

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

28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Interfaith gathering 2023 with Charles Prouse - affirming the Statement from the Heart

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

All the colours of the rainbow

Words: Carl P Daw Jnr
Tune: Abbot's Leigh TiS 153

All the colours of the rainbow
live unseen in daily light,
but their splendours find expression
when released to human sight;
so the church reveals most beauty
where diversity is real:
breadth of race and class and gender,
room for doubt, and space to heal.

All the body's parts are wanted,
nor can one despise the rest:
head and hand must work together,
as must eye, ear, throat, and chest;
so the church needs all its members
for a range of ministries:
varied gifts with one great mission,
"Do this for the least of these."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said: 'I am the Vine, you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.'

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!

Please remain standing as you are able.

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 we pay our
respects to all First Nations people in our communities.***

May we all know fullness of life.

GATHERING SONG All the colours of the rainbow Words: Carl P Daw Jnr
Tune: Abbot's Leigh TIS 153

Every language gains more music
when the words for peace appear:
Pax, Salaam, Eiríni, Heiwa,
Pace, Santi, Frieden, Mir.
Though our tongues make sounds that vary
all bespeak a common home:
longing for the end of conflict
and new life in God's Shalom.

Please be seated.

GREETINGS Budyeri Gammarruwa

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

As we gather in this Easter season, we bring our fears and sorrows,
as 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 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.***

Please remain seated to sing.

SONG (Taizé)

(sung twice)



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

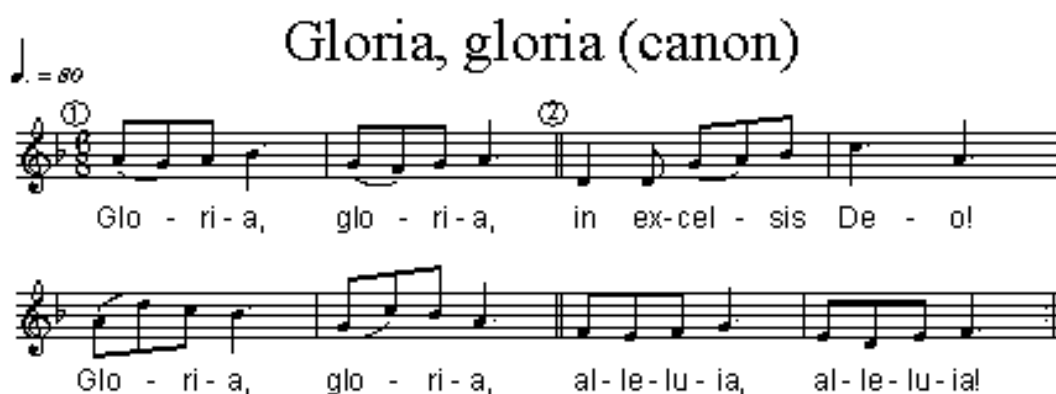
*My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: trouble not your hearts.
My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not afraid.*

WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

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

GLORIA (Taizé)

(sung twice)



♩. = 80
Gloria, gloria (canon)
① Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
② Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: J. Berthier

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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**God the All-Holy**

Words: Brian Wren
Tune: Buinessan TiS 156

God, the All-Holy, Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing, new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving, loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing, knitting and blending
joy in desiring, friendship and ease,
make our belonging loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing, Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting in love's embrace,
weaving and mending, make every ending
God's new beginning, glowing with grace.

We listen for God's Word

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

BIBLICAL STORIES OF RESURRECTION

A Reading from the New Testament: from Acts 8:26-40

For stories from the early Christian community
thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing as you are able.

SONG

For everyone born

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
alternative version, selected verses

For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice – justice and joy!*

For all who have breath, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace,
*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice – justice and joy!*

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Gospels: from John 15:1-8

For the good news of divine love
thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE

TiS 720 (sung twice)

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

Josephine Inkpin

*'Do you understand what you are reading?': sacred ambiguity and
unclobbering scripture*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Loving God in life-giving community,
we especially pray today for all who gather here
and for your call of life to and through us.

In your joy and generosity
may we walk more deeply along the Way.

We give thanks for your life-giving creativity:
for the gifts of your love in our lives and world.
Help us walk the pathway of Faith:
recognising and rejoicing in your presence among us
and resting always in your grace.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:
on the renewal of our prayer and worship,
our spiritual development and education,
and our journeying with people of other faith.

In your joy and generosity
may we walk more deeply along the Way.

We give thanks for your renewing peace:
for all that bears and brings shalom in our lives and world.
Help us walk the pathway of Justice:
shaped and strengthened by your powers of transformation
and shining always with your compassion.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:
on our walking together with First Nations people,
on the work of Earthweb,
and on our relationships with refugees and migrant people.

In your joy and generosity
may we walk more deeply along the Way.

We give thanks for your intimate communion with us:
for the hope and healing of our lives and world.
Help us walk the pathway of Community:
seeing and supporting your gifts among us
and sanctifying your image in everyone.
We ask your particular blessing at this time:
on our desire to celebrate younger people and our diverse cultures,
our journeying further with LGBTIQ+ and differently abled people,
and our reshaping of our resources for the flourishing of all.

In your joy and generosity
may we walk more deeply along the Way.

We give thanks for your enlivening presence beyond ourselves:
for the gifts of others in our lives and world.

Help us walk the pathway of Engagement:
wondering and working with the gifts of others,
and weaving new patterns of possibility in this place.

We ask your particular blessing at this time:
on the nurture of our relationships with social welfare initiatives,
our partnering with art and civic bodies,
and our journeying with others in the wider Church.

In your joy and generosity

may we walk more deeply along the Way.

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

JESUS PRAYER

*In the spirit of Jesus we gather up all our prayers and, in these words, or
in those of our own language or tradition, we say:*

***Breath of our every fibre,
flowing in and beyond the stars,
may we rejoice in your ever-renewing life.
May your love flourish, may your peace be known,
in all beings and becomings.
Sustain us in what we need.
Transform the suffering we inflict,
as we transform the suffering we endure.
Free us from all that crushes joy,
and keep us from unbearable pain.
Let your way be our journey, your truth our story,
and your life our coming home, now and always. Amen.***

OFFERING

We bring our offerings
as we seek to walk more closely in the Way of Christ,
loving God, and loving all God's 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

We are your people

TIS 468

We are your people, Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us, to all our neighbours
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Spirit, unite us; make us, by grace,
willing and ready, Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks to God for new life.

Let our faith be expressed in just and generous living.

Let our hope for the future find its full expression. Amen.

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!

BLESSING

HYMN

God gives us a future

TIS 687

God gives us a future, daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us, for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight, and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life and find our future there.

*Following the Postlude, all onsite are invited to refreshments
and those on Zoom to have a time of sharing online.
You are also warmly invited to the AGM Part 1 which will follow.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our organist for the music.

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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.

Call to Worship, Jesus Prayer and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity by Josephine Inkpin
Sending Out Prayer by Penny Jones



IM24: Song of the Senses

ONLINE MAY 5th – MAY 9th 2024

Daily 10.00-12.00 pm or 6.30-8.30 pm AEST

Join us for a deep dive into the unique 'Prayer of the Five Senses' of St Ignatius.

The Ignatian 'Prayer of the Senses' is grounded in body prayer and imaginative contemplation, but has a form of its own. It is a simple yet powerful way of praying and deepening a relationship with God, all creatures and creation.

Found in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, this way of praying is especially relevant and transformative for those who care for our common home, the earth and its peoples. We will learn, pray and share with a different sense each day.

The Cost: \$150 Full Five Day. \$40.00 One day.
(Cost includes Session Recordings and Resources)

A reduced price available for those with limited means.

Session Recordings and Resources Only: \$100

More information: www.jisa.org.au/IM24



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