

# 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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21 April 2024

## Fourth Sunday of Easter



*Image: Christ Child as the Bom Pastor (Good Shepherd)*

Carved Ivory, Goa culture, India circa 1700

## 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 on the northern side of the church  
young children.

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

*A gong sounds – centring prayer / meditation*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Here in this place

TIS 474

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.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty.  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly.  
Give us the courage to enter the song.

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 place the new light is shining  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever.  
Gather us in and make us your own.  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Jesus said: 'I came that they might have life, and life in all its fullness.'*

Come, O Giver of Life, and renew us by your grace.

***Lead us in your pathways of love and mercy.***

Come, O Fountain of Faith.

***Lead us into deeper prayer and understanding.***

Come, O Bearer of Justice.

***Lead us into hope and healing for all creation.***

Come, O Spirit of Engaging Love.

***Lead us into enriching hospitality with others.***

Come, O Wellspring of Community.

***Lead us into flourishing relationships with all.***

For we meet in the power of new creation:

Christ is risen; ***Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

As we gather we acknowledge that we meet on sacred land,  
cared for over tens of thousands of years by its traditional custodians.

***We honour the traditional owners of this particular country,  
the Gadigal people, their elders past and present,  
and pay our respects to all First Nations people.***

***May we all know fullness of life.***

*Please be seated.*

**GREETINGS**

Budyeri Gamarruwa

**PRAYER OF AWARENESS**

As we gather in this Easter season, we bring our fears and sorrows, seeking renewal as we welcome love risen from the dead.

***Our Hearts are lifted. We open our eyes. We welcome love.***

The tomb is empty.

***The stones cry out for joy.***

Risen One, walk among us, speak your words of peace  
release us from our fears, heal us from our wounds.

***Forgive our betrayals, our denials of your love.***

***Guide us into your Way of compassion and peace.***

**SONG (Taizé)**

*(sung three times)*

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Trouble not your  
hearts. My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not afraid.

***My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: trouble not your hearts.***

***My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not afraid.***

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Grace upon grace is the gift of God to us,  
love eternally renews us. Thanks be to God. ***Amen.***

## GLORIA (Taizé)

(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!

## SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

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 the peace of Christ.*

## HYMN

Praise with joy the world's creator

TIS 179

Praise with joy the world's creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
force of goodness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.

Praise the One who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate the Christ's constant presence –  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –  
foolishness none dare deride.

# Listening for God's Word

## FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

**A Reading from the New Testament:** from 1 John 3:16-24

For records of God's love in the early Christian community.

*Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand to sing as you are able.*

## HERITAGE HYMN

TiS 10

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou has furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forever more  
my dwelling place shall be.

*Please be seated.*

## A Reading from the Gospels: from John 10:11-18

For the good news of divine love

***Thanks be to God.***

**HALLELUJAH** (*sung twice*)

TIS 720

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

## REFLECTION

Rev Lorenzo Rodriguez-Torres

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

*Let us pray:*

Loving God,

you are the gate of life and the shepherd of all who seek sanctuary.

We pray with thanksgiving for all the blessings in our lives

and for your call to share in bringing hope and healing to others:

Through your transforming love

***bring life, and life in all its fullness.***

We grieve the impact of war, tyranny, and violence across the world:

the destruction of lives, land and liberty,

the deaths of human beings and so many other creatures,

the denials of just hopes and peaceful dreams.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:

on peacemakers, aid workers and diplomats,

on activists who seek change and network across divisions

and on all who stand for a better world.

Through your transforming love

***bring life, and life in all its fullness.***

We mourn the impact of exploitation, inequality,  
and prejudice in Australia:  
the continuing legacy of colonial dispossession and ignorance,  
the conflicts that are fed by the misuse of culture and religion,  
the challenges of all those pushed to the margins.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:  
on First Nations peoples as they still struggle for truth, treaty and voice,  
on politicians who rise above narrow interests,  
and on all who act for the common good.

Through your transforming love  
***bring life, and life in all its fullness.***

We lament the impact of fear, misunderstanding,  
and division within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church:  
the toxic elements which hurt and harm,  
the tendencies to reject the gifts and insights of others,  
the temptations to retreat from relationships of loving challenge.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:  
on those who explore afresh together,  
on prophets and leaders who enable new directions,  
and on all who bring renewal to the Body of Christ.

Through your transforming love  
***bring life, and life in all its fullness.***

We hold a time of silence together to offer our own prayers,  
to reflect upon what has been in our media headlines  
and whatever rests heavy on our hearts ...

*Please offer your own prayers,  
in silence, or (if on Zoom) via the chat facility.*



## JESUS PRAYER

*In the spirit of Jesus, in these words,  
or in those of our 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***

***helping, and not harming, caring, and not coercing ...***

***May we receive with thanks***

***the bread and 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.***

## OFFERING

We bring our offerings  
as we seek to love God, and to love all creation as ourselves.

### 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.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN

God of freedom, God of justice

TIS 657

God of freedom, God of justice,  
You whose love is strong as death.  
You who saw the dark of prison.  
You 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 siblings, lovers  
of whatever race or creed.  
Teach us to be fully human,  
open to each other's need.

*Please remain standing 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.*

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*We give thanks to God for new life.  
Let our faith be expressed in just living.  
Let our hope for the future find its full expression. Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

#### **COMMUNITY GREETINGS**

## **Going out into the world God loves**

#### **SENDING OUT**

*Let us go forth from here:*

Touched by the light of new dawn

***Send us out to dispel the darkness***

Helped by your grace to look twice

***Send us out to see you in the stranger***

Nourished like seeds in rich earth

***Send us out to bring life to the world***

Rejoicing that death could not hold you  
***Send us out to bring joy to the sorrowing***  
Brushed by the wings of angels  
***Send us out to proclaim the good news.***

Go in peace, for Christ is risen!  
***Christ is risen indeed!***

**HYMN**

Holy Spirit, go before us

TiS 420

Holy Spirit, go before us,  
every mind and heart prepare  
for good news of life in Jesus  
for the joyful hope we share.  
Gently lead the lost to safety,  
gently teach them Wisdom's way,  
'til they come to seek you gladly,  
'til we find the words to say.

Holy Spirit, come and help us,  
give us words to speak of Christ.  
Teach us how to tell all people;  
deepest darkness can be light!  
Help us teach how faithful God is,  
and how Jesus sets us free;  
take our words and make them gospel,  
so that many may believe.

Holy Spirit, stay to show us,  
how to serve as Christ served us.  
May our words of love be grounded  
in love's actions, first and last.  
Your good news is news of justice,  
and the strong befriend the weak.  
In your service, 'til compassion  
builds the peace the nations seek.

## **SUNG AMEN**

## **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

Peter Bennett

*Everyone on site is warmly invited to stay for refreshments  
and those on Zoom to have a time of sharing online.  
You are also warmly invited to the Quarterly Lunch which  
will follow and to the first of our Listening to Country gatherings,  
commencing at 2pm today.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

\*Christa and Christx is sometimes used in our liturgies to convey that the risen Christ is not defined or determined by gender.

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Prayer of Awareness is based on "Easter Sunday" in *Eggs and Ashes* edited by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill. Wild Goose Publications. p. 224-230.

Jesus Prayer from source unknown.

Call to Worship, and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity by Josephine Inkpin

Sending Out Prayer by Penny Jones

# AUTUMN SEASON

Wollemi Chamber  
Society

## 2024 WCS OPENING GALA

March 9th 7pm | Pitt Street Uniting Church

## ANDROMEDA SAXOPHONE QUARTET

March 23rd 7pm | Glebe Town Hall

## SCHUBERT'S OCTET

April 26th 7pm | Pitt Street Uniting Church



[www.wollemichambersociety.com](http://www.wollemichambersociety.com)

Hear one of the most well-loved pieces of chamber music in Schubert's masterful Octet in F Major.

### PROGRAM

SCHUBERT | String Trio in B-Flat Major, D. 471

SCHUBERT | Octet in F Major, D. 803

### PRICES

Adult | \$25

Concession | \$20

Student | \$15

Child (12 & Under) | \$10

Buy tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1166694?>