



Pitt Street
Uniting Church

founded 1833



ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – JUSTICE – ENGAGING – COMMUNITY

2 March 2025

Transfiguration
Last Sunday in Epiphany

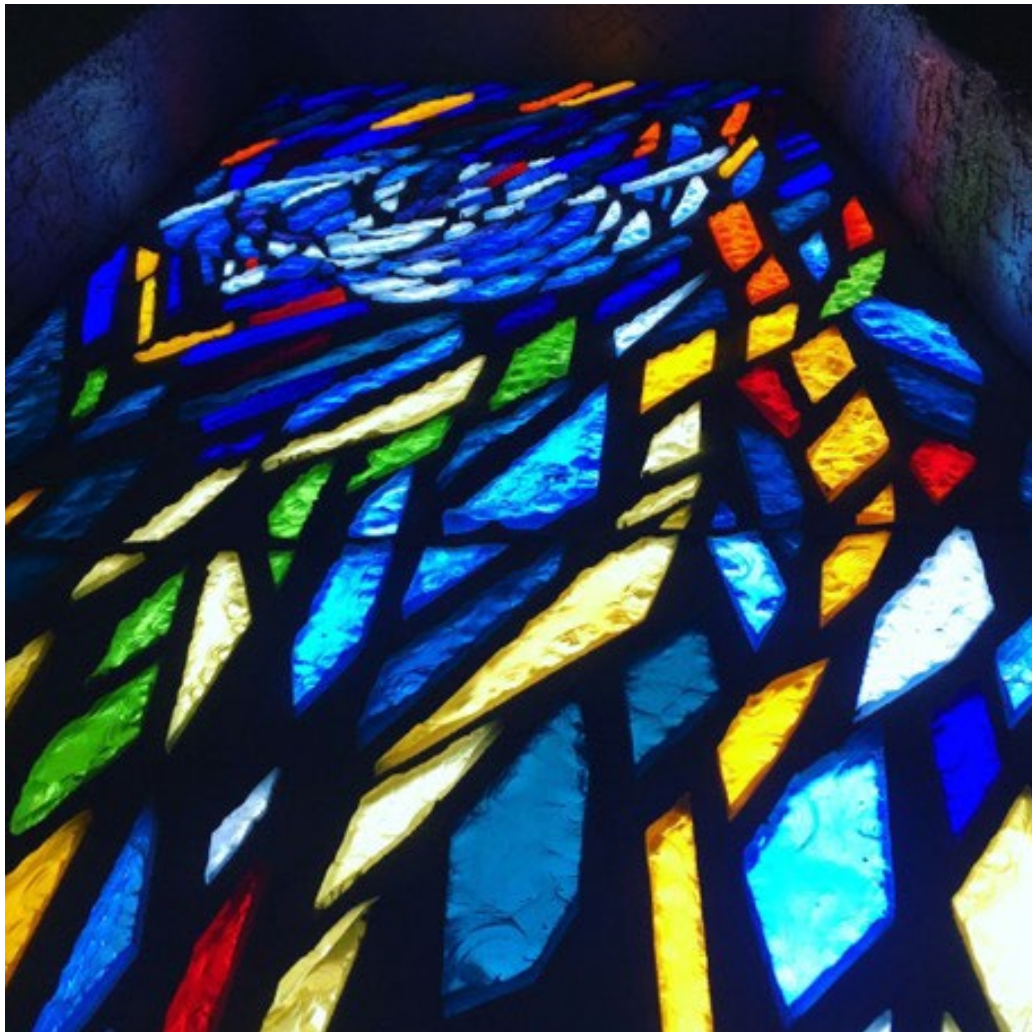


image: by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, courtesy of *Words for Worship*
Proud supporters of Sydney Mardi Gras 2025

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 Here in this place new light is streaming

TiS 474

Here in this place new light is streaming
now is the darkness vanished away
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
gather us in, the blind and the lame
call to us now and we shall awaken
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery
we are the old who yearn for your face
we have been sung throughout all of history
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
gather us in, the proud and the strong
give us a heart so meek and so lowly
give us the courage to enter the song.

ACT OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT

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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we come to the end of our Epiphany season,
we celebrate the transfiguring light of God among us:

O Laughing Light of all creation,
you are the flame burning within,
the beacon on the horizon,
the radiance in all creation,
the bright idea apprehending us,
the sparkling in the eyes of our loved ones,
the uncreated light that is lighting all.

Transfigure us, this very day,
as we open into the radiance of the Christ
in each other, in song, in word, in witness.
May this be the day of our enlightenment,
when we see with clarity
the sacred life we are called to manifest.

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.

Here we will take the wine and the water
here we will take the bread of new birth
here you shall call your friends and your lovers
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
give us to eat the bread that is you
nourish us well and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining
not in some heaven light years away
but here in this place the new light is shining
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever
gather us in and make us your own
gather us in, all peoples together
fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

GREETINGS

Budyeri Gamarruwa

PRAYERS 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 complicity 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 a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece is marked with a '3' above the second measure and a '7' above the seventh measure, indicating the number of times the phrase is repeated. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 is our Peace, reconciling us together with all creation.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We are invited to share a sign of peace with others

HERITAGE HYMN Immortal, invisible, God only wise

TIS 143

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Wellspring of glory, pure Fountain of light,
thine angels adore thee, veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

We listen for God's Word

A Reading from the Gospels: from Luke 9:28-43

For the expression of divine glory in scripture

We give thanks.

PITT STREET SINGERS *Alleluia* from *O God, Thou Art my God*, by Purcell

A Contemporary Reading: *Transfiguration* by Malcolm Guite

For divine light in contemporary expression
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

The Rev Carolyn Thornley

A time of silent reflection follows

We respond in love

HYMN

Transfiguration Carol

Words: Sylvia Dunstan

Tune: Picardy TiS 497

Transform us, as you, transfigured,
stood apart on Tabor's height,
lead us up our sacred mountains.
Search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us, as you, transfigured,
once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness
of those saints whose work is done,
live in this world as your Body,
chosen lovers, chosen friends.

Transform us, as you, transfigured,
would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation
time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
where our love is not confined.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

On communion Sundays members of the congregation prepares a prayer. The person reflects on our community and our world during the week and offers a prayer that they have written.

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.

HYMN

Great God, you love has called us here

Tune: Melita TiS 138

Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.
Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray:

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.***

Holy Communion

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community
and all are invited to the table in the loving invitation of God.
Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come
from, you are welcome to participate in the communion.
This sacred meal is for all people.*

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Love of God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them in joyful offering.

Let us give thanks for the gift of divine light among us.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Holy God of holy relationships,
we give thanks that all things
are brought into being through your love.

We rejoice in your abiding love.

Through your Spirit you bring sacred life,
embodied in our bodies and experiences
and calling us into deeper harmony and fruitfulness.

We rejoice in your abiding love.

In Jesus Christ you bring us into new relationship,
showing us the paths of peace and reconciliation
and bearing the cost of pain and renewal.
We rejoice in your abiding love.

And so, we join in celebration of your divine love:

Remain seated to sing.

***Santo, santo, santo,
mi corazón te adora!
mi corazón te sabe decir:
santo eres Señor!***

***Holy, holy, holy,
our hearts, our hearts adore you!
Our hearts are glad to say to you:
you are holy, God.***

1. San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart my heart a - dores you! My

5
co - ra - zón te sabe de - cir: San - to eres Di - os!
heart knows how to say to you: You are the Holy One!

On the night of their great passion,
Jesus took the bread, gave thanks,
broke it, gave it to the disciples,
connecting each to the single loaf, saying:

This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Afterwards, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it to their disciples,
inviting them to be renewed in the love of God, saying:

Drink from this all of you,
this is my blood of the new relationship,
poured out for you and for many for the renewal of all.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Loving God,
You give us hope through your new creation:
in emerging love and life and fresh promise for the future.
Your love will be fulfilled.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
on your people here
and on these gifts of the field and of the vine.
May this cup and this bread be for us
the Body and Blood of Christ.
***Renew in us your light of transformation,
so that all may grow in your love and grace!***

All this we pray in the name of the Holy One,
who is both host and guest among us.

SUNG AMEN

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
***Though we are many, we are one Body
because we share in the one bread.***

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Share as one body and one vine.

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

A time of silent reflection.

We go out to the world God loves

PRAYER FOR TRANSFIGURING LIFE

Remake us as sacraments of the Holy,
that we might embrace our calling:
to see with new eyes,
reach out with gentle hands,
imagine with transformed minds,

be still with hallowed presence,
and be filled with grateful prayers.
In the name of the Transfigured One, we pray.
Amen.

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 the 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.

HYMN

All the colours of the rainbow

Words: Carl P Daw Jnr
Tune: Abbot's Leigh TiS 153

All the colours of the rainbow
live unseen in daily light,
but their splendours find expression
when released to human sight;
so the church reveals most beauty
where diversity is real:
breadth of race and class and gender,
room for doubt, and space to heal.

All the body's parts are wanted,
nor can one despise the rest:
head and hand must work together,
as must eye, ear, throat, and chest;
so the church needs all its members
for a range of ministries:
varied gifts with one great mission,
"Do this for the least of these."

Every language gains more music
when the words for peace appear:
Pax, Salaam, Eiríni, Heiwa,
Pace, Santi, Frieden, Mir.
Though our tongues make sounds that vary
all bespeak a common home:
longing for the end of conflict
and new life in God's Shalom.

Teach us, God, our need of others;
through them help us fully live.
Wean us from our selfish habits;
let us listen, learn, forgive.
May we see your longed-for image
in each human heart and face,
and behold how those around us
can be channels of your grace.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

*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.

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Call to Worship and Prayer for Transfiguring Life from Bruce Sanguin's 'Light Transfusion' in *If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics*

Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.



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>



Eremos Introducing the Intensive Journal Process

Online Workshop led by Kate Scholl

Friday 7th March

2-5pm AEDT

\$40.00

This 3-hour workshop offers a brief introduction to the work of Dr Ira Progoff and the Intensive Journal method. Participants experience a few of the exercises that are part of the 2-day workshop. It's designed to give people a taste of this process or reconnect you with the Intensive Journal method.

\$20 of the registration fee paid may be deducted from the cost for a Life Context workshop registered for within 12 months of completing the introduction.

Details and registration at

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

or contact Kate for more information at katescholl@eremos.org.au



**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>