

# 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

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11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### TRANSFIGURATION

### TRANSFORMATION AND HEALING



*Transfiguration by Armando Alemdar Ara  
Source: <http://www.armando.co.uk>*

## 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.

### TAIZE CHANT      In our God I'll be ever thankful

*Solo first, then sing together and stand as you are able.*

The image shows three staves of musical notation for a Taize chant. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "In our God I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in our God I will re-". The second staff starts with a measure rest labeled '5' and continues the melody with lyrics: "joice! Look to God do not be afraid. Lift up your voi - ces our God is". The third staff starts with a measure rest labeled '9' and concludes the chant with lyrics: "near. Lift up your voi - ces, our God is near. In the". The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

In our God, I'll be ever thankful  
In our God I will rejoice. Look to God  
Do not be afraid. Lift up your voices  
Our God is near. Lift up your voices  
Our God is near.

## GATHERING

We gather in this sacred space,  
to entrust ourselves and the world;  
to the Spirit of Love and to each other.

***To find peace and healing  
In the joy of music and words,  
In the stillness of prayer,  
and in the Spirit's enfolding love.***

Let us celebrate the beauty and diversity of life  
in the presence we name God.  
Come Holy Spirit, come!

*Please be seated.*

## ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

***We honour the culture, heritage and spirit of all Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islanders. This land always was, always will  
be their land. Sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects  
to their elders past and present.***

## WELCOME

*Budyeri Gamarruwa (greetings)*

## OPENING RESPONSES

The glory of God transforms the everyday!  
***The light of God transforms familiar faces!***  
May God's presence shine through the commonplace.  
***God is with us in our pain and struggle,***  
may God's presence give us courage and peace.  
***God is with us in our joys and celebrations,  
we give thanks for the blessings of God.***  
May God's light, shining through the face of Christ,  
embodied in compassionate community,  
illuminate all our days!

*Please stand to sing as you are able.*

## HYMN

Lyrics: Mary Pearson  
Tune: Thornbury TiS 456

We wait upon the mountain,  
our hearts and minds confused,  
to penetrate the mystery  
of love by light suffused.  
The darkness of our living  
obscures our sight till we,  
with fear changed into boldness,  
find life in Christ set free.

We find new inspiration  
in glimpses of your grace;  
we see once more before us,  
your love with human face.  
We see again the mystery  
of Christ on earth, and find  
life given for the needy,  
and poor of humankind.

No selfish place of safety  
will keep us in the light;  
it's only in life's valleys  
we truly find our sight,  
O help us heed the prophets,  
and clear our eyes to see:  
the way you show before us,  
where now our steps should be.

**POEM:** Hear words of the Spirit in *Drifting* by Mary Oliver

For the insights into mystery shared by Mary Oliver.  
***We give thanks.***

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

May the silence which we have shared  
quieten us,  
touch our need,  
bring us peace,  
refresh our courage,  
enlarge our wonder.

*Remain seated to sing.*

*Solo first, then sing together and stand as you are able.*

6 Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my  
10 heart all the stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the  
15 wind, rise in the sea, move on the land, giv - ing  
20 life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close, wings set me  
free, Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RENEWAL

There is grace in the midst of life,  
grace that finds and frees us,  
grace that heals and makes whole,  
grace that liberates and leads us  
to live and love anew.

***Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!***

## GLORIA

*sung twice*

~ = 80

Glo - ri - a glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

5  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

## SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Christ is our peace, reconciling us together with all creation.  
May the peace of Christ be always with you.

***And also with you.***

***Amen!***

*We are invited to greet those around us, sharing a sign of peace.*

## Listening for words of the Spirit

### FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

**Contemporary Reading:** *A Meditation on Transformative Spirituality*  
by Richard Rohr.

For the Spirit speaking in our lives.

***Thanks be to God.***

**A Reading from the Gospels:** Listen for words of faith in the Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church:

***We give thanks for the word of God in scripture,  
we honour the word within us,  
we seek for the word around us.***

*Silence*

*As we sing the chant In God Alone you're invited to come forward and select a stone to add to the mound as a symbol of the things you would like to leave behind in your process of spiritual transformation.*

## TAIZÉ CHANT

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
in God my peace and joy,  
only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest and peace.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff (measures 1-3) contains the lyrics 'In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in'. The second staff (measures 4-5) contains 'God my peace \_\_\_\_\_ and joy.'. The third staff (measures 6-7) contains 'On - ly in God my soul can find its rest. \_\_\_\_\_'. The fourth staff (measures 8-9) contains 'find its rest \_\_\_\_\_ and peace. In'. There are repeat signs at the beginning of the first staff and at the end of the fourth staff. A 2/4 time signature change is indicated at the end of the second and fourth staves.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During our prayers of the people  
in response to the words *God of Love*  
we sing together:

O Holy, O blessed, O God hear our prayer.

***O Holy, O blessed***

***O, God hear our prayer.***

O Ho - ly, O bles - sed, O God hear our  
 prayer, O Ho - ly, O bles - sed, O  
 God hear our prayer.

God of love and light, God of transformation,  
 we lift up our world to you and pray that your peace and grace  
 might touch its troubled places.  
 We pray for the people of Ukraine and Gaza.  
 We ask that your comforting presence  
 may be felt by those who grieve  
 and by those who live in constant danger.  
 May they know your peace that passes understanding  
 and may your gospel of peace transform those conflicts.

God of Love

***O Holy, O blessed  
 O, God hear our prayer.***

We pray for oppressed people everywhere.  
 People who feel their lives are not their own  
 People who have to live as best they can  
 with decisions made by others.  
 We pray they might know the freedoms to be found in you,  
 and that your gospel of liberation  
 break the chains that bind them.

God of Love

***O Holy, O blessed  
 O, God hear our prayer.***



We pray for all who are sick and suffering at this time.  
All who find it hard to pray  
through the distractions of pain and discomfort.  
All whose minds and hearts are unsettled.  
May our prayers lift them into your light and love  
and may your gospel of healing move in their lives.

God of Love

***O Holy, O blessed  
O, God hear our prayer.***

Spirit of God, Giver of Life  
be with each one of us.  
Breathe into us your Spirit  
transform us with your love;  
and inspire us with courage to live  
more fully with compassion and joy.  
***Amen.***

## **PRAYER OF JESUS**

*We pray together in the spirit of Jesus, in these words, or in those of our own language or tradition:*

***God,  
you are life for us,  
holy be your name.  
Your new day come, your will be done,  
on earth as in your vision.  
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the power and the splendour  
and fulfilment are yours,  
now and forever. Amen***

## OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us now share our offerings  
as an expression of our love and concern for the world God loves.

### **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.

*Musical interlude*

*Please stand, as you are able, as the offering is carried forward.*

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

***Loving God, this is our moment of recommitment  
symbolised in these gifts  
brought here for blessing  
and dedicated to your love for all people.  
Amen.***

## **We go out to the world God Loves**

### **HYMN**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Tune: St Denio, TIS 143

Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above,  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,  
and wither and perish: but nought changes thee.

Creator of glory, creator of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
of all thy rich graces this grace, God, impart –  
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

## **SENDING OUT**

We are called to be the people of God.  
Let us go from here on the path of transformation.  
Walking peacefully and with faith.  
Go into this week with deep assurance and hope.

## **BLESSING**

May the blessing of the eternal and transcendent Presence,  
the blessing of the One who shines in our daily life  
transforming it with sacred light  
and the blessing of the Spirit  
who leads us into life-giving truth and new life,  
be with us all, now and always.

*Amen.*

## **SUNG AMEN**

African American

## **COMMUNITY GREETINGS**

*Welcoming newcomers and visitors*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

May the feet of God walk with you,  
and his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
and her 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 her love bring you home.

## MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Peter Bennett

*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 is 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.  
CCLI Licenses: Streaming 17918      Reproduction 557214      Video 128166  
Prayer of awareness based on Psalm 50: 1-6  
Prayers of the People by Allison Gentle  
O Holy O blessed words by Patrick Mayberry  
Jesus' Prayer paraphrase by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed.  
*Flames of the Spirit.*



[Pancake Pride 2024 - An ecumenical celebration of queer faith! | Humanitix](#)

Get tickets on Humanitix - Pancake Pride 2024 - An ecumenical celebration of queer faith! hosted by Queer Christian Roundtable. Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt St, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Tuesday 13th February 2024. Find event information.

<https://events.humanitix.com/pancake-pride-ecumenical-celebration>



(image: Håkon Grimstad on Unsplash)

## ***PILGRIM PATHS – Ways into Transformation –***

Sat 17th Feb 2024, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Quiet Morning for the start of Lent

led by Josephine Inkpin & Penny Jones

Exploring creative pathways into using Lent as a time of transformation

No charge: gold coin donation towards refreshments

<https://events.humanitix.com/quiet-morning-for-the-start-of-lent>