



Pitt Street
Uniting Church

founded 1833



ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

16 February 2025

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany



Proudly supporting Sydney Mardi Gras 2025

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 people of faith

GATHERING SONG Let us build a house Words & Music: Marty Haugen

Let us build a house
where love can dwell
and all can safely live:
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true:
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and a symbol of God's grace.
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Please remain standing as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come let us celebrate Love in all its fullness!

Come let us rejoice in infinite mystery.

Gathering in wonder and divine diversity.

Come let us embrace embodied holiness.

Dreaming divine dreams of peace and justice.

Come let us share deep tenderness and courageous strength.

Magnifying divine light and love for all.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ candle is lit as we remember the light of God's Love shining
even in the darkness of deep pain and shame.*

God alive among us, present in every expression of love,

Light of the World, be with us all.

ACT OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT

As we gather, we acknowledge that the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the original custodians of the land on which we stand.

We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to pray and work for a more just future.

We acknowledge the enduring sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands, seas, knowledge, kinship systems, and community wisdom, in these lands we now call Australia.

We bear witness to their deep knowledge, diversity and resilience.

Please be seated.

GREETINGS

Budyeri Gamarruwa

PRAYER FOR THIS SYDNEY MARDI GRAS SEASON

Loving Source,
empowering Sibling,
and transforming Spirit,
You delight in sexual and gender diversity,
and desire that all may flourish.

***Gather us together in Love and Pride;
dream dreams of new life through us:
and amplify our voices for justice, peace
and the healing of all Creation. Amen.***

PRAYER OF AWARENESS AND RENEWAL

Let us hold in silence the pain and hurt of our lives and world:

In the face of denials of love,
destruction of lives, and deprivation of liberties

***We pray to the God of Love
to be renewed as angels of Compassion.***

In the experiences of continuing oppressions,
challenges of abuse and complicit silence,

***We pray to the God of Love
to be renewed as angels of Courage.***

In the midst of shame and suffering;
doubts and despair, hurt and hate,

***We pray to the God of Love
to be renewed as angels of Joy.***

Shine upon us, now O Holy One,
that we might see your light,
among us, within us, and all around us.

TAIZE CHANT

Jesus your light

(sung twice)

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us. Let not my doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me. Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us. Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.

Jesus, your light is shining within us
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Jesus, your light is shining within us
Let my heart always welcome your love.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May we know that we are each created in God's image:
fearfully and wonderfully made;
eternally embraced by love; called into divine life.
Let us be people of courage, compassion and joy
knowing that we are forgiven and renewed!

Thanks be to God.

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Christ/a/x is our Peace, reconciling us together with all Creation.
May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We are invited to share a sign of peace with others

We listen for God's Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: from Jeremiah 17:5-10

For words of insight in our ancient traditions of faith

We give thanks.

SONG

Halle, halle, hallelujah

TIS 720 (*sung twice*)

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

A Reading from the Gospels: from Luke 6:17-26

For words of life and inspiration in scripture

We give thanks.

REFLECTION with SONGS

Gabi Cadenhead and Mikali Anagnostis

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Let us pray:

Kaleidoscopic God,
who dances with Courage in creating new life,
full of Compassion for all, source of infinite Joy,
we give thanks for all that displays your light
and helps transfigure our lives and world.

***Gather us in your Love,
dream your renewing dreams through us
and Magnify your Light.***

Living Christ
as the kookaburra heralds dawn and dusk
with loud cry and joyous cacophony
may we celebrate transitions and light
Coming out with pride and delight.

Holy Christ
as the platypus finds food in dark waters
with closed eyes and sixth sense
may we rejoice in uniqueness and singularity
Revelling in human diversity and multiplicity.

Enduring Christ
as the wombat flies against gravity
with determination and resolve
may we fight for justice and truth
Matching power with love and grace.

Vigilant Christ
as the pelican plunge dives for fish
with accuracy and precision
may we watch and work together
Bringing dreams of the impossible to birth.

Nurturing Christ
as the kangaroo carries their young
with balance and speed
may we protect our young ones
Inspiring hope and fostering growth.

Playful Christ
as the rainbow lorikeet brings joy and spectacle
with brilliant colours and flashing hues
may we dance and sing
Praising You with fullness of being.

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 feel free to offer your own prayers
in silence, or, if on Zoom, via the chat facility.*

JESUS PRAYER

*In the spirit of Jesus we gather up all our prayers and say, in these words
or those of our own language and tradition:*

***Intimate Lover,
Your touch is holy, your kiss divine:
for through your Love
we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
May the heart of your Being inspire the hearts of all beings,
your life-going Body embrace our bodies,
and your Spirit breathe joy into our world.
Give us justice and mercy
as we give justice and mercy to others.
Preserve us from betrayals of trust
and deliver us from oppression.***

***And may the blissful ecstasy of your presence
echo through all times and places,
speaking your Word of Love. Amen.***

OFFERING

In response to the call of God
we bring gifts of thanksgiving and solidarity,
to share God's peace and love in our lives and world.

SONG

Christ, Be Our Light

Words & Music: Bernardette Farrell

In deepest night, shadows are lifted
now let your servant go forth in peace
Your word fulfilled, your promise honoured
Love that will never cease!

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

With our own eyes, we see salvation
within our hearts, we are set free.
Your Word made flesh, hope of the nations
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.*

Christ, be our hope! Christ, be our purpose!
Christ, be our vision, radiant and bright!
Christ, be our Way, shatt'ring our blindness
Gifting us with your sight!

Christ, be our light! ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Source, Bearer and Joy 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 NEWS

We go out to the world God loves

SENDING OUT AND BLESSING

May we know God's Courage in our lives
and share the strength of Love with all that struggles.

May we know Christ's Compassion in our hearts
and share the gentleness of Love with all that needs healing.

May we know Spirit's Joy in our souls
and share the mystery of Love with all that seeks to flourish.

And may the blessing of the God of Love:
empowering, embracing, enlivening,
be with us all and with all that exists, now and always. Amen.

SONG

We are a rainbow

Words: David Kai Tune: Slocan

(tune named after a camp where Canadians of Japanese descent were interned in the 2nd World War)

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

*We are a rainbow, a sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place.

*We are a rainbow, a sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

*We are a rainbow, a sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

SUNG AMEN

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Peter Bennett

*Those attending in Pitt Street are warmly invited to stay for
refreshments*

*Those attending by Zoom are warmly invited to stay for a
community time online to meet with others and share news*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*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 the human Jesus chartered.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Solidarity by Penny Jones.

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Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.



**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.



Pancake Pride 2025 - An ecumenical celebration of queer faith!
4 March 2025
5.30pm – 8.30pm

Rainbow Christians Together is delighted to invite you to an evening of community and fellowship - with delicious pancakes, wonderful music, moving reflections and fabulous people from across Sydney's diverse Christian traditions and cultures. This year, we will be hosted by our siblings' at **St Stephen's Uniting Church + Crave Metropolitan Community Church**.

Register at

<https://events.humanitix.com/pancake-pride-2025-an-ecumenical-celebration-of-queer-faith>