



**Pitt Street**  
Uniting Church

*founded 1833*



## **ON GADIGAL LAND**

*always was, always will be*

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

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13 October 2024

## **21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



image: *Through the Needle's Eye the Rich Man Came* by Grace Carol Bomer

## **WELCOME TO PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH**

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural background, sexuality, 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 the north side of the church for young children.

## **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

*A gong sounds – encouraging us to centre in prayer*

**We gather as the people of God**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Who would true valour see

TiS 561

Who would true valour see,  
let them come hither;  
those here will constant be,  
come wind, come weather.  
There's no discouragement  
shall make them once relent  
each from a vowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.

Those who beset them round  
with dismal stories  
cannot the brave confound:  
their strength the more is.  
No lion can them fright,  
they'll with a giant fight,  
but each will have a right  
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend  
can daunt their spirit:  
they know they at the end  
shall life inherit.  
Then fancies fly away;  
they'll scorn what people say,  
and each work night and day  
to be a pilgrim.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

This time of prayer is a time of grace.  
We gather here to share our needs:  
not to justify ourselves  
**but to say we are sorry,**  
not to cling to the familiar  
**but to risk the untested,**  
not to enjoy our own decency  
**but to worship a holy God,**  
not to practice positive thinking  
**but to be caught up in God's joyful transformation.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY - TOWARD JUST RELATIONSHIPS**

**We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora,  
pay our respects to their elders, past and present,  
and commit ourselves to walk for just reconciliation.**

*please sit*

## **GREETINGS**

***Budyeri gamarruwa***

## **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*The Christ candle is lit*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL**

*a time of silent reflection*

For all that has hurt and harmed in times past, let us pray:

(we sing the Taizé response) ***Kyrie eleison (x3)***

For all that burdens us in our life today, let us pray:

(we sing the Taizé response) ***Christe eleison (x3)***

For all that needs releasing into new life, let us pray:

(we sing the Taizé response) ***Kyrie eleison (x3)***

*pause for silent reflection*

## **WORDS OF 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 to God's love and grow in trust.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **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.*

*please stand to sing as you are able.*

## **SONG**

For you, deep stillness

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.

## **We listen for God's Word**

### **FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS**

**A Reading from the Gospels:** from the Gospel of Mark 10.17-31

For the love of God in Christ Jesus  
Thanks be to God.

**A Contemporary Reading:** *Sell all that you have... and follow me*  
by Malcolm Guite

For spiritual challenge in contemporary expression  
**Thanks be to God**

### **REFLECTION**

Josephine Inkpin

Leaping in faith

*a time of silent reflection follows*

## **We respond in love**

### **HYMN**

Will you come and follow me (The Summons)

words: John Bell, tune: Kelvingrove

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown

In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

*Let us pray:*

God of compassion  
in this mental health awareness month  
we are aware that stable mental and emotional health  
is a delicate gift to be tended with care.

In our own vulnerabilities and those of the people closest to us,  
draw near we pray and grant the grace of peace.  
***for your love is stronger than our fear***

Where there is fear and anxiety, bring calm.  
Where there is unpredictable rage and violence, bring security.  
Where there is self-loathing and despair, bring truth.  
Where there are harsh words and cruel indifference, bring  
knowledge of your inexhaustible love.

draw near we pray and grant the grace of peace.  
***for your love is stronger than our fear***

To those wearied by sickness and the burdens of care, give respite,  
permission to rest and the strength and courage to journey on.

draw near we pray and grant the grace of peace.  
***for your love is stronger than our fear***

In the face of war and violence across the world, we join together in  
the interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace, in its 50<sup>th</sup> year,  
praying for an end to destructive conflict and for reconciliation with  
justice:

draw near we pray and grant the grace of peace.  
***for your love is stronger than our fear***

We also pray especially this week for the following  
in our wider circles of prayer...

- the people and ministries of the congregation of the Islamic Gallipoli Mosque at Auburn, and of our neighbouring Jewish congregation of the Great Synagogue, Sydney.

- The people of Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, for comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

We also pray in silence for all that rests upon our hearts and minds...

please offer your own prayers in silence  
(or, if online, use the chat facility on Zoom)

## **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:**

**to help, and not to harm, to caring, and not coerce.**

**May we receive with thanks**

**the bread we need, the money we need, the 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**

For God's grace and healing, we give thanks.

In response to God's grace and healing, we bring our gifts.

In response to the call of God we share gifts of money and food,  
to share grace and healing in our lives and world.

## **SONG**

Take my gifts

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 your 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.

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

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Let us pray together:*

God, of strength and compassion, through your love  
you have given us these gifts to share.

**Accept our offerings as an expression  
of our deep thanks and of our desire  
to share your mercy and justice with all. Amen.**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**We go out to the world God loves**

## PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Gracious healing God,  
We thank you for the many ways that you touch our lives:  
giving us hope in the midst of despair;  
**and comfort and strength to live  
when we are at our most vulnerable.**

Renew our commitment to all who are suffering,  
living with brokenness and pain.

**Open our eyes and give us wisdom to see  
where we can bring your healing and hope  
in our relationships and communities**

Give us courage and insight, power and passion  
**that we may work with you for justice  
and the liberation of all those who are abused and oppressed.**

## BLESSING

### HYMN

Filled with the Spirit's power

TiS 411

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord  
the infant church confessed its risen Lord.  
O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
that unity may be our great desire.  
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,  
and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace  
in your strong care all those of every race.  
Like wind and fire with life among us move,  
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

## MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Organist

*Everyone onsite is welcome to stay for morning tea and coffee,  
and everyone on Zoom is invited to stay on for community time together*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hymns used under CCLI Copyright Licence No. 208789 unless otherwise noted.  
Call to Worship adapted from Uniting in Worship 2.  
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity by Penny Jones.  
Jesus Prayer adapted from Andrew Collis  
Prayers of Commitment adapted from Safeguarding Sunday 2021 prayer at catholic.org.au  
Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.

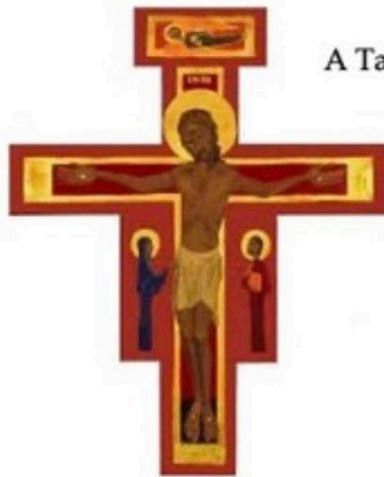
*You are invited to*

## Prayer and Reflection

Using the Songs of Taizé

led by

A Taizé Brother



### Evening Prayer

St Patrick's Cathedral  
Cnr Victoria Road &  
Marist Place  
Parramatta

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024  
7.00pm

### Quiet Day

Uniting Church  
10-12 Clanwilliam Street  
Willoughby

Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
9.00am – 2.00pm

### Sunday Prayer

St James' Anglican Church  
173 King Street  
Sydney

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
2.00pm

**A CONVERSATION  
WITH  
CONNIE TUTTLE**



# **Exploring Gracious Heresy**

**Sunday 20 October**

**12.30 (with light lunch) for 1 pm**

**at Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney**

Connie Tuttle is a lesbian, feminist, radical Christian, founder of *Circle of Grace* in the USA, and author of the recent book *A Gracious Heresy: The Queer Calling of an Unlikely Prophet*. She invites us to explore the insistent but 'acutely human and terminally messy' call to prophetic living.

**Next Sunday 20 October, the reflection will be given by current Commissioner of the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission Robert Fitzgerald, AM.**

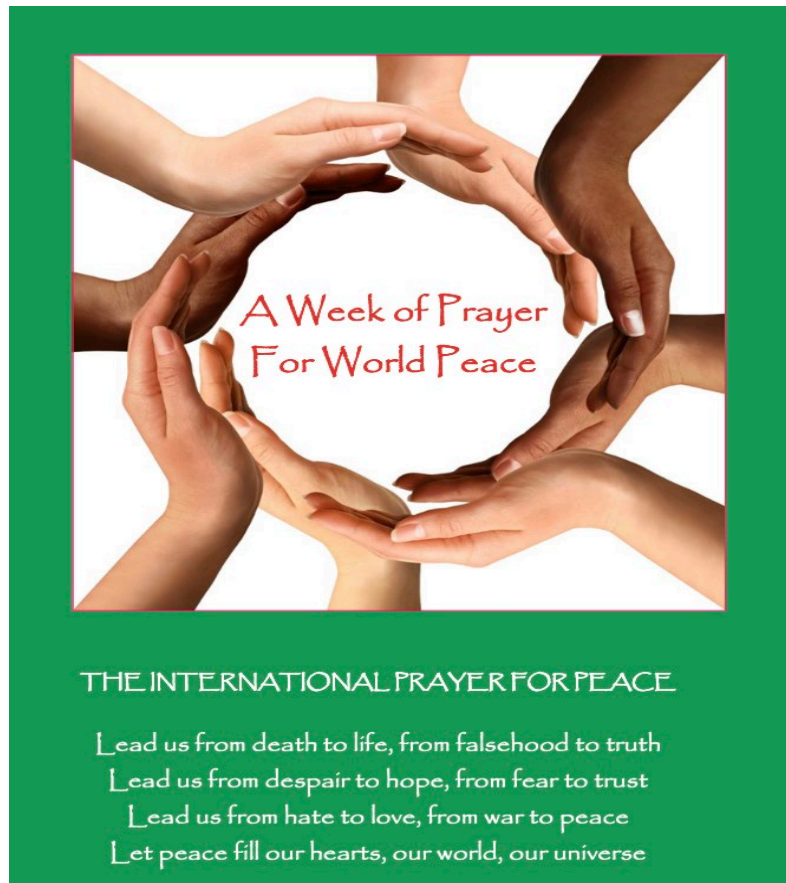


**The purpose of the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission is to promote the rights of older people and adults with disability to live free from abuse in their family, home and community.**

Mr Fitzgerald was previously appointed as a Productivity Commissioner, Community and Disability Services Commissioner and Deputy Ombudsman in NSW.

The Australian Government appointed Mr Fitzgerald as a Commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, from 2013 to 2017. Mr Fitzgerald was also appointed to Chair the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Advisory Board for three years from 2012.

Importantly, Mr Fitzgerald was the convenor of the Indigenous Disadvantage Working Group of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision for over 9 years.



Fifty years ago, leaders from various faiths joined together and wrote: “In the turmoil of a world increasingly dominated by violence and characterised by bewilderment and confusion created by the apparent impotence of man to alleviate suffering caused by injustice except by more recourse to violence, it seems to us that an unprecedented spiritual initiative is urgently required. We therefore wish to commend the idea of the World Week of Prayer for Peace.” In the five decades since, the interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace has taken place each October. Bringing together people from all faith communities and none, it has given a chance to learn and share. The words they went on to write could have been written today, “The situation is urgent. Violent conflict within nations and the ever-present threat of war between nations or races pose unprecedented dangers. The delicately interwoven structures of modern society and the contraction of the world by speedy communications have made every part of the globe immediately vulnerable to the effects of any outbreak of violent conflict. But these same factors also offer an unprecedented opportunity to create a quickened sense of brotherhood. Therein lies the overwhelming need for a Week of Prayer for World Peace.”

**Join an online Gathering for Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia 6pm (Sydney and Melbourne time)**

This will be the first interfaith online ‘Gathering’ for this region.

Details of this Zoom meeting are:

Topic: WPWP 50th Anniversary Gathering

Time: Oct 13, 2024 8 PM Wellington/6 PM Sydney/3 PM Perth

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85831495272?pwd=NEXEyNi0VyX1QJefwGssMc2gir2JyN.1>

Meeting ID: 858 3149 5272

Passcode: 978683

## Safe Church Statement

The Uniting Church believes that all people are made in the image of God and that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance and that our relationships with each other should express love and respect and not be abused.

We welcome all 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.

## Pitt St Safe Church Contacts:

safechurch@pittstreetuniting.org.au

John Floyd 0419 128 453 and Elizabeth Lee 0422 932 044

## Reportable Conduct

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused please contact the police.

In addition, child-related allegations made about a congregation, presbytery or faith community employee or volunteer are required to be notified to the General Secretary of the Uniting Church who is responsible for investigations and fulfilling reporting obligations to the NSW Ombudsman. Allegation can relate to conduct outside a person's work or volunteer role.

## Reportable Conduct Contact:

GeneralSecretary@nswact.uca.org.au (02) 8267 4300

or General Secretary (confidential), PO Box A2178, South Sydney 1235.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PASTORAL SUPPORT

1. Contact details for urgent support 24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

**BeyondBlue** <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> **1300 224 636**

**MensLine** <https://mensline.org.au/> **1300 789 978**

**Lifeline** <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> **13 11 14**

Specialised support for survivors of abuse is available through Blue Knot Foundation (not 24 hours) <https://www.blueknot.org.au/> **1300 657 380**.

This line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

2. Reports of abuse should be made to local police.

Reports of abuse can be made to local police. Church leaders may wish to contact their local Safe Church unit for advice on what to do if abuse is disclosed:

## NSW/ACT Safe Church Unit

Rev Bronwyn Murphy, Associate Secretary

Ms Anne Empson, Manager Compliance

[safechurch@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:safechurch@nswact.uca.org.au)

[nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/safe-church/](https://nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/safe-church/)

Work of the People	Pentecost 21 13 October	Pentecost 22 20 October
Liturgist	Lizzy Maddox	Josephine Inkpin
Reflection	Jospehine Inkpin	Robert Fitzgerald
Liturgy Curators	Jospehine Inkpin	Josephine Inkpin
Readers	Ron Rocio Trinity Ford	Jo Bowen Wes Knight
Organist	Aleks Mitsios	Peter Bennett
Greeters	Jacq Salmons Simon Harris	Sue McEilly Marjan McKeough
Flowers	Ruth Lambert	John Thorpe
Sound Operator	Orange Kao	Patricia Curthoys
Camera Operator	Cathy Ashcroft	Sharon Wellfare
Livestream Monitor	Geoff Maddox	Geoff Maddox
Home Host	Hazel Hogarth	Gerard McEilly
Worship Coordinators	Lorri Evans Sandra Hoffman	Jolyon Bromley Meredith Knight
Morning Tea	Marjan McKeough Louis Fung The PSUC Younger Adults Group	Jac Brown Dave Cahilap Judith Dallas Kevin Dallas Margie Willis
Recycling Team	Lizzy Maddox Warren Talbot	Meredith Knight Geoff Maddox

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<b>Minister Emerita:</b>	Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon