



Pitt Street
Uniting Church

founded 1833



ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

27 October 2024

23RD 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, 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 / meditation

We gather as the people of God

OPENING SONG

God, the All-Holy

by Brian Wren

(written for Pitt Street Uniting Church)

God, the All-Holy, Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing, new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving, loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing, knitting and blending
joy in desiring, friendship and ease,
make our belonging loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing, Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting in love's embrace,
weaving and mending, make every ending
God's new beginning, glowing with grace.

please remain standing as you are able

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Life is a journey on many different roads
but God is always with us

Sometimes we lift our faces to the sun
and God is with us

But then there are hard journeys
through pathways of pain

and fears in dark places.

But God is with us always.

**Nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

O God who travels with us in the darkness,

You know who we are.

We long for life which is full and free.

We long to know the truth that brings life
and we seek your grace to experience transformation
of all the things which hold us back

silent reflection

We seek to move forward in hope and faith

but the way can seem so dangerous

and we stand in helpless fear

before that which is hidden in our past

and in our future.

Stand beside us, gentle God.

Walk before us, brave Jesus.

Call us into life, Holy Spirit.

SONG (Taizé)

God is forgiveness (sung twice)

God is forgiveness, dare to forgive and God will be with you

God is forgiveness, love and do not fear.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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.

Restless Weaver, ever spinning
threads of justice and shalom;
Dreaming patterns of creation
where all creatures find a home;
Gathering up life's varied fibres
– every texture, every hue:
Grant us your creative vision,
with us weave your world anew.

Where earth's fragile web is unravelling,
help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavours
cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration
– offering health where once was pain –
Strengthen us to be the stewards
of your world knit whole again.

When our violent lust for power
ends in lives abused and torn,
From compassion's sturdy fabric
fashion hope and trust reborn.
Where injustice rules as tyrant,
give us courage, God, to dare
Live our dreams of transformation.
Make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life
– now and yet to be –
Binding all your vast creation
in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers.
Let your love guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern,
we will weave your world anew.

In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognise the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

In response to the words: God of Love
We say together: **Hear our prayer**

We pray especially this week for our own church community and our
AGM, for wisdom and discernment;

and we pray for the following in our wider circle of prayer...

- With the members of the World Council of Churches, we remember the lands and people of Canada and North America. We are thankful for those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans. We pray for indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them.
- In the church we pray for the people and ministries of the Uniting Church congregation of Balmain and their minister, Rev Lorenzo Rodriguez Torres.

pause for silence

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)

God of Love,
Hear our prayer.

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

In a time of silence we especially remember those who have gone before us: our ancestors and forbears; in this land and in those others from which we come; from our families, tribes and traditions; and those who have died in recent times and for whom grief is still so powerful among us.

a time of silence is kept

Let us affirm the power of divine love and the hope of resurrection:

Chant (recorded)

Even death now

words: Hafiz

music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

PRAYER OF JESUS

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 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

please stand as you are able to sing

SONG

Servant Song

TIS 650

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

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time 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 joys and sorrows
'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

*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:

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.**

We go out to the world God loves

PRAYER OF SENDING OUT

Let us go forth in faith:
grounded in the wisdom passed down to us,
and inspired by the good examples
of those who have gone before us.

Let us go forth in the faith of Christ

Let us go forth in love:

renewed by the grace of God
and following the Way of Jesus
with gladness and gentleness
Let us go forth in the love of Christ

Let us go forth in hope:
transformed by the Holy Spirit
and sharing the seeds of God's new creation
with trust and joyfulness.

Let us go forth in the hope of Christ.

Let us go forth in faith, love and hope. **Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN

Go to the world!

words: Sylvia Dunstan
tune: Sine Nomine (For all the Saints)

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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
followed by our AGM Part II***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hymns used under CCLI Copyright Licence No. 208789 unless otherwise noted.

Call to Worship from *Uniting in Worship 2*

Prayers of Confession and Renewal by Dorothy McRae-McMahon.

Jesus Prayer adapted from unknown source.

Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.



AGM Part 2 - Church Council Nominations

The AGM Part 2 is on this Sunday 27 October, after morning tea.

Voting for members to Church Council will take place. There are three positions to be filled. John Floyd, Pam Batkin and David Robinson have accepted nomination. The congregation is invited to reflect, seeking the guidance of the Spirit, on who might serve to lead our congregation to implement its mission and ministry

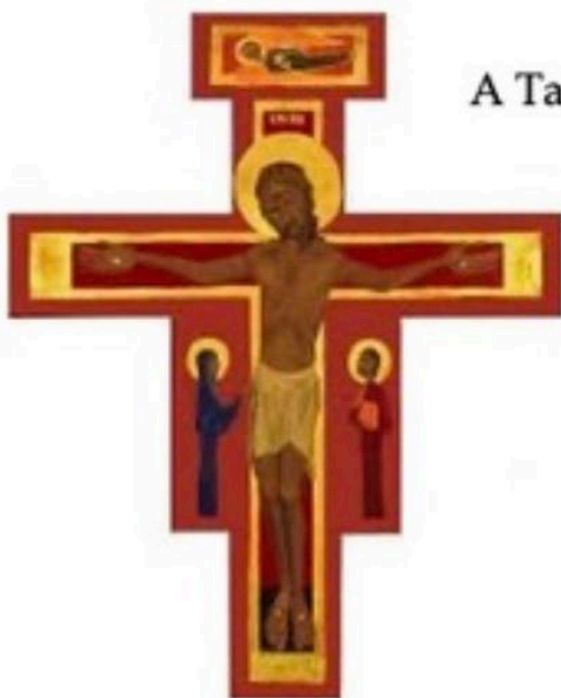
You are invited to

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, 22nd October 2024
7.00pm

Quiet Day

Uniting Church
10-12 Clanwilliam Street
Willoughby

Saturday, 26th October 2024
9.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday Prayer

St James' Anglican Church
173 King Street
Sydney

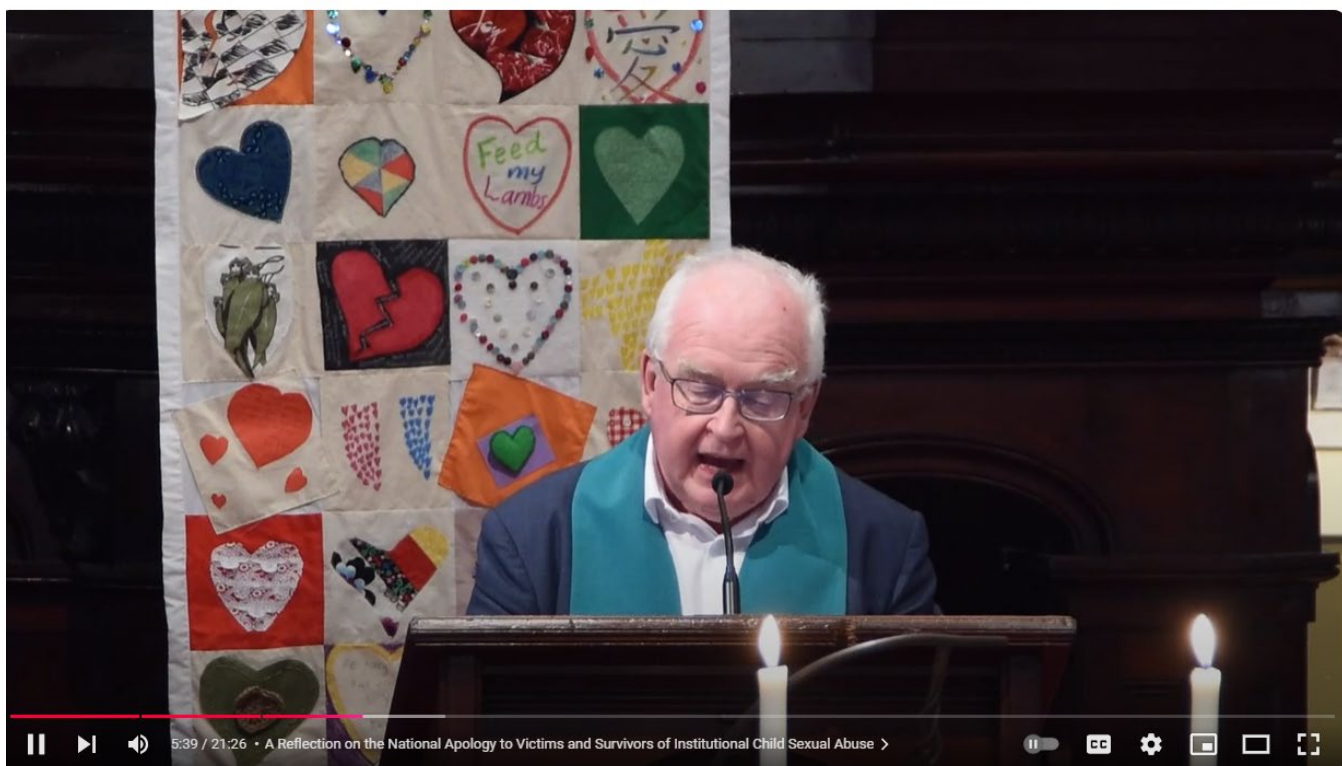
Sunday, 27th October 2024
2.00pm

If you were unable to attend worship last Sunday, remember you can listen and watch past reflections on our Youtube channel.

A reflection on the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse was given by Robert Fitzgerald AM.

Mr Fitzgerald served as Commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Apology was given by the then Prime Minister Hon Scott Morrison MP, on 22nd October 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PittStreetUnitingChurch>



Reflection on the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

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/

Work of the People	Pentecost 23 27 October	Pentecost 24 3 November
Liturgist	John Floyd	Josephine Inkpin
Reflection	Jospehine Inkpin	Penny Jones
Liturgy Curators	Jospehine Inkpin	Josephine Inkpin
Readers	Allison Gentle Lyn Corby	Syd Cole Sue Gehrig
Organist	Peter Bennett	Peter Bennett
Greeters	Jane Barnes Hazel Hogarth	Kent Rayson Barb Kerle
Flowers	Robyn Floyd	Margie Willis
Sound Operator	Orange Kao	Geoff Maddox
Camera Operator	Robyn Floyd	John Floyd
Livestream Monitor	Gerard McEvilly	Onnes Hendrata
Home Host	Lorri Evans	Margie Willis
Worship Coordinators	Larry Keenan Dawn Robson	Judith Dallas Kevin Dallas
Morning Tea	Alexander Carr Lyn Eggins Lionel Robson Warren Talbot Jill Wright	Jacq Salmons Kate Scholl John Thorpe Trish Thorpe Alison Wishart
Recycling Team	John Floyd Gerard McEvilly	Elizabeth Lee Geoff Maddox

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Minister in Placement:	Rev Dr Josephine Inkpin minister@pittstreetuniting.org.au
Church Council Chair:	Kevin Dallas chairperson@pittstreetuniting.org.au
Minister Emerita:	Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon