SAI
GLOBAL COUNCIL
AUSTRALIA** 

Join us to Pray for World Peace!

This is a multi-faith event and all are
welcome to attend.

When: Thursday, 30 November 2023, 06:30 pm

Where: 264 Pitt St, Sydney NSW 2000

**COLLECTIVE PRAYER IS OUR
GREATEST STRENGTH!**

ALL ARE WELCOME ! FREE EVENT !

For more details, please contact Sanjay Kumarasingham: 0433 755 995



Weaving art, indigenous story and culture and ministry Presented by Rev Glenn Loughrey

Eremos Online Annual General Meeting and end of year gathering
Sunday 26th November 2023, 2:45 – 4:15 pm AEDT

Glenn will speak about the multiple threads of art, indigenous story and culture, and his ministry.

As an artist with a particular interest in exploring identity and story through the visual arts, he will share his experience as an indigenous man and priest. Glenn is deeply engaged in the dialogue for treaty, sovereignty, reconciliation and self-determination for First Nation peoples and his reflections are likely to include the referendum for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

This event is open to all and free for Eremos members or \$15/\$10 (conc) for non members. Bookings are essential.

More details and to register: [Weaving art, indigenous story and culture and ministry](#)

“In Memory of Great Artists”

RACHMANINOFF-150TH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT



Program

Nikolai Medtner

3 Nocturnes for violin and piano op. 16

- I. Andante con moto, sempre leggiero*
- II. Largamente*
- III. Moderato*

Beatrice Colombis, violin | Dono Ng, Piano



Sergei Rachmaninoff

Sonata for cello and piano, op. 19

- I. Lento – Allegro moderato*
- II. Allegro scherzando*
- III. Andante*
- IV. Allegro mosso*

Noah Oshiro, cello | Alexander Yau, Piano



Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky

Piano Trio in A minor, op. 50

“In memory of a great artist”

- I. Pezzo elegiaco*
- II. Tema con variazioni: Andante con moto*

Beatrice Colombis, violin | Noah Oshiro, cello
Dono Ng, Piano



Beatrice Colombis,
violin



Noah Oshiro,
cello



Alexander Yau,
Piano



Ching Pong (Dono) Ng,
Piano

Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 3pm
@Pitt Street Uniting Church
(264 Pitt St, Sydney NSW 2000)



Adult \$30 | Concession \$20 | Child (under 12) \$10