



**Pitt Street**  
Uniting Church

*founded 1833*



**ON GADIGAL LAND**

*always was, always will be*

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

20 October 2024

**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



Image: Uniting Church WA

## 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 – centring prayer*

## We gather as the people of God

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come as you are

TiS 693

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?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never ends.  
Don't run away, shamed as disheartened.  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call outcasts, 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?

## 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.**

## OPENING PRAYER

*please sit*

## GREETINGS

*Budyeri gamarruwa*

## 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.**

## 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, kyrie, eleison***

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

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

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

(we sing the Taizé response) ***Kyrie, kyrie, eleison***

*pause for silent reflection*

## **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**

As the deer pants (sung twice)

TiS 703

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.

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

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

A Reading from Hebrews 5.1-10

For truth that comes out of suffering  
**Thanks be to God**

**A Reading from the Gospels:** from the Gospel of Mark 10.35-45  
For the love of God in Christ Jesus  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SONG** Don't be afraid (sing twice) John Bell

Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.

**REFLECTION** Robert Fitzgerald AM

*a time of silent reflection follows*

## **We respond in love**

**HYMN** We cannot measure how you heal John Bell  
tune: Ye Banks and Braes

We cannot measure how You heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

Here some have come who need Your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Christ, let Your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make Your broken people whole.

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together:

**There is no death from which you cannot rise in us, O God.  
The power to fail can never kill the gift of life,  
unless we choose not to receive it from you.  
Your Spirit is never defeated by the woundings of life,  
however unjust, however painful.**

**Your grace in Christ goes well beyond our understanding  
and your love for us is never measured  
by our love for ourselves.**

**Even as we walk hard journeys  
we will claim together this great hope. Amen.**

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

Let us pray:

**SONG Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away**

(John Bell)

For those who have been abused as children  
in Church and other institutional settings.

For those who have been abused in family and other settings.

For all those who have suffered the trauma of violence and abuse..

Let us pray:

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away**

For the continuing work of naming, recognising,  
and fully addressing the issues of abuse and trauma.  
For the work of Safe Church officers and the development of trauma  
sensitive and trauma centred research, policy and care.  
For our own church community in our journeys towards the  
flourishing of all.  
Let us pray:

**Kindle a flame...**

For the pain and trauma of war, poverty and environmental  
destruction.  
For those struggling for mental health and/or burdened by difficult  
decisions.  
For all who feel marginalised and whose voices are not heard.  
Let us pray:

**Kindle a flame...**

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

- the people and ministries of the Uniting Church congregation of  
Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross and their minister Jon Owen.
- the people and churches of the Carribean – we give thanks for  
the natural beauty, climate and distinctive cultures of these  
islands. We pray for those devastated by disasters, that their  
lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt.

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

Those present are invited to take a pebble and place it in the bowl of  
water as a sign of prayer for a heart concern.

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

**Kindle a flame...**

## 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 care, 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

The courage we borrow

tune: Columcill

The courage we borrow, the courage we bring,  
shall bind us in strength to the healing we sing.

The courage to face any wound that we fear  
shall bind us in beauty and bless every tear

Bring grace and bring kindness to all that you sing  
to heal and to honour each fierce tender thing.

Each shame left unspoken may yet shine a light.

A place that seemed broken, that place can give life

The darkness we banish, the shadow we blame  
though hidden, may help us to find our true name.

So bring all your courage that all be made whole,  
transforming your story in body and soul



Come gather your power with good friends around.  
Together we stand in the truth of this ground.  
Our courage can make us, can heal and can mend.  
Any wound can be sacred, any wound we transcend.

*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**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word of grace has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ, be our light!..*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light!..*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light!...*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kin-dom come.

*Christ, be our light!...*

*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**

\*Christ/Christa/Christx may be used in our liturgy to point to the reality that the risen Christ is beyond gender and evidenced in communities following the Way of Jesus.

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Call to Worship adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2*.

Affirmation of Faith by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in *Liturgies for the Journey of Life*.

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.

# Today's Guest Speaker

**The reflection today is being given by the current Age Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Robert Fitzgerald AM.**



Mr Fitzgerald is a highly respected lawyer, human rights and social justice advocate, and a leading figure in the anti-discrimination space.

He has been the NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner since 2019 and was previously an Australian Productivity Commissioner, NSW Community and Disability Services Commissioner, and Deputy Ombudsman.

He served as Commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and was the Chair of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Advisory Board. He has served on NGO boards for over 40 years.

**Today at 12:30**

**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.

## 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

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

Work of the People	Pentecost 22 20 October	Pentecost 23 27 October
Liturgist	Josephine Inkpin	John Floyd
Reflection	Robert Fitzgerald	Jospehine Inkpin
Liturgy Curators	Josephine Inkpin	Jospehine Inkpin
Readers	Jo Bowen Wes Knight	Allison Gentle Lyn Corby
Organist	Peter Bennett	Gavin Ward
Greeters	Sue McEvilly Marjan McKeough	Jane Barnes Hazel Hogarth
Flowers	John Thorpe	Robyn Floyd
Sound Operator	Patricia Curthoys	Orange Kao
Camera Operator	Sharon Wellfare	Robyn Floyd
Livestream Monitor	Geoff Maddox	Gerard McEvilly
Home Host	Gerard McEvilly	Lorri Evans
Worship Coordinators	Jolyon Bromley Warren Talbot	Larry Keenan  Dawn Robson
Morning Tea	Jac Brown Dave Cahilap Judith Dallas Kevin Dallas Margie Willis	Alexander Carr Lyn Eggins Lionel Robson Warren Talbot Jill Wright
Recycling Team	Warren Talbot Geoff Maddox	John Floyd Gerard McEvilly

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