



**Pitt Street**  
Uniting Church

*founded 1833*



## **ON GADIGAL LAND**

*always was, always will be*

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

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26 January 2025

## **3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

### **MARKING THE DAY OF MOURNING**



***The story of Christ's presence amongst First Peoples of these lands.***

Artwork by Zoe Belle, Guwa Koa and Kuku Yalanji woman

## **Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church**

This is a place of welcome for all people 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.

All we ask for is mutual respect.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold italics***.  
We will sing 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 people of faith**

*Clap sticks are sounded – one-minute silence for centring  
prayer/meditation.*

*Clap sticks are sounded again.*

## **ACT OF RECOGNITION**

*(from the back of the church prior to the procession read by the liturgist)*

Today, 26 January 2025, we are marking the Day of Mourning. We acknowledge the Gadigal elders past and present, upon whose land the Pitt Street Uniting Church stands. This is the sovereign and unceded country of the Gadigal, the People of the Grasstree. This country came into the church's possession by deceitful, murderous and immoral means. We acknowledge the continuing sovereignty of the Gadigal over this country and the rights and responsibilities of the Gadigal elders, past and present, to care for it according to the wisdom passed down over more than four thousand generations. We give thanks for the ancestors who formed this land and gifted it to the Gadigal to care for.

***We commit ourselves to work and to pray towards a more just settlement for all Indigenous people.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is alive amongst all of creation.

***The sounds of the rivers in motion, the waves of the seas.***

***The scents of the gum trees and native flowers on the winds.***

You made the earth to give us life and daily sustenance and it is on Country that we find a place to retreat and walk alongside you in whispering conversation.

***Today we come together, and we bring our full voices, to lift them in praise of our triune God.***

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;

***may our hearts join the beat of her joy,***

for our God is with us:

***the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.***

Jesus, the Christ, walks beside and before us.

***The Spirit moves within and between us.***

Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETINGS**

***Budyeri Gammarruwa***

The God of all justice, the God of all peace, be with you all.

***And also with you.***

We light the Christ candle, recognising that Christ's presence was in Country from time immemorial.

**HYMN**

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

TiS 179

Praise with joy the world's creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
force of goodness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.

Praise the One who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –  
foolishness none dare deride.

## **TRUTH-TELLING AND AN INVITATION**

*Transcript from the Healing Foundation Intergenerational Trauma Video.*

*We share a minute's silence.*

## **LAMENT AND CONFESSION**

Merciful God,  
we, the Second Peoples of this land,  
acknowledge with sorrow the injustice and abuse that has so often  
marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.

Voice 1: We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which their land was  
taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised  
and suppressed.

Voice 2: We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which the Christian  
church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively  
involved in it.

Voice 3: We acknowledge with sorrow that in our own time the  
injustice and abuse has continued.

***We have been indifferent when we should have been outraged,  
we have been apathetic when we should have been active,  
we have been silent when we should have spoken out.***

Gracious God, forgive us for our failures, past and present.  
***By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts so that we may  
boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.***  
Through Jesus, the Christ.  
***Amen.***

## TAIZÉ CHANT

TIS 735

***Kyrie, Kyrie eleison  
Christe, Christe, eleison  
Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.***

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Water for First Peoples is always a sign of God's peace and fulfilment in everything that is good. The promise of food, of harmony with ourselves, and the creation around us.

At the very beginning Creator God blessed the waters, God's great gift to us and renewed in this water here today.

God who hovered over the waters, invites us to 'come to the water' to drop our heavy burdens of lament and confession.

God forgives.

Hear then the words of forgiveness to us all and know you are set free.

You are now invited to come forward and take a stone from the Coolamon and drop them into the water of healing and life.

## CHANT (recorded or on piano)

Trish Watts

Deep\_ wa - ters flow - ing, call - ing all to fol - low,  
watch - ing, list - 'ning, wait - ing, si - lence finds a home.

***Deep waters flowing, calling all to follow.  
Watching, list'ning, waiting; silence finds a home.***

Go now and live as my reconciled people. In the name of Christ,  
***Thanks be to God.***

## **SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
***And also with you.***

*We are invited to share a sign of peace with others.*

## **HYMN**

Restless Weaver

Words: O I Cricket Harrison

Tune: Holy Manna

Restless Weaver, ever spinning  
threads of justice and shalom;  
dreaming patterns of creation  
where all creatures find a home;  
gath'ring 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 rav'ling  
help us mend each broken strand.  
Bless our urgent, bold endeavours  
cleansing water, air, and land.  
Through the Spirit's inspiration,  
off'ring health where once was pain,  
strengthen us to be the stewards  
of your world knit whole again.

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

**A Contemporary Reading:** Excerpt from the Revised Preamble of the  
Constitution of the Uniting Church – Uniting Church in Australia National  
Assembly July 2009

For invitations that come from truth-telling and truth-listening.  
***We give thanks.***

**HYMN****Restless Weaver**

Words: O I Cricket Harrison

Tune: Holy Manna

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.

**A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 4:14-21**

For the proclamation of God's pathway of love and justice.

*We give thanks.*

**REFLECTION**

Aunty Karen Brown

*A time of silent reflection follows*

**HYMN****The Summons**

Words &amp; Music: John Bell &amp; Graham Maule

Tune: Kelvingrove TiS 679

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?

Oh 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.

## **We respond in love**

### **PRAYERS OF SOLIDARITY**

Biyanga, Wiyanga,  
Mugung God, (father, mother, lover – Jakelin Troy, *The Sydney Language*)  
on this day we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
people throughout Australia.  
We turn to you in prayer as we commit ourselves to journeying  
together in the spirit of faith.

***Fill our hearts with Love and Compassion.***

We pray for all leaders in this Great Southern Land, that they may  
respect and accept the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage,  
and provide truth, justice, peace, unity and equity for all.

***Fill our hearts with Love and Compassion.***

We ask for the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we  
may build a better future for our nation. Help us to bring about spiritual  
and social change to improve the quality of life for all peoples living  
with disadvantage.

***Fill our hearts with Love and Compassion.***



We pray for all Elders, those who are sick, the dying, the imprisoned, those who are lost and suffering – we ask for your protection, healing and mercy for all.

***Fill our hearts with Love and Compassion.***

We ask for the resolution and commitment to walk together as First and Second Peoples; and build our families, communities and our nation.

***Fill our hearts with Love and Compassion.***

We hold a time of silence together to offer our own prayers, to reflect upon what has been in our media headlines and whatever rests heavy on our hearts...

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

We offer these prayers and all the prayers of our hearts.

***May the peace of Christ bring hope and renewal. Amen.***

## **JESUS AND MARY PRAYER**

*In these words of those of our own tradition and language, we pray in the spirit of Jesus:*

***God, you are life for us.  
Holy be your name.  
Your new day come, your will be done,  
on earth as in your vision.  
Give us this day our bread for the morrow:  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the power and the splendour  
and the fulfilment are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.***

## OFFERING

In response to the call of God  
we bring gifts of thanksgiving and solidarity,  
to share God's hope and love in our lives and world,  
remembering especially at this time those whose work empowers  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*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.

## HYMN

God of earth and all creation

TiS 672

God of earth and all creation  
let your love possess this land;  
wealth and freedom, far horizons,  
mountain, forest, shining sand:  
may we share, in faith and friendship,  
gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient Dreamtime,  
they who found this country first,  
ask with those, the later comers,  
will our dream be blessed or cursed?  
Grant us, Christ, new birth, new living,  
hope for which our children thirst.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

***Source and Bearer of Life,  
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 GREETINGS

# We go out to the world God loves

## PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Let us go from here to live out the covenant into which we, the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered with one another.  
Confront and challenge injustice wherever you see it.  
Act justly yourselves and insist that others do the same.  
Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them.  
Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share.  
Commit to worship, witness and serve as one people.  
And may the God of love,  
always creating, redeeming, sanctifying,  
be with us now and always.  
*Amen.*

## SONG OF BLESSING

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, In the name of Christ ...

## MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Greg Woolnough

*Those attending onsite are warmly encouraged  
to stay for refreshment.  
Those on Zoom are warmly invited to stay for a community time  
online to meet with others and share news.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

\*Christa and/or Christx is sometimes used in our liturgy to point to the reality that the risen Christ is in and beyond all gender and evidenced as we follow the Way of Jesus.

Acknowledgement of Country: adapted from Garry Worete Deverell, *Contemplating Country: More Gondwana Theology*, Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2023, 82.

Call to Worship adapted from UCA Day of Mourning 2025 (Kym Korbe) and 2022 Resources. Truth-Telling & Invitation, Transcript from Intergenerational Trauma Animation by Healing Foundation [healingfoundation.org.au](http://healingfoundation.org.au)

Prayers of Lament & Confession, Words of Assurance, Prayers of Solidarity, and Prayer of Commissioning from UCA Assembly 2025 Day of Mourning resources (adapted).

Deep Waters by Trisha Watts, in *Sanctuary: Where Heaven Touches Earth*, by Trisha Watts and Gabrielle Lord, Willow Publishing, 2005, 202.

A Contemporary Reading - Excerpt from the Revised Preamble of the Constitution of the Uniting Church – Uniting Church in Australia Nation Assembly July 2009.

Jesus and Mary Prayer from unknown source.

TiS is the Australian Hymn Book *Together in Song*.

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### **Sunday 23 February Quarterly Luncheon 11.30am - after Worship**

Bring a plate and enjoy a time of fellowship at our first Quarterly Luncheon for 2025.

Mark the date in your diary and join this community time over a meal.