

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

9 June 2024

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

CHOSEN FAMILY

IS A GROUP OF HUMANS WHO
INTENTIONALLY CHOOSE TO
LOVE, SUPPORT, NURTURE, GROW,
TEACH, COMFORT, & FUFILL
FAMILIAL CONNECTION THAT
MIGHT OTHERWISE BE
MISSING IN THEIR LIFE.

@Blessthemessy

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 the people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

God of Many Faces

Words: Amy Cerniglia

Tune: Slane TiS 547

God of many faces, we offer our praise
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new light that reflects our true souls.
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word
that will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

Please remain standing as you are able

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, O Holy God,
and draw us more deeply into your mystery.
Come, O Christ,
and transform our struggles with your light.
Come, O Holy Spirit,
and breathe your peace through all Creation.
Come, O Holy Trinity,
and love us more fully into your divine community.

Please be seated

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional owners of this country,
And we recognise that we meet on sacred land.
*We honour the Gadigal people
and pay our respects to elders past and present.*

GREETINGS

Budyeri gamarruwa

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle as we remember God's presence with us.

Christ, you are the Light of the world
growing life and love from creation's birth,
in the power of the Holy Spirit
we thank you for the gifts of new creation
and pray for all your world
*that, even in the darkest corners,
your light may shine, giving joy and peace. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is marked with a '3' and contains the lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son,'. The second staff is marked with a '3' and contains the lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - le - - i - son.'. The third staff is marked with a '5' and contains the lyrics 'Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son,'. The fourth staff is marked with a '7' and contains the lyrics 'Chris - te e - le - - i - son.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Source of Life,
through your love we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
Yet we doubt your glory in us and miss our potential.
Renew us and help us shine more brightly.

Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.

Bearer of Life,
through your love we are created as beloved siblings,
to be a blessing to one another and all creation.
Yet we struggle to fulfil our purpose and miss the mark.
Renew us and help us grow in joy together.

Christe, Christe, eleison. Christe, Christe, eleison.

Giver of Life,
through your love we are invited to live as signs of your sacredness.
Yet we are consumed by distractions and miss our meaning.
Renew us and help us live in grace and freedom.

Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.

ASSURANCE

May we who come in faith hear divine words of assurance.

In Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
all things are renewed.

Beyond fear there is confidence;

Beyond despair there is hope;

Beyond shame there is honour;

Beyond violence there is peace.

Hold fast to this word and grow in trust. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

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

And also with you!

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

HYMN

Servant Song

TIS 650

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

We listen for God's Word

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

A Contemporary Reading: *Coherence and Belonging* by Richard Rohr

For words of insight in contemporary spirituality
thanks be to God.

HYMN

New patterns of loving

Words: Barbara Hamm

Tune: St Denio TiS 143

New patterns of loving make room for new ways,
creating new families to care for and raise.
All those who have loved us and helped us to grow
are families of choice by the caring they show.

Our ancestry marks us with visible signs;
we bear in our bodies genetic designs.
But love, beyond limits of gender or race,
can fashion new families and new joys embrace.

God bless all the lovers and carers today;
help us to raise children to walk in God's way.
To care for each other as children of God,
whose love is including, far-reaching, and broad.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 3 verses 21-35

For words of challenge and encouragement
thanks be to God.

SONG

Halle, halle, hallelu-jah

TiS 720

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

REFLECTION

Family belonging?

Josephine Inkpin

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

God of Love, from whom all things come and in whom all belong, we pray for a deeper awareness of our intimate interconnection with all that lives and breathes.

***May we grow in knowledge
that we belong together in your abundant love.***

We pray for all who are marginalised, oppressed, or excluded:
for all who are lonely, anxious, or bearing great burdens.

May they know that they belong in your abundant love.

We pray for all creatures who are abused, violated, or threatened:
for all of our planet which is subject to environmental destruction.

***May humanity grow in awareness
that everything belongs in your abundant love.***

We pray for a renewing of faith, politics and culture:
for all who lead or shape our lives and world;
for all with whom we are connected;
and for all from whom we are divided or alienated.

May your love draw us all into deeper visions of belonging.

We also remember all that particularly lies on our hearts and minds ...

*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:*

***God of Love, alive within, among and beyond us,
Your name be holy. Your wisdom come.
Your will be done, unfolding from the depths.
Each day give us what we need.
Remind us of our limits so that we may let go.
Support us in your power that we may act with courage.
For you are the dwelling place within us,
the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us.
As it was in the beginning, may it be now, and always. Amen.***

OFFERING

Let us share our offerings
as a loving expression of our response to God's call.

HYMN

Another Country

Words: Jim Cotter; Tune: Thaxted

I vow to you, my friends of earth,
all worldly things above,
entire and whole – yet broken –
the service of my love:
The love that dares to question,
the love that speaks its name,
that flowers still in barren ground,
yet hides no more for shame:
The love that struggles through the pain,
and whispers in the night,
yet shares its secret with the world,
to bring the truth to light.

This is that other country
we heard of long ago,
when called to be the spies of God
where milk and honey flow:
A world where hurts find healing,
where all th' oppressed run free,
where friends who have been sore betrayed
each other truly see:
It is our earth, transfigured, new,
where wars and hatreds cease,
where spy and friend walk hand in hand
in Christ our Lover's Peace.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks to God for the gifts in our life
and the encouragement we are given to share them.

Let our faith be expressed in just living.

***Let our hope for the future find full expression
in gratitude and generosity. Amen.***

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

We go out to the world God loves

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Let us go forth from here:

Holy God, no sparrow falls without your attention;
nothing dies that is lost to you;
nothing comes into being without your love.

***Give us just and compassionate hearts,
that we may serve one another, the earth and all its creatures,
knowing ourselves as fearfully and wonderfully made,
and holding fast to the vision of your new Creation
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

BLESSING

HYMN

Truth be told

Words: Greta Vosper

Tune: TiS 658

Truth be told, we're not alone:
we have found ourselves a home;
see it large, and see it free –
love is our goal.

This, a home for anyone,
creed or custom, barring none.
This, a place where love can grow –
here all belong.

*May we find here, what we're seeking.
May we share the strength of to carry on.
May the love here do the healing,
lift our hearts, and make us all as one.*

Truth be told, we cannot be
whole without diversity.
Many different voices raised
create the song.
Whether brown or black or white,
all together, we are light;
any-gendered, any-loved –
here all belong.

*May we find here, what we're seeking.
May we share the strength of to carry on.
May the love here do the healing,
lift our hearts, and make us all as one.*

Truth be told, when gathered here,
we may all our sorrows bear,
held in hearts made strong by love;
we may not fail.
Aged wisdom, questing youth,
all connected, seeking truth,
altogether, each inspires –
here all belong.

May we find here, ...

SUNG AMEN

African American Spiritual Amen (*sung twice*)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Aleks Mitsios

Organ Concerto in A minor after Vivaldi, BWV 593, J. S. Bach (arr.)

*Following the postlude
everyone onsite is warmly invited to morning tea and coffee
and everyone online to share a community time together.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our organist.

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Jesus Prayer adapted from Miriam Therese Winter.

Commissioning Prayer adapted from *Liturgies Honouring God's Creation*.

Other Prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.



With just two months before 17th Assembly members gather in Sydney, the first tranche of reports and proposals for the national triennial meeting have been released.

Among 18 documents now available for all church members to read is the significant report from Act2, titled *Act 2: The Gift of the Spirit*, <https://act2uca.com/report/gift-of-the-spirit/>, as well as reports from the Assembly Standing Committee, including updates from the *SOGICE* and Continuing Witness task groups, and the Net Zero Emissions Steering Group, <https://uniting.church/17th-assembly-papers/>

Please continue to pray for all those preparing for the 17th Assembly meeting and for members as they begin to carefully read papers and prepare themselves faithfully for the discernment journey ahead.



THE BIG SPOOKY SINGING THING

This will be a unique occasion, something midway in between an acoustic performance and a church/pub singalong. In the lovely, acoustic confines of the Pitt St Uniting Church, the spooks will sing some songs to you, some songs amongst you, and quite a few songs **WITH** you. It will be lovely.

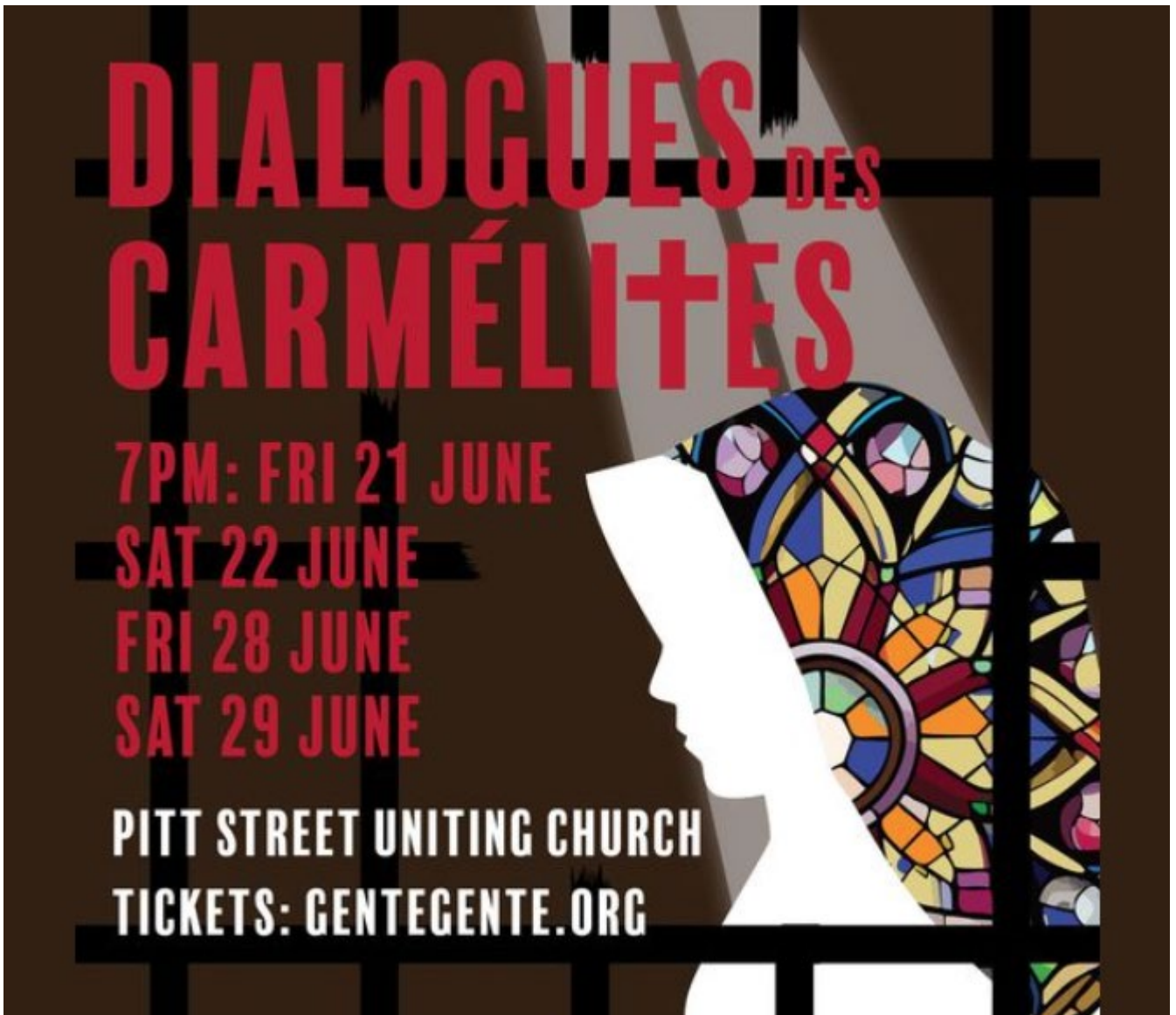
You can listen. You can sing. You can knit.

50% of all ticket sales go to

The Aboriginal Women and Children's Crisis Service.

Buy tickets at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-big-spooky-singing-thing>

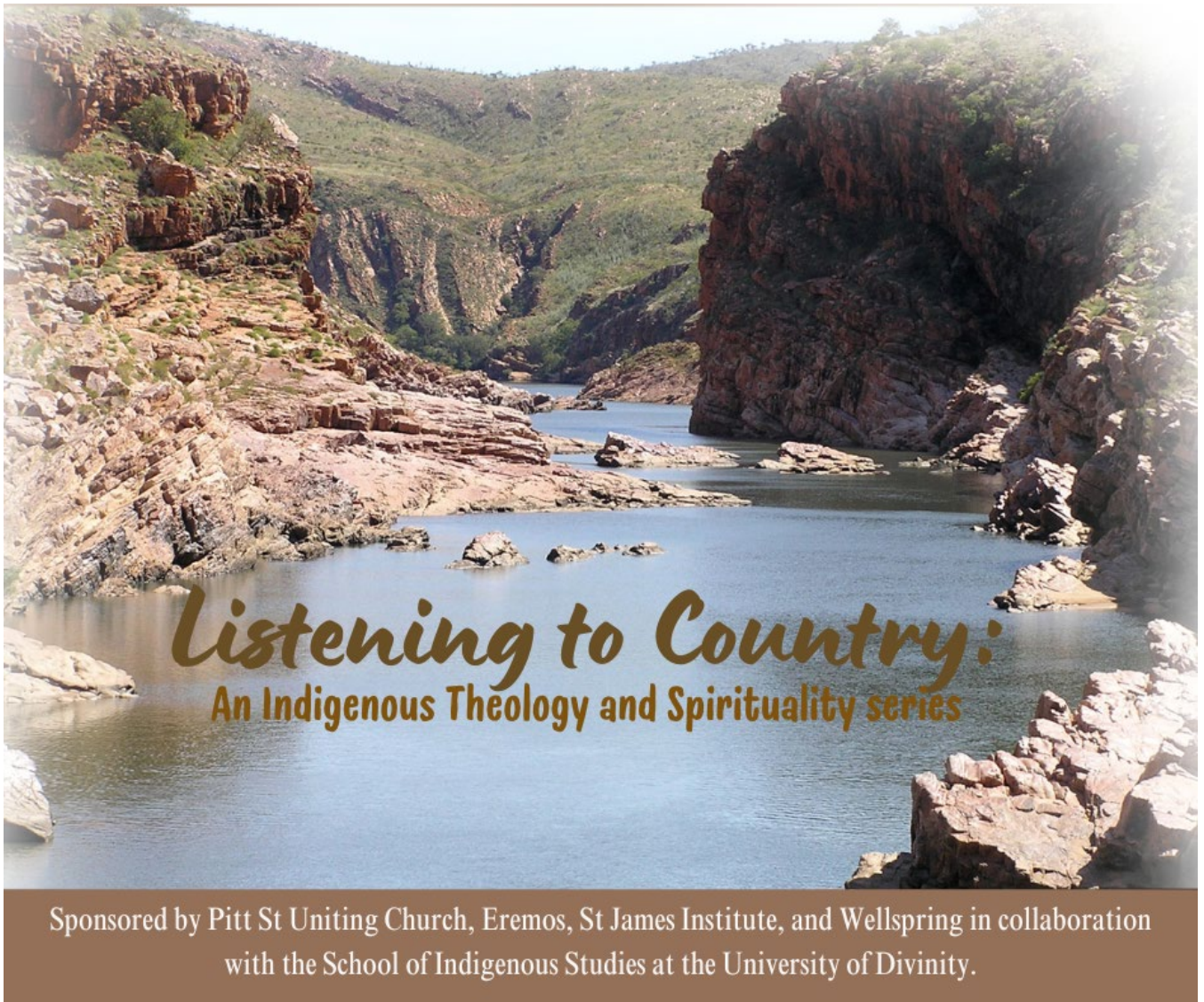


Gente, Gente! is excited to present Francis Poulenc's opera "Les Dialogues des Carmélites"!

Inspired by the story of the Martyrs of Compiègne, the three-act opera follows the Carmelite nuns in the final days of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution.

Performed in French with English translation subtitles.

Buy tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com/les-dialogues-des-carmelites>



**Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray presenting, Aboriginal Spirituality
and Connection to Country.
Sunday 11 August 2024, 2 – 4 pm**

Professor Anne Pattel-Gray was appointed Professor of Indigenous Studies and inaugural Head of the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Divinity and commenced the role in August 2022. She is a descendant of the Bidjara / Kari Kari people of Queensland and a celebrated Aboriginal leader.

Book at: <https://www.eremos.org.au/events>