

# Pitt Street Uniting Church

*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia  
Founded 1833*



## SUNDAY GATHERING

### ON GADIGAL LAND

*always was, always will be*

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20 April 2025

### Easter Sunday



### 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.

3

### MUSICAL PRELUDE

*A gong sounds – centring prayer / meditation.*

## We gather as people of faith

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Words: Jan Berry

Tune: Abbot's Leigh TIS 153

Praise to God, the world's creator,  
Source of life and growth and breath,  
Cradling in her arms her children,  
Holding them from birth to death.  
In our bodies, in our living,  
Strength and truth of all we do,  
God is present, working with us,  
Making us creators too.

Praise to God our saving Wisdom,  
Meeting us with love and grace,  
Helping us to grow in wholeness,  
Giving freedom, room, and space.  
In our hurting, in our risking,  
In the thoughts we dare not name,  
God is present, growing with us,  
Healing us from sin and shame.

Praise to God, the Spirit in us,  
Prompting hidden depths of prayer,  
Firing us to long for justice,  
Reaching out with tender care.  
In our searching, in our loving,  
In our struggles to be free,  
God is present, living in us,  
Pointing us to what shall be.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND WELCOME**

As we gather we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land,  
and we recognise that we meet on sacred land.

***This land is Holy ground.***

We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora nation  
and pay our respects

***as we gather to celebrate life in Christ's Name.***

*Please be seated.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP AND AWARENESS**

Rising Christ,  
***You are rising indeed.***

Rising up hope where hope has died  
Rising up people to follow your way  
Rising up justice in the hearts of those who would take up compassion  
Rising up grace as a challenge to the world  
Rising up repentance and reconciliation in the face of arrogance, hate,  
bitterness and resentment  
Rising up peace as a possibility to be striven and worked for  
Rising up the way of the cross as the roadmap to meaning, purpose and  
eternal life.

Christ, you are rising indeed,  
***Rise up in us,***  
***That we may live like you and your love to others.***



*Let your way be our journey,  
your truth our story,  
and your life our coming home,  
now and always. Amen.*

## **WORDS OF RECONCILIATION**

Grace upon grace is the gift of the Divine Source of Life to us,  
love infinitely renewing us.

Thanks be to the Divine Source of Life.

*Amen.*

## **SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE**

May the peace of the Divine Source of Life  
be with you now and always!

*And also with you!*

*From our places, observing spacious respect,  
we are invited to greet one another sharing a sign of the peace  
of Christ.*

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

## **FOR WISDOM FOUND IN POEMS AND TEXTS**

**Contemporary Reading:** A Poem from *We all breathe, poems and prayers*,  
by Gretta Vosper

For the vision of this light which bathes the world,  
*We give thanks.*

**A Reading from the Gospels:** John 20:1-18

For sacred stories of mystery and hope,  
*We give thanks.*

**REFLECTION***Turning from death to life*

Vladimir Korotkov

*A time of silence.**Please stand as you are able.***HYMN**

Christ be our light

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people  
Light for the world to see.

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

Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed.

*Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others  
Walls made of living stone.

*Refrain*

Many the gift, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making your kingdom come.

*Refrain*

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY**

Rise among us in this place and where there is hurting, O Christ.

***Enliven everything we are and do, we pray.***

Resurrect our love for others  
so that we can truly share love and justice in our world  
witnessing in this that you cannot be destroyed  
by the powers of this time or any other.

***Lead us towards a life which follows in your footsteps, Jesus Christ.***

Grant us courage and wisdom in walking this way  
and preparedness to create, even small echoes,  
of your brave and glorious journey.  
Bring to life actions for freedom, equality and solidarity  
which will make the changes that are needed, we pray.

***Speak through us, O Christ,  
that our voices will be raised against injustice.***

Give to us all that we need  
to understand how best to work with longing people.

***Gather us towards all who feel  
that no-one cares about them.***

Embrace the ones who believe that life is not worth living  
and show us how to transform the deathly forces  
which destroy their hope, we pray.

***Shine your risen life before us, Jesus Christ,  
so that we may see and know  
that you live in all creation in everlasting love.  
Amen.***

*In our circle of prayer today we remember the places and people we have  
named with our photos.*

*- Please feel free to offer your own prayers,  
in silence, or (if on Zoom) via the chat facility*

## OFFERING

We bring our offering  
as we seek to love the Source of Life, to love creation,  
and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

### **BANK DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERING**

Account name: Giving Direct  
BSB: 634-634. Account: 100025916  
Reference: your name

Contact the Church Office if you would like information about planned giving.

*We give thanks for the gifts of food (for the Wayside Chapel)  
and money, and gifts given to support the work of the church  
through automatic payment.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

***We give thanks to the Divine Presence for our life  
and the courage we are given to live it.***

***May our gratitude for life***

***be expressed in our generosity.***

***May our faith be expressed in just living.***

***May our hope for the future work with other to bring  
new life to all, Amen.***

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## HYMN

As we gather at your table

Words: Carl P. Daw

Tune: Beach Spring TiS 493

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.



Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
 other guests to share that feast  
 where triumphant Love will welcome  
 those who had been last and least.  
 There no more will envy blind us  
 nor will pride our peace destroy,  
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we list - en  
 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to

5  
 to your word, help us know, O God, your pre - sence;  
 share that feast where tri - umph - ant Love will wel - come

9  
 let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred  
 those who had been last and least. There no more will en - vy

13  
 sto - ry till we claim it as your own; teach us through this  
 blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we join with

17  
 ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
 saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

*Please be seated.*

# Holy Communion

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Gather around this resurrection table  
where all are welcomed, and the good earth is affirmed.  
From earth's generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.

***Witnesses to hope,  
we share in Christ's resurrection.***

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited to the table in the loving invitation of the Divine Source of life. 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

Loving Divine Presence  
whose very being was deeply marked  
by the brutal and unjust death of Jesus,  
a Parent's heart broken in the experience the death of one's Child.

***As the scarred Ground of our Being you too are transformed  
And move amongst us to enable our transformation.***

In Christ you accompany us,  
embodied among us,  
sharing our birthing, our living, our dying.

***Sharing our dreams  
of hope and liberation,  
offering us new life  
and the shattering of the tomb.***

In Christ  
you appear as the host  
at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives  
***You beckon us to share your hospitality,  
your challenge of love.***

In Christ  
you sit as the guest  
at the table of the stranger  
***You bless us with your presence  
your awakening of love.***

In Christ  
you stand among us  
as host and guest at the heart of this community  
***You share with us your vulnerability,  
your unwrapping of love.***

As hosts with Christ,  
we bless this bread.  
As guests with Christ,  
we pour this wine.

As welcomed strangers,  
united in Christ's life, death, and embodied liberation,  
we hear the words of promise:

"This is my body given for you;  
take and eat to remember me.  
This cup poured out:  
this is the new covenant in my life-blood;  
take and drink to re-member me."

Through the Holy Spirit  
may this bread and wine  
be for us the body and life-blood of Christ:  
so that our hearts and lives may be renewed,  
the breaches of our world repaired,  
and all creation sing the song of resurrection.

***Restore and heal  
all that is wounded.  
Be present  
in the stillness of the waiting.  
Roll back the stone  
of prejudice and fear.  
Release the signs of new life. Amen.***

## BREAKING OF BREAD

As we eat this living bread  
and drink the new wine of resurrection,  
let us celebrate the close and cosmic Christ,  
our liberator and sustainer.

*With divine tenderness you remake us.  
By transforming pain you heal us –  
Your passionate energy empowers us.*

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

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

## TAIZÉ CHANT

Eat this bread drink this cup

Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

5  
Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

## FINAL HYMN

Resurrection Hope

Words: June Boyce Tillman

Tune: Londonderry Air

We shall go out with hope of resurrection.  
We shall go out, from strength to strength to go on.  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,  
Tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our song of wrongs that can be righted.  
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed.  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken.  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed.  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
Vibrating love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping.  
Chant songs of strength for hearts that break in grief.  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
Including all within the circles of our love.

## **SENDING OUT**

Reach out towards the cross of Christ  
and walk towards Easter day.

And may Christ claim us friends as we look up,  
the Holy Spirit light the way as we look down  
and the Creator of Life surround us with hope.

*Amen.*

## **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you to our organist and singers for the music.

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Call to Worship and Awareness by Rev Jon Humphries, adapted.