

Pitt Street Uniting Church

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



SUNDAY GATHERING

ON GADIGAL LAND

always was, always will be

CONTEMPORARY FAITH – COMPASSION – JUSTICE - BELONGING

4 May 2025

Third Sunday of Easter



Awake to the crisp dawn's rising in your life

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.

Gathering Together

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Easter 4

Words: Andrew Pratt

Tune: Fulda TiS 608

Was it the shaking ground that moved
the stone, that freed the resting Word,
that called the Christ to life again:
God's Spirit, breathing, moved and stirred?

Whatever cause, we may not know,
but Mary heard a calming voice,
that turned her life around again,
that gave her reason to rejoice.

Please remain standing as you are able.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land:
land that was taken without their consent, treaty, or compensation.

We acknowledge any First Peoples who are visiting us today.

The Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land. We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay our respects to their elders as we gather to worship God.

WELCOME

Budyeri Gamarruwa (hello)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Easter 4

Words: Andrew Pratt

Tune: Fulda TiS 608

The world still spinning, recollects
that God survived all human scorn;
that lives were changed forever more
in meeting love alive, re-born.

This is the Voice that turns us round,
that calmly offers grace to cope;
that gives us strength to live again,
that gives us cause to sing our hope.

Please be seated.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Divine Source of Life with a mother's heart,
You shepherd us
through life's wintry terrain
as your loved children.

***You comfort and hold us
in your warm embrace.***

When we are hurt your arms enfold us.
When we are afraid your staff protect us.
When we are hungry
You feed us with the bread of life.

***Divine Source of Life with a mother's heart,
Your love surrounds and supports us.***

Eternal and Loving One,
Divine Source of Life with a mother's heart,

***We thank you this day,
for recreating us as community, as a loving family.***

PRAYER OF AWARENESS AND GRACE

A prayer based on John 21:1-19

May we join with Peter to recognise times of failure
whose devastation can drown hope in guilt, shame and tears
when denials release despair and self loathing,
and from our little boat on the seas of life
may we see the eyes of Peter
that beckoning figure on the shore,
that body once strung across the stained wood of execution.

To repress reality Peter revived his fishing business,
living with the dull depression of remembered cowardice,
of failed courage,
bad dreams of abandonment, a deep sea of pain,
... and now splashed with hope.

Peter would make it to shore.

He is risen.

Peter is risen from the dead.

Three times denied.

Three times invited to love again

by him who three times prayed his own despair

and, three times mocked 'mid three crosses,

in three days rose to resurrect Peter.

Peter made it to shore.

Others made it to the shore.

They ate together,

a fellowship of grace and rehabilitation,

of forgiveness and hope,

a symbol of the persistence of divine love,

also for you and me!

We can always make it to the shore.

We are embraced by the Divine source of Love!

Please remain seated to sing.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung three times

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O God, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of the Divine Source of Life be with you!
And also with you!

We are invited to greet those around us, sharing a sign of peace.

Please stand to sing as you are able.

TAIZÉ CHANT

Jubilate Deo, Jubilate Deo, Alleluia

sung three times

Ju - bi - la - te De - o, Ju - bi - la - te De - o, A - le - lu - ia.

Please be seated.

Listening for Words of the Spirit

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

A Reading from the Gospels: John 21:1-19

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in us.

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

Awake to the crisp dawn's rising in your life

Vladimir Korotkov

Please stand as you are able.

SONG

Where does compassion start?

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: Love Unknown TIS 341

Where does compassion start?
How does compassion grow?
Her seed is at the heart
of every faith we know:
compassion honours others' place,
dethroning self with willing grace.

How does compassion thrive
in worlds of greed and grief?
Her goodness stays alive
through those of strong belief:
compassion, luminous and clear,
outshining wastes of war and fear.
Where is compassion's role
in cultures, or in creeds?
At centre, with the soul
who feels another's needs:
compassion brings the touch of friend,
a bandage that will bind and mend.

Dynamic is the power
that heals, restores and gives,
connecting at the core
with everyone who lives,
transcending culture, colour, race,
compassion builds the house of peace.

*On Communion Sundays a member of the congregation prepares a
prayer as an alternative to open microphone prayer.*

*The person reflects on our community and our world during the
week and offers a prayer that they have written.*

A time of silent prayer.

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

OFFERING

The grace and kindness we are offered transforms us.
We give in response to the gifts we have received.

Please stand, as you are able, as the offering is carried forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together

Fish without number
Nets too heavy for lifting

***You gave more
than they could ever hold.***

And they saw with eyes of love that
The One on the shore was Jesus.
We want to see with the eyes of love too,
and be weighed down
with the miraculous catch of care.

***Jesus Christ, you know that we love you.
Enable us to share our resources and feed your lambs.
Amen.***

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

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.

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

SONG

Feed us now, Bread of Life

Words & Music: Robin Mann

TiS 538

Feed us now, Bread of Life,
in this holy meal;
let us know your love anew:
we hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of Life,
come and live within;
let your peace be ours today,
Christ Jesus, we pray.

Piece of bread, glass of wine:
Christ, this food is good;
love and mercy come to us –
your promise we trust.
Piece of bread, glass of wine;
who can understand
how this mercy works in these?
Yet, Christ we believe.

God is here, O so near,
nearer than our thoughts.
Stay with us where'er we go;
God, help us to grow.
God is here, O so near,
in this heaven's meal.
May we always feed on you –
on the bread that is true.

Holy Communion

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*At Pitt Street Uniting Church all are invited to the table.
Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to share
communion. This sacred meal is for all people.*

All are welcome to share in this table,
all who come in humble faith.

***In eating and drinking
this life-giving sacrament
we are all fed by the love of the Divine Source of life.***

The peace of the Crucified-Risen Christ
be always with you.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ!
At Easter we are close to the agony of Good Friday.
To the terrible humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus.
Mocked and driven out,
as your children throughout the world
are still hurt today.
Yet that same agony flowered in joy.
The flower grew in the dark of the tomb
and burst open the rock.

SONG

TIS 723

***Santo, santo, mi corazon to adora!
Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres, Senor.
Holy, holy, holy, our hearts, our hearts adore you!
Our hearts are glad to say to you: you are the Holy One.***

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!

In taking bread and wine,
 touching, breaking, pouring, drinking
 we know that we enter the holiest mystery
 and that by doing so
 our hearts will continue to be changed.

***We give thanks for our life together,
 the Body of Christ in this place
 which claims in faith,
 against many a doubt,
 that risen life lies in our midst
 and will stay with us forever.***

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/POURING OF WINE

Long ago, Jesus took bread,
 gave thanks, broke it and said:
 ‘This bread is broken,
 as my body will be’.
 And he handed it to his friends,
 and invited them to eat, saying:
 ‘Remember all that I have been to you’.

Long ago, Jesus poured a cup of wine,
 offered thanks for it,
 gave it to his friends and said,
 ‘This wine is poured out
 as my life will be poured out.

Loving Divine Presence,
it is through your unceasing love
we have this bread and wine to offer.
May this gathering of your community of faith,
be fed, comforted and empowered.

BREAKING OF BREAD

We gently break this bread
of fragile life

***Our breaking down
becomes our breaking through.***

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

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

JESUS PRAYER

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

***The Jesus prayer: Māori & Polynesia
Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.***

***In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and
forever. Amen.***

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

*We share communion in a circle around the church.
Due to Covid-19 considerations, bread (gluten free) will be brought
to you (and distributed with tongs). Wine or grape juice will be
offered to you in individual cups.*

*If you do not wish to take communion, you are still
most welcome to join the circle and allow the bread & wine to pass
by you, or to remain in your seat.*

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

TAIZÉ CHANT

Eat this bread drink this cup

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chant, with lyrics: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and nev-er be hun - gry." The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '5', indicating a five-measure rest, followed by the melody for the second line of the chant, with lyrics: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Divine Source of mercy and amazing grace,
in the warmth of your approach to us in love,
we are grateful for your presence,
enlivening us.

***We pray your presence
will feed and sustain us
to follow in the way of Jesus, Amen.***

Sending Out

SONG

Sister, Brother...The Call of Christ

(Presbyterian Church, NZ/sco)

Tune: TiS 650, Servant Song

Sister, Brother I'm beside you,
Let me be as Christ to you,
Pray that I might have the grace
to let you be as Christ to me.

We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will share your problems with you
I'll support you in your space
I will help you run your distance
I will look you in the face.

I'll remember that God made you
I'll not take your dignity
I'll encourage you in your skills
to create and feel and be.

Brother, sister I'm beside you,
Let me be as Christ to you,
Pray that I might have the grace
to let you be as Christ to me.

Please remain standing as you are able

May you know
the slow mystery
in which mourning
becomes a dance,
turning you toward
the gladness
that wants to meet you
in your grief.

May comfort
come to enfold you,
not to take away
all sorrow
but to infuse it
with tenderness,
with rest,
with every grace
it has.

May you give yourself
to the rhythms
of joy,
even when your steps
are stumbling,
even when you are
most fragile
and faltering.

May you know
the dancing that comes
in the dying,
moving you in time with
the heart that
has held you
always,

even when you
could not hear
its beating,
even when you
could not bear
its love.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NB. Christax is used on occasions within Pitt Street Uniting Church liturgies to affirm the all gender and beyond gender nature of the God of Christian tradition

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Call to Worship by Christine Sinde, www.godspace.msa.com adapted

Prayer of Awareness and Grace by William Loader, Bill Loader's Homepage, adapted

Blessing and Sending Out: 'Blessing in the Turning' by Jan Richardson, from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*



Exploring Faith

Today after morning tea we will begin the first session of a series of Exploring Faith. It's an open invitation to join a discussion group Understanding a Progressive Approach to Faith. For people searching or questioning.



AGM Part 1

The AGM Part 1 will take place on Sunday 18 May. The 2024 Annual Report will be distributed prior to the meeting. This contains reports that tell the work of Pitt Street throughout the year.



Newcomers Morning Tea

On Sunday, 1st June, concurrent with the regular morning tea, a special morning tea and information session will be held in the Fellowship Room, for new people who may be interested in taking up membership with Pitt Street Uniting Church.



**Saturday 17 May, Pitt Street Uniting Church
6.30pm – 7.45pm (Doors open at 6.15pm)**

This concert will weave a selection of historical and contemporary pieces all intertwined in an evening filled with colour and delight. The historical works feature music from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and contemporary composers also shine as SUMS Choir performs Morten Lauridsen's arrangement of the beloved 'Sure on this Shining Night', along with other more recent works. From being lost in the reverie of 'Heart We Will Forget Him' by Bradley Ellingboe to finding peace in Sarah Quartel's 'Ripple Effect', this evening is not one to forget.

Buy tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-university-musical-society-presents-ripples-and-reveries>