

# 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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28 July 2024

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**



## 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

Come as you are

TiS 693 (3 verses)

Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;  
come as you are why stand alone?

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.  
Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY – TOWARD JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather, we acknowledge the original custodians of this place, the Gadigal and all First Nations peoples in our communities, their elders past and present. We grieve the unjust loss of their lands and waterways, taken without consent or compensation.`

From their beginnings, the Spirit of God  
has dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land.

***We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora  
and commit ourselves to walk for just reconciliation.***

*Please sit.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Throughout all of time, God calls life into becoming,  
pouring out love in ever-changing patterns of creation:  
working in wonder and mystery, sustaining and supporting.

***Let us magnify the love of God.***

Throughout all of our lives, God calls us into loving,  
offering us grace in all the trials and sufferings we face:  
sharing care and inspiration, comforting and challenging.

***Let us magnify the love of God.***

Throughout all of history, God calls human beings into purpose,  
giving us freedom to flourish with justice and peace,  
conveying beauty and truth, redeeming and renewing.

***Let us magnify the love of God.***

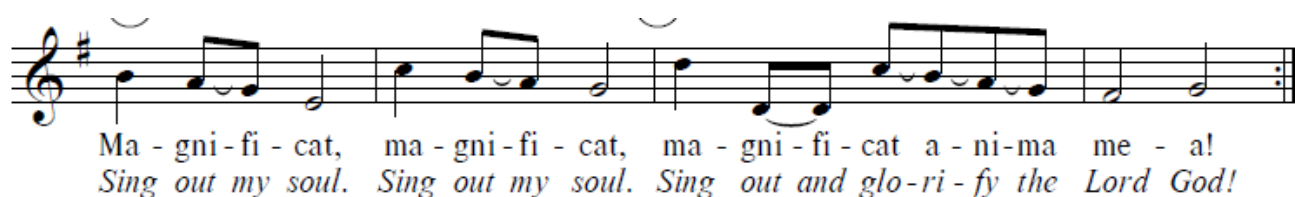
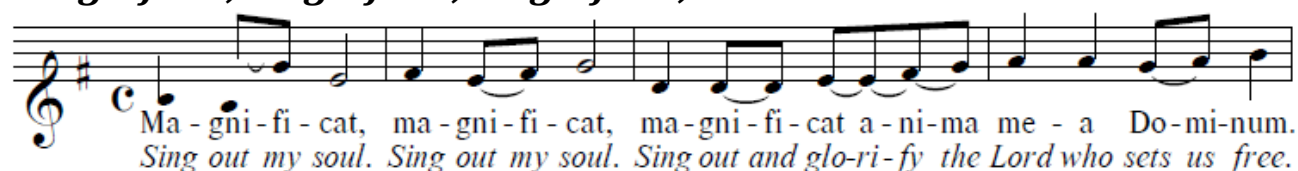
## SONG (Taize)

## Magnificat

(sung twice)

***Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat, anima mea dominum.***

***Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat, anima mea.***



## OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of truth, whom the world can never grasp,  
touch our hearts with the shock of your coming;  
fill us with desire for your disturbing peace;  
and fire us with longing to speak your uncontainable word  
through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## GREETINGS

*Budyeri gamarruwa*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ candle is lit.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God who suffers at our spiritual and ethical failings,  
and rejoices at the turning to virtue of our hearts and spirits:

***We confess that we have gone astray  
by our thoughts, words, and deeds.***

We have struggled to serve others as Christ served.  
We have struggled with your encouragements  
to be more loving and forgiving.

***Forgive us for all our failings that we may be restored  
to be the fully loving and compassionate beings  
that you created us to be.***

***In the power of infinite love. Amen.***

## ASSURANCE

May we who come in faith and hope  
hear the words of assurance.

Our compassionate God makes all things new.  
Beyond fear there is confidence; beyond despair there is hope;  
beyond shame there is honour; beyond violence there is peace.  
Hold fast 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

Come to the table

Words: Stephen Best  
Tune: Blessed Assurance

Come voice your struggles, come shed your tears,  
come calm your anger, come lose your fears.  
Here we encounter the Living Bread:  
food that renews us, life from the dead.

***Come to the table, join in the song.  
This is the place where all shall belong.  
Voices in chorus, seeking Christ's ways,  
to become God's living stones of praise.***

Come voice your laughter, come show your joy.  
We'll be a temple the world won't destroy.  
Founded on caring, compassion and love:  
strength of the lion, peace of the dove.

***Come to the table...***

Come voice your outrage, come right what's wrong.  
Working for justice, together we're strong.  
More than the sum of each separate part,  
seeking and sharing the way of the heart.

***Come to the table...***

# We listen for God's Word

## Responsorial Canticle – from Wisdom 9:1-6 & 9-11

O God of our forebears and Lover of mercy:

*you have made all things by your word.*

By your wisdom you have formed us

*to share your covenant with all creation.*

To be stewards of your world in love and holiness:

*and to administer justice with an upright heart.*

Give us Wisdom who sits by your side:

*do not refuse us your overflowing love.*

For Wisdom knows your ways:

*and was present when you made the world.*

She understands what is pleasing in your sight

*and what accords with your commandments.*

Send her from your holy presence:

*from the place of your glory bid her come.*

That she may labour at our side

*and we may learn what is pleasing in you.*

For she knows and understands all things:

and will guide us prudently in our actions

*and protect us with her spirit.*

## A Reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 6 verses 1-21

For sacred words of challenge and encouragement

*thanks be to God.*

## HYMN

We limit not the truth of God

TiS 453 (2 verses)

We limit not the truth of God  
to our poor reach of mind,  
to notions of our day and sect,  
crude, partial and confined:  
no, let a new and better hope  
within our hearts be stirred:  
our God has yet more light and truth  
to break forth from their word.

Our faithful forebears searching went  
the first steps of the way;  
this was the dawning, yet to grow  
into this perfect day.  
And grow it shall, our glorious sun  
will brighter rays afford:  
our God has yet more light and truth  
to break forth from their word.

**A Contemporary Reading:** *Logos* by Mary Oliver

For love and truth in contemporary expression  
***thanks be to God.***

**SONG**                      Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah                      *(sung twice)*

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

**REFLECTION**    Sharing in miracles: the feast of grace                      Josephine Inkpin

## **We respond in love**

**HYMN**                      Let us talents and tongues employ                      TIS 537

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken; the wine is poured;  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

***Refrain:***

***Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!***  
***Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Christ is able to make us one;  
at the table they set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.

***Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God Immanuel everywhere!

***Jesus lives again...***

#### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING SOLIDARITY**

Loving God, creating, sustaining, and maker of bread,  
when You open your hand,  
You satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

***We pray to You for all in need,  
trusting in Your love and Your abundant goodness.***

As once You fed the hungry crowds with five loaves and two small fish,  
we ask that You would fill those who are empty this day.

Loving God, in your mercy open your hand.

***Pour out Your Spirit on all who hunger and thirst.***

We pray for those who are physically hungry:  
those whose stomachs are empty;  
those around the world facing critical food shortages;  
those suffering the effects of malnutrition and starvation;  
and watching helplessly as loved ones die.

Loving God, in your mercy open your hand.

***Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.***



We pray for those who are emotionally empty,  
those who are lonely and long for companionship and love,  
those who are caught in the grip of depression,  
or overwhelmed with grief.

Loving God, in your mercy open your hand.

***Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.***

We pray for those who are spiritually empty:  
those who are troubled, but don't know where to turn;  
those who long for purpose and meaning,  
but don't know where to find them.

Loving God, in your mercy open your hand.

***Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.***

Loving God we praise your abundant gifts in our lives.  
Pour out your Spirit and fill us with Your compassion and love,  
so that we share our abundance with those in need.

Loving God, in your mercy open your hand.

***Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.***

In awareness of your love which seeks to bring life to us  
whoever and wherever we are in our world, we pray:

***May we trust in your abundant life, now and always. Amen.***

## **JESUS PRAYER**

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

***Breath of our very being, Who dwells in all things,  
Holy is your truth. May your wisdom come,  
Your embracing circle unite all of creation.  
Give us today a nurturing spirit.  
Heal through us as we ourselves are healed.  
Lead us into fullness of life, and liberate all that is good.  
For the love, the power, and the presence  
are yours, now and always. Amen.***

## OFFERING

*We invite offerings by direct debit, the tap machine or through the collection.*

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

**HYMN**      Take my gifts and let me love you      Words: Shirley Erena Murray  
Tune: Talavera Terrace

Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free.  
Now because you love has touched me,  
I have love to give away,  
now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered  
from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
harvest of your own compassion,  
juice that makes the wine of God,  
spiced with humour, laced with laughter –  
flavour of the Jesus life,  
tang of risk and new adventure,  
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer –  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Merciful God,  
the gifts we bring are so small  
in comparison to the vast needs of our world –  
even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city.  
***Yet we have brought what we can.***

As once You multiplied the five small loaves and two fish,  
***multiply these gifts,***  
***so that the hungry may be fed, and more. Amen.***

## **COMMUNITY GREETINGS**

**We go out in peace**

## **COMMISSIONING PRAYER**

*Let us go forth from here:*

O God, be for us our companion on the walk,  
***our guide at the crossroads, our breath in our weariness,***  
our protection in danger, our refuge on the Way,  
***our shade in heat, our light in the darkness,***  
our consolation in our discouragements,  
***and our strength in our intentions.***

So that with your guidance  
we may arrive safe and sound at the end of the Road  
***enriched with grace and virtue.***

May we return safely to our homes filled with joy,  
***in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

## BLESSING

### HYMN

Now Wisdom's Feast

Words: Elizabeth Smith

Tune: Ellacombe

Now Wisdom's feast continues, her well-aged wine still slows,  
the bread of heaven fills us, and love of learning grows.  
When faithful people listen, when hopeful people pray,  
when loving people flourish, they show us Wisdom's way.

Through books and prayers and silence, in company, alone:  
O Holy Wisdom, feed us and form us for your own.  
And give us joy in learning, and help us in our turn  
to hand on what you give us, so others, too, may learn.

For you are God our Teacher and, drinking in your Word,  
we take to heart true wisdom and your whole church is stirred  
to show the world your kindness, to teach the world your grace,  
to bring the world, rejoicing, to greet you face to face.

### SUNG AMEN

**African American Spiritual Amen (sung twice)**

### MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Gavin Ward

*Following the postlude, you are invited to morning tea and coffee  
and, if online, to share time together.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to our organist.

NB. Christa) is used on occasions within Pitt Street Uniting Church liturgies to affirm the all gender  
and beyond gender nature of the God of Christian tradition

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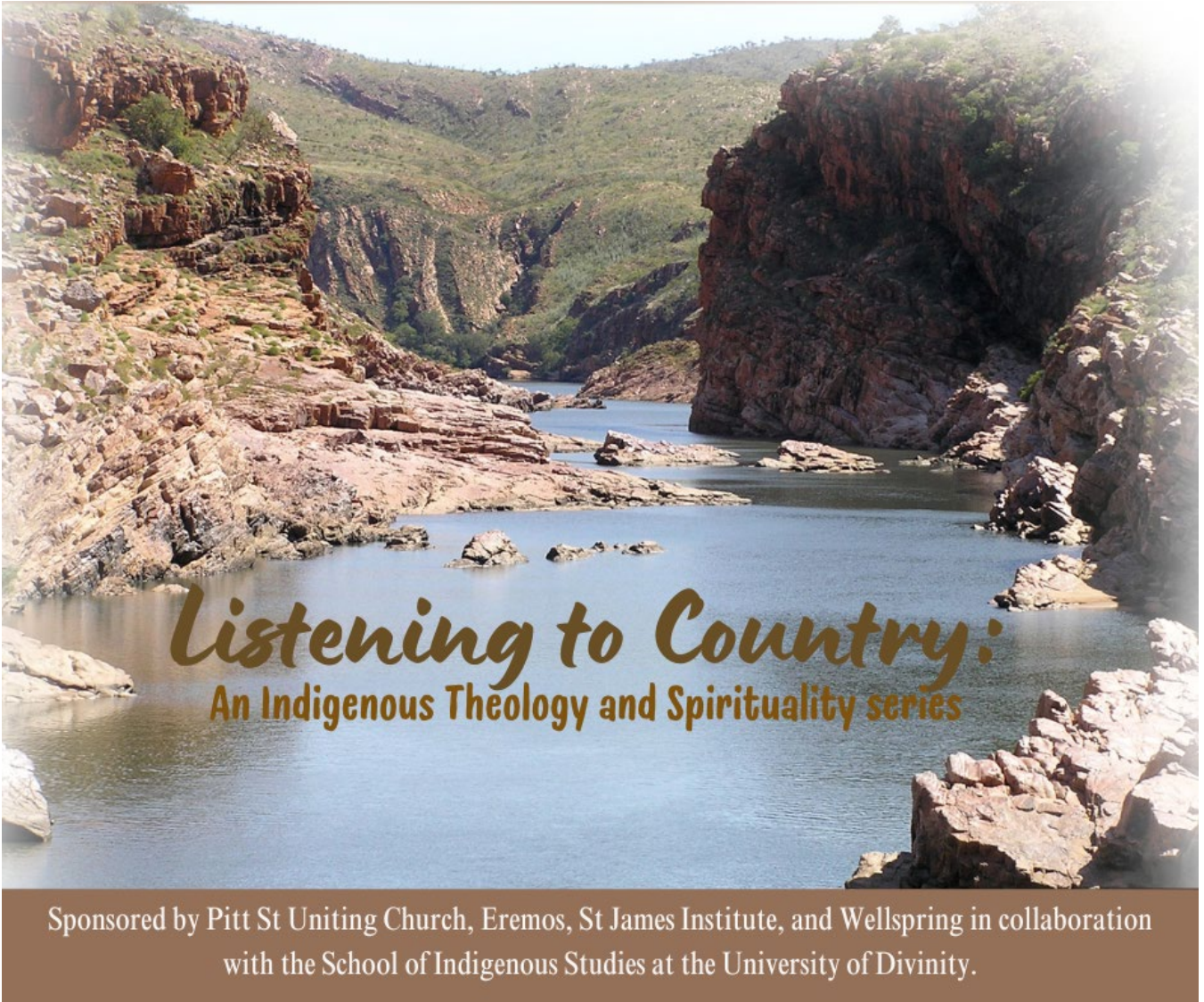
Prayer of Confession from *progresschristianity.org*

Jesus Prayer adapted from Prayer for Dominican Sisters Retreat, March 1993, Great Bend, Kansas

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity and Prayer of Dedication adapted from Worship Resources  
of the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies <https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca>

Commissioning Prayer adapted from The Pilgrim's Prayer at *progressivepilgrimage.com*

Other Prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin



**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>



### **Pot Luck Lunch**

**Sunday 25 August from 11.30am**

Bring a plate and/or drinks to share.

Join us for a time of fellowship and chat around a shared table.

# Original Bliss



## Paintings by Rod Pattenden

**Opening Event Friday 30 August from 6pm – 8pm**

Music by Marion Street Sacred Arts Project featuring the songs of Gabi Cadenhead and Mikali Anagnostis

Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 2pm

Saturday 31 August – 12 October