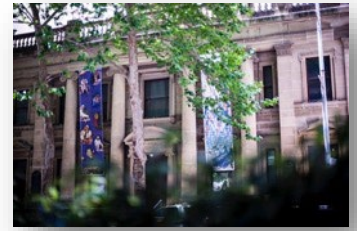


Pitt Street Uniting Church

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

5 May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Members of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) campaigning in 2023.

Photo: ARRCC

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

We gather as people of faith

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sing a new song

TIS 166

*Sing a new song, sing a new song,
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.*

Creation sings a new song to the Lord,
the universal energies rejoice,
through all the magnitudes of space and time
creatures proclaim the grandeur of Christ.

Sing a new song, ...

The mountains and the valleys and the plains,
the cattle and the wild beasts and the birds,
the shadows and the clouds, the rain and snow,
praise and reflect the bounty of Christ.

Sing a new song, ...

The ocean deeps, the currents and the tides,
the diatoms, the fishes, and the whale,
the storm, the reef, the waterspout, the calm,
praise and reflect the wonder of Christ.

Sing a new song, ...

The fruit trees in their seasons and vine,
the eucalypt, the cedar, and the palm,
the lotus and the orchid and the rose,
praise and reflect the beauty of Christ.

Sing a new song, ...

The human eye, the shaping hand, the mind
with number and with symbol and design,
in work and play and artistry and prayer,
praise and reflect the wisdom of Christ.

Sing a new song, ...

The love of man and woman clear as dawn,
the will for truth and justice broad as day,
the wisdom of the heart profound as night,
praise and reflect the glory of Christ.

Remain standing as you are able.

OPENING RESPONSES

O God who has called all life into being,
the earth, sea and sky are yours.

Your presence is all around us,
every atom is full of your energy.

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk on the earth,
with her we yearn for justice to be done.

For creation to be freed from bondage,
for the hungry to be fed.

For captives to be released,
for your Kingdom of peace to come on Earth. Amen.

ACT OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT

The Gadigal of the Eora are the original custodians of this land where we meet. Like all First Nations people of this continent, they lived in harmony with country in a relationship of caring interconnectedness. We acknowledge their suffering under colonisation.

We honour the culture, heritage and spirit of the Gadigal, we acknowledge elders past and present and pray for justice for First Nations peoples everywhere.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ candle is lit as we remember the light of God's Love shining even in the darkness of deep pain.

God alive among us, present in every expression of love,
Light of the World, be with us all.

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your living waters are choked, with chemicals and plastic and sea-levels are rising.

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your clean air is being polluted with CO2. And the temperature is rising.

Open our eyes to see.

O God, your creatures are suffering and facing extinction.

Open our eyes to see.

O God, fires, flood, drought are creating havoc. The poorest of the world are suffering now and all our children face disaster.

Open our eyes to see.

God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,
that we repent and care more deeply.

So move us to grieve the loss of life,
that we cherish this planet and act to protect it.

SONG (Taizé)

(sung twice)



Musical notation for the song "Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son". The notation is on a single staff in treble clef. It consists of two phrases, each repeated twice. The first phrase is "Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son." and the second is "Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final double bar line.

ASSURANCE

God is gracious and forgiving. God pardons and forgives all who truly repent. And so I say to you, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

GLORIA (Taizé)

(sung twice)

Gloria, gloria (canon)

♩. = 80



Musical notation for the Gloria, gloria (canon). The notation is on two staves in treble clef. The first staff has a tempo marking of "♩. = 80" and a circled 1 above the first measure. The second staff has a circled 2 above the first measure. The lyrics are "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex-cel - sis De - o!" and "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final double bar line.

Music: J. Berthier

© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

God's peace be with you.

And also with you!

*We are invited to greet one another sharing a sign
of the peace of Christ.*

All creatures of our God will bring
lifted voices as we sing
 alleluia! alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
 O praise God, O praise God,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Swift-rushing winds that are so strong,
and clouds that sail in heaven along,
 O praise God, alleluia!

Fresh-rising morn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening, find a voice:
 O praise God, O praise God,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your God to hear
 alleluia! alleluia!

O fire so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,
 O praise God, O praise God,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfold rich blessings on our way,
 O praise God, alleluia!

All flowers and fruits that grow,
let them his glory also show;
 O praise God, O praise God,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
 O praise God, O praise God,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please be seated.

We listen for God's Word

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98

O sing to God a new song, who has done marvellous things.

God's right hand and holy arm have gained victory.

God has made known this victory;

and has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.

God has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to God with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before our God.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;

let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of God

for God is coming to judge the earth.

And will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Contemporary Reading: *The Seven Sisters Songline* by Margot Neale

All civilisations have epic sagas to explain the creation of the earth and transmit cultural values. The Seven Sisters Songline is one of Australia's most significant foundation stories.

It tells of an Ancestral Being in the form of a man, who wrongfully pursues seven sisters to possess them. To lure them to him, he shape-shifts into water, shade and various delectable foods, which the women need to survive in the desert. In this way, the story relays information that is critical for survival on this continent.

The many encounters the sisters have with their relentless pursuer result in the creation of the country, the evidence of which is recorded in the features of the landscape. They travel in an easterly direction across the continent, from a place near Roebourne in the west, sometimes disappearing beneath the earth before leaping into the night sky, always leaving a tracery of sites of significance.

It is a tale of tragedy and comedy, obsession and trickery, desire and loss, solidarity and sorrow that touches on life's moral dimensions: how to live with each other on this earth in a sustainable way; how to care for each other and share resources equitably. It also instructs on gender relations, kinship, marriage rules and other codes of behaviour. These lessons are embodied in compelling tales of intrigue, drama and passion that connect people and places across time. In this way, the story has been easily remembered and willingly retold to each generation for millennia. It is a saga of mythological dimensions and meanings.

For the challenge of Indigenous knowledge,

We give thanks.

(Margot Neale is an adjunct professor at ANU and curator of the Indigenous section at the National Museum of Australia. The reading is the preface to "Songlines the Power and the Promise", the first volume in a series "First Knowledges". Margot Neale is the series editor).

A Reading from the Gospels: John 15:9-17

For the challenge of the Gospel

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

What climate change means to us as people of faith
Trinity Ford, Dave Cahilap and Bill Thomas

We respond in Love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Craig Linn

On communion Sundays a member of the congregation prepares a prayer. The person reflects on our community and our world during the week and offers a prayer that they have written.

OFFERING

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

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

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

Touch the Earth lightly

TIS 668

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring our offering as we seek to love God, to love creation and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Holy Communion

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community and all are invited to the table. All are welcome to participate in the communion, or simply to be present.

THE INVITATION

THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are they who come in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.***

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE WINE

This ordinary bread was made from wheat growing in a paddock and was made by human hands.

Bless the work of our hands and make us hunger for a world where all are fed.

This ordinary wine was made from grapes growing in a vineyard and was made by human hands.

Bless the work of our hands and make us thirsty for justice.

Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, so that they may become for us Christ's Body and Blood.

Send your Spirit on us so that we will know Christ as friend, and one another as family.

Let us declare the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

JESUS PRAYER

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

***Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kin-dom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 kin-dom, the power and glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God.

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins.

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world.

Grant us peace.

THE BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

*We are invited to form a circle around our gathering space.
As we share the gifts with each other,
we say the words "The bread of life" and "The cup of blessing".*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***We thank you, loving God, that you have fed us through your Word
and through this sacrament. Help us to become your true family
loving you, and caring for each other. May we live with
compassion, strive for justice and bear witness to the saving
power of God. Amen.***

HYMN

Let all creation dance

TIS 187

Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time,
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls
with whirlpools dense and dark
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings
'Your will be done'.

Our own amazing earth
with sunlight cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend
and kindly tend
creation's song.

We go out to the world God loves

SENDING OUT

Go out thankful for the blessing of a new day.
Take with you the crazy Easter message of resurrection:
that where there is despair,
yet there can be hope;
where there is sadness,
yet there can be joy;
where there is conflict,
yet there can be peace-making;

where there is hatred,
yet there can be love.

BLESSING

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

SONG For you deep stillness of the silent inland *(sung twice)*
Words: Julie Perrin; Music: Robin Mann

For you deep stillness of the silent inland
For you deep blue of the desert skies
For you flame red of the rocks and stones
For you sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
And when you're burnt by the journey
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
Soothe and replenish you
In the name of Christ
In the name of Christ
(In the name of Christ)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our organist for the music.

*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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Opening Responses and Prayer of Confession from the Iona Community Worship Book (adapted)



The Uniting Climate Conference, Faith in a Better Future, is being jointly hosted by the Synod of NSW.ACT and Uniting, the church's community services and advocacy arm. The conference is an opportunity for our Uniting Church and wider faith and other communities to learn together, be encouraged and invigorated, and build common purpose in our climate action and care for the earth.

When: Saturday, 11 May, 9 am - 4 pm

Where: The Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Dr, North Parramatta

Registration is free.

[Further information and/or register here.](#)



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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Sunday 12 May at 3pm
Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney

Coro Innominata is excited to unveil a program that intertwines themes of stillness, separation, and loss with the universal search for peace. Anchoring the program is Leonard Bernstein's magnificent Chichester Psalms, brought to life in a vibrant collaboration with the talented Kompactus Youth Choir from Canberra.

Buy tickets here <https://www.innominata.org/tickets/>