



Pitt Street
Uniting Church

founded 1833



ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

12 January 2025

1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

(THE BAPTISM OF JESUS)



Icon by Jerzy Nowosielski (Polish, 1923-2011), *The Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan*, 1964

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

We gather as the people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Dare to Speak Love's Name

Words: Josephine Inkipin

Tune: Dare to be a Daniel

Celebrate God's Spirit here.
Cast out any shame!
Come from places far and near.
We gather in Love's Name.

Dare to be Christ's lover!
Dare to own God's truth.
Dare to share our rainbow light.
We dare to speak Love's Name.

Treasure Faith which transforms strife,
God's grace to reclaim:
Queering stories which bring life
We're dreaming in Love's Name!

Dare to be Christ's lover!

Standing up for life and joy,
kindling hope's bright flame,
changing all that can destroy,
we amplify Love's Name.

Dare to be Christ's lover!

Please remain standing as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of all righteousness,
we give thanks for your life-giving grace
as you come among us through Jesus Christ,
baptised by John in the river Jordan,
help us share your love this morning.

Open the heavens to us
and pour out your Holy Spirit
so that we may live as your beloved children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the ancient Spirit of this Country,
the Gadigal of the Eora, and their elders past and present,
the first inhabitants of this land: land taken without consent or treaty.
***As we travel into this new year together,
we recommit to walk with First Peoples for justice,
and give thanks for their custodianship of country.***

Please be seated.

BUDYERI GAMMARUWA – GREETINGS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*We light the Christ candle to celebrate the light of God,
which is manifest in the world in the birth of Jesus.*

Christ, you are the Light of the world
growing life and love from creation's birth.

The Christ candle is lit.

We thank you for the gifts of new creation,
and the renewal of your love that never fails.

***We pray for all your world
that today even in the darkest corners
your lamp may be lit
and your light may shine
giving joy and peace. Amen.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the face of our human fear and anxiety, loss and grief,
In the midst of pain and suffering, trauma and thwarted hopes,
In a world of war and destruction, cruelty and oppression,
we pray that the Light of God may renew our lives and world:

we share a time of silent reflection

Where we have failed to love ourselves as God loves us

Let there be light and new life

Where we have failed to love others as fellow children of God

Let there be peace and renewed relationship

Where we have failed to give birth to divine life within us

Let there be joy and new birth.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Like a loving parent with their child,
God seeks to embrace and empower us,
making sacred our flesh and inspiring us with divine light.
Through the peace of Christ,
may we know God's mercy and renewing grace,
now and always. ***Amen.***

Stand as you are able to sing

GLORIA (Taizé)

(sing twice)

Gloria, gloria (canon)

♩. = 80

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex-cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: J. Berthier
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté

Please remain standing

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Christ is our peace, the presence and power of new creation.
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

Source for Diversity

Words: Josephine Inkpin

Tune: Slane TiS 547

Source of Diversity, Giver of Life,
You create wonder and transform our strife.
Within all our bodies – sex, gender, and shape –
give us Love's energy to inspire and re-shape.

Bearer of Suffering, Breath-giving Grace,
You are still broken in each oppressed face.
Out of our struggles, our hurts and false norms,
grant us the power which renews and re-forms.

Soul force of all genders, O Spirit of Love,
You give us freedom to soar like a dove.
In our transitions, our healing, and hope,
flow through our being, rich Kaleidoscope.

Pathway of Mystery, Journey of Joy,
You thrive in difference that does not destroy.
In our life's changes help us rejoice.
Glittering siblings with your divine voice.

We listen for God's Word

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

A Contemporary Reading: 'You Are Accepted' by Paul Tillich

For divine love and truth in modern expression
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Christ is our light!

Tune: Woodlands TiS 161

Christ is our light! The bright and morning star
covering with radiance all from near and far.
Christ be our light: shine on, shine on, we pray
into our hearts, into our world today.

Christ is our love! Baptised that we may know
the love of God among us, sweeping low.
Christ be our love: bring us to turn our face
and see in you the light of love's embrace.

Christ is our joy! Transforming wedding guest!
Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.
Christ be our joy; your glory let us see
as your disciples did in Galilee.

A Reading from the Gospels: from Luke chapter 3, verses 15-17 and 21-22

For the light of God revealed in Christ
Thanks be to God.

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

REFLECTION

Jo Clifford with Josephine Inkpin

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

As we remember the Baptism of Jesus,
and the revelation of the Beloved One,
we turn to God, praying in the strength of the Holy Spirit:
Loving God in your mercy
hear our prayer.

For the universal Church,
that all who have been baptised will be inspired by the Holy Spirit
to live in love and bear fruits of peace and joy.

Loving God, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

For all those who fear and struggle for meaning and purpose,
that they may open their hearts to deep trust and find healing.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For peace with justice throughout the world,
that all people will turn from hatred to love
and from violence to peace.

Loving God, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

For a true spirit of humility and life-giving encouragement,
that in our prayers, words and deeds,
we may always point away from ourselves
and towards the living Christ.

Loving God, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

For the sick, the lonely, the housebound and the vulnerable,
that, in the midst of their suffering and struggles,
they will experience the loving strength of Christ.

Loving God, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Open the heavens, Loving God,
and pour out your Spirit upon your people.
Renew in us the grace of Baptism
so that we may reflect ever more faithfully
the image of your Beloved One, Jesus the Christ.

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 Light and new beginnings,
help us trust in your Love as we travel into this New Year.

***Renew in us a thirst for justice,
a cherishing of the earth and the oceans,
the wisdom of restraint,
and a deep desire for the common good. Amen.***

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 every fibre,
flowing in and beyond the stars,
may we rejoice in your ever-renewing life.
May your love flourish, may your peace be known,
in all beings and becomings.
Sustain us in what we need.
Transform the suffering we inflict,
as we transform the suffering we endure.
Free us from all that crushes joy,
and keep us from unbearable pain.
Let your way be our journey, your truth our story,
and your life our coming home, now and always. Amen.*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Let us share our offerings as an expression of our response to God's love.

Please stand to sing as you are able.

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.

HERITAGE HYMN Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

TIS 569

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

*Please remain standing as you are able as the offering
is carried forward.*

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for God's grace
and as signs of our commitment to God's unfolding love.

***Giver of all good things, may our offerings contribute
to the coming of your vision in all its fullness.***

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We go out to the world God loves

PRAYER OF SENDING OUT

Light of Creation, Emerging Love, healer of suffering,
in every moment Your transfiguring grace
breaks forth in fresh and surprising ways,
calling us to share your peace and reconciliation.

In our and all beings in their diverse expressions
May we celebrate abundant living.

In the hopes and groanings of our planet
May we explore new creation.

In the midst of violent struggles for life
May we find reconciling peace.

In our longings in their soul-imaginings
May we experience deep prayer.

In the tumults and oppressions of our world
May we affirm true justice.

And in the kaleidoscope of our differences
May we know rich communion.

BLESSING

SONG

Sing loud and proud

Words: Josephine Inkpin

Tune: Ode to Joy TiS 152

Sing loud and proud,
God loves us all!
Created wonderfully.
Let each live out
our call to life,
and all our genders thrive;
and all our genders thrive;
and Love, and all our genders thrive.

Sing queer and straight,
Blessed and diverse!
We each show forth God's face.
Let all bear light,
peace, faith, and hope,
and care and mercy show;
and care and mercy show;
and Love, and care and mercy show.

Sing high and low,
in joyful praise:
a rainbow full of grace.
Let every form
shine forth with strength,
and truth, and justice share;
and truth, and justice share;
and Love, and truth, and justice share.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Ross Johnston

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Christa/community is used in our liturgy to point to the reality that the risen Christ is beyond gender and evidenced in communities following the Way that the human Jesus chartered.

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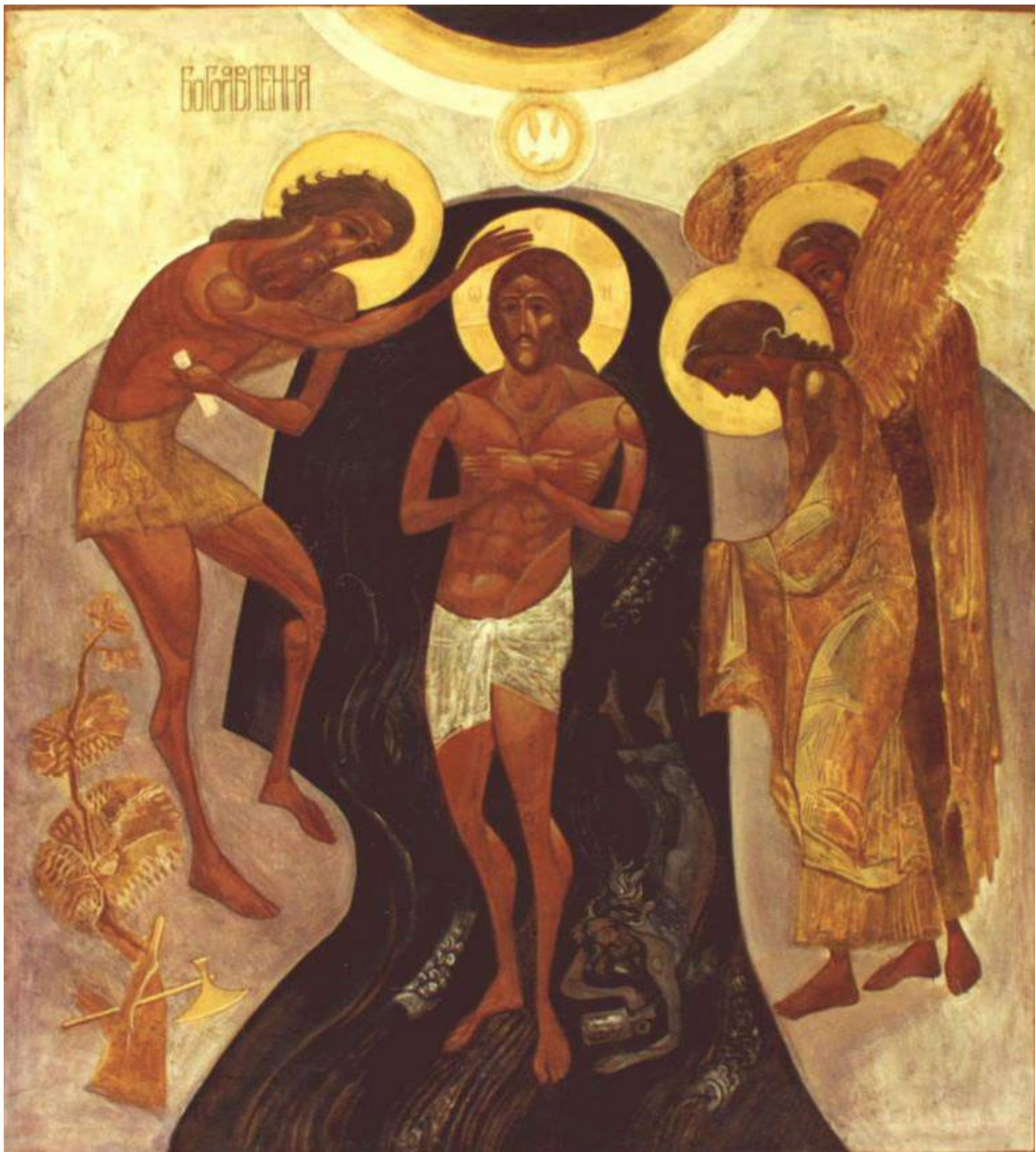
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity adapted from Prayer of the Faithful at

<https://cliftondiocese.com>

Other Prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin

A Reflection – on today's Gospel and the icons in this liturgy sheet –will be found at

<https://www.penandinkreflections.org>



Icon by Lyuba Yatskiv (Ukrainian, 1977–)



Ivanka Demchuk (Ukrainian, 1990–), *Baptism of Christ*, 2015. Mixed media, canvas & wood.

FROM SKYLARK TO EVENSONG

A SONGBOOK OF HOURS



JANUARY 25TH
6:30PM

PITT ST. UNITING CHURCH

Experience an evening of stunning choral music celebrating the canonical hours, in a captivating programme inspired by the Slavonic tradition. Enjoy timeless masterpieces by Kalinnikov, Tsupryk, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and others!

Conductor - Sarah Penicka-Smith.

Buy tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/siv25>



Retreat Day: Savouring the Fruits of Summer

Saturday 8 February 10.00am to 4.00pm. St Joseph's Baulkham Hills,
33 Barina Downs Road, Norwest.

**Eremos Inaugural 2025 gathering (Online):
"Martuwarra: Living Water"**

Sunday 9 March 3 - 4:30 pm (AEDT)

Building on the 2024 Listening to Country Series, our inaugural gathering for 2025 is led by elder, academic, community leader and passionate advocate Professor Anne Poelina. Her address will explore the Martuwarra (Fitzroy River) as one of Earth's last great river systems.

For more information and to register for these events, go to:

<https://www.eremos.org.au/events>