



**Pitt Street**  
Uniting Church

*founded 1833*



## **ON GADIGAL LAND**

*always was, always will be*

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

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3 November 2024

## **24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



image: *Ruth and Naomi*, by Kelly Latimore

## **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**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Give thanks to God who hears our cries

words: Ruth Duck  
tune: Morning Song

Give thanks to God who hears our cries  
and saves in troubled days  
with wondrous works to humankind  
that call for highest praise.  
Let all who know God's saving love  
sing grateful songs always.

If you have ever wandered where  
no human help was near,  
and in your trouble cried to God,  
who rescued you from fear,  
then thank the God of steadfast love  
who dries your every tear.

If you have ever lived inside  
the prison of your gloom  
and cried to God, who broke your bonds  
and raised you from your tomb,  
then praise the One who sets you free,  
who makes dry places bloom.

*please remain standing as you are able*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

As the kookaburra sings at the beginning and close of day  
**so we acknowledge your love, O God,**  
in the opening and ending times of our lives,  
**and in all moments in between.**  
Dwell among us as you did of old.  
**Grant us to know your enduring presence.**  
Call us into fresh transformations  
**and accompany us on the way.**  
In the strength of Jesus Christ  
**and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 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 justice and renewal.**

*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.**



## 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

words: Robin Mann

tune: Julie Perrin

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 (x3)

## We listen for God's Word

### FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: from Ruth 1.1-18

For the witness of ancient faith  
**Thanks be to God**

### SONG OF RUTH

words: Chris Shelton, tune: Prospect

I shall not leave from by your side;  
where you will live, I shall abide.  
Where you will go, I'll walk with you.  
Where you will sleep, I'll slumber, too.

Your people, I shall call my own:  
flesh of my flesh, and bone of bone;  
and to your God I'll sing my praise,  
the One whose love shall fill our days.

And when, at last, you close your eyes,  
and angels bid your soul to rise,  
my heart shall fly to heaven with you,  
for death cannot such love undo.

May God, who binds us heart to heart,  
abide with us, and never part.  
Though joy or pain may round us roll,  
the love of God shall make us whole.

**A Reading from the Gospels: Mark 12.28-34**

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

**SONG**

Halle, halle, hallelujah

TiS 720

**REFLECTION**

a tricky question

Penny Jones

**We respond in love**

**HYMN**

The call is clear and simple

words: Ruth Duck  
tune: *Passion Chorale*

The call is clear and simple:  
"Love God and humankind".  
But love demands much wisdom  
and clarity of mind.  
"Be wily as a serpent  
though gentle as a dove."  
For many are the dangers  
on the path of love.

God, help us sort our motives,  
that loving may be whole.

High aims or base ambition?  
Compassion or control?  
Then help us clear our schedules  
of every frantic task  
that leads away from doing  
the one thing that you ask.

God, teach us strength and wisdom,  
when false love takes the lead.  
Too well we learn submission  
and silence our own need.  
When others would misuse us  
or lure us t'ward the wrong,  
God temper love with courage  
to keep our bound'ries strong.

O wise and holy Lover,  
teach us as seasons turn,  
to know ourselves and others.,  
deep honest love to learn.  
So may we nurture loving  
in all we say and do,  
in strong and gentle living  
to humankind and you.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY** - led by Lionel Robson

In our wider circles of prayer, we also pray especially this week for...

- The people and nations of Oceania and the stories and bold witness to the impact of climate change. We pray for efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas.
- Here in Sydney we pray for the people and ministries of Mustard Seed Uniting Church at Ultimo and their minister David Gore.

*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.

## **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*

## **HYMN**

Womb of life and source of being

words: Ruth Duck  
tune: In Babilone

Womb of life, and source of being, .  
home of ev'ry restless heart,  
in your arms the worlds awakened;  
you have loves us from the start.  
We, your children, gather 'round you,  
at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories tears and laughter,  
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our sibling Jesus,  
born to bring us second birth,  
you have come to stand beside us,  
knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shares our human struggles,  
Life of Life, and Death of Death,  
risen Christ, come stand among us,  
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;  
be our partner, be our friend.  
When our mem'ry fails, remind us  
whose we are, what we intend.  
Labour with us, aid the birthing



of the new world made new,  
ever singing, ever praising,  
one with all, and one with you.

Mother, Lover, holy Partner;  
Father, Spirit, Holy One:  
we would praise your name forever,  
one-in-three, and three-in-one.  
We would share your life, your passion,  
share your word of world made new,  
ever singing, ever praising,  
one with all, and one with you.

*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.**

## **Holy Communion**

### **WELCOME TO THE TABLE**

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community and all are invited to the table.

All are welcome to participate in the communion, or simply to be present.

In the joy of the Holy Spirit, we gather around this sacred table  
where all are welcomed and the good earth is affirmed.  
From earth's abundance, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.  
**Journeying companions, we share in God's new Creation**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*Eucharist means "thanksgiving." In this meal we give thanks for all that God has done for us, and we offer ourselves back to God. This is a shared thanksgiving and all are invited to stand throughout with the presiding minister as an expression of this. However Christian traditions differ and you may prefer to sit, or kneel, for parts or all of the eucharistic prayer.*

The God of all grace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the God of Love.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
ever-living God, always pregnant with fresh possibilities,  
to proclaim the wonders you have worked in all your saints,  
remembering women of faith at this time,  
including Ruth, Naomi, and Mary, mother of Jesus,  
echoing their faithful love and praise of your loving kindness.

**For you have truly done great things, and holy is your name,  
and your mercy is on those who fear you in every generation.**

Through Christ the hosts of heaven adore you  
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs in the triumphant hymn of praise:

**Sanctus**

TiS 761

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and love,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is our sibling Jesus, the Bearer of Peace,  
who walks with us in the spirit of life,  
who, after a meal with friends,  
took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'This is my body which is for you  
Do this to remember me'

In the same way, after supper, Jesus also took the cup, and said:

‘This cup is the cup of the new covenant,  
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.’

Come now disturbing Spirit  
breathe and transform these earthly things and make us one.  
Open our eyes, unlock our hearts, empower us here;  
Heal, in us and our world, all which needs healing,  
transforming despair into hope,  
that we may go out with power to release peace in the world.

## **SUNG AMEN**

### **THE BREAKING OF BREAD**

We break this bread  
**that all may be fed and renewed in one body.**

As we eat this living bread and drink the new wine of divine love,  
let us celebrate the Spirit of God among us,  
creating, re-creating, and sanctifying

**With divine tenderness you remake us.**

**By transforming pain, you heal us –**

**Your passionate energy empowers us.**

### **PRAYER OF JESUS**

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, may we share in that renewal  
helping, and not harming, caring, and not coercing.**

**May we receive with thanks  
the bread and 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.**

*The bread of life. The cup of blessing.*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is made ready.

*In sharing communion we are invited to gather in a circle*

*As we share the gifts with each other we say the words  
“The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.”*

*If you do not wish to take communion, you are still most welcome  
to join the circle, or feel free to remain in your seat.*

**SONG** (during communion)

*This is My Body* by Sue Young (recording)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

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**

### **HERITAGE HYMN**

Love divine

Tis 217

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

### **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.**

**Prayers of Confession and Renewal by Dorothy McRae-McMahon.**

**Jesus Prayer adapted from unknown source.**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted  
from Church of England liturgy for the Visitation.**

**Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkin.**

## 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 24 3 November	Pentecost 25 10 November
Liturgist	Josephine Inkpin	Jolyon Bromley
Reflection	Penny Jones	Josephine Inkpin
Liturgy Curators	Josephine Inkpin	Josephine Inkpin
Readers	Syd Cole Sue Gehrig	Sue McEvelly Gerard McEvelly
Organist	Peter Bennett	Ross Johnston
Greeters	Kent Rayson Barbara Kerle	Lyn Eggins Barbara Dutton
Flowers	Margie Willis	Dawn Robson
Sound Operator	Geoff Maddox	John Floyd
Camera Operator	John Floyd	Cathy Ashcroft
Livestream Monitor	Onnes Hendrata	Ron Rocio/Orange Kao
Home Host	Margie Willis	Jo Bowen
Worship Coordinators	Judith Dallas Kevin Dallas	Helen Sanderson Warren Talbot
Communion Team	Robyn Floyd Elizabeth Lee	
Morning Tea	Jacq Salmons Kate Scholl John Thorpe Trish Thorpe Alison Wishart	Jane Barnes Hazel Hogarth Meredith Knight Wes Knight Craig Linn
Recycling Team	Elizabeth Lee Geoff Maddox	Gerard McEvelly Warren Talbot

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