

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

25 May 2025



Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church

This is a place of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural backgrounds, sexuality, gender identity or intersex status.

Wherever you are on your journey, where 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**. 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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Honouring Life

Words: Peggy McDonagh, adapted

Tune: Ode to Joy TiS 158

God of courage, God of wisdom,
with our eyes we long to see
how to love each other fully,
honour our divinity.

Life is sacred, life is precious,
life of each, a gift of grace.
God's own beauty finds expression
in each cherished human face.

Please remain standing as you are able.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that the Creator Spirit hovered over this land and this place where we gather today, this land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

We acknowledge any First Nations Peoples who are visiting us today.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

Budyeri Gamarruwa (Hello)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Honouring Life

Words: Penny McDonagh, adapted

Tune: Ode to Joy TiS 158

When we see all life has value,
healing stirs the heart awake.
Cherishing all human living,
bitter chains of hate we break.

When we claim the power within us
to uphold all human life,
we give birth to love's own kingdom,
peace and justice ease our strife.

OPENING SENTENCES

Exuberant Spirit of Divine Passion,
bursting with brightness of flame
into the coldness of our lives
to fire an unquenchable passion for well-being,
we give you thanks!

Exuberant Spirit of Divine Vitality,
sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy
to breathe vitality into our work to address systemic poverty,
we give you thanks!

Exuberant Spirit of Divine Truth,
releasing words that leap over barriers of mistrust
to convey messages of truth and new understanding,
we give you thanks!

**Exuberant Spirit of Divine Life,
flame wind speech
burn, breathe, speak into us;
fill your world with justice and with joy.**

A PRAYER OF LONGING

Divine Source of our common life,
when we are dry and scattered,
when we are divided and alone,
we long for connection,
we long for community.
Breath of community, breathe on us.

With those we live beside,
who live in poverty
whom we may be afraid to approach,
yet who desire support and changes in our systems
we long for connection,
we long for community.
Breath of community, breathe on us.

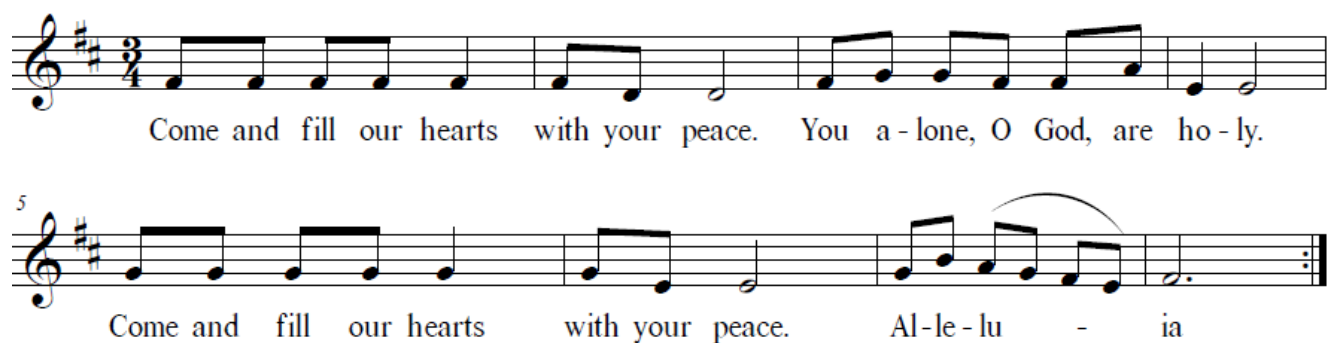
With those we have only heard of,
who see with different eyes,
whose struggles we try to imagine,
whose fierce joy we wish we could grasp,
we long for connection,
we long for community.
Breath of community, breathe on us.

With those we shall never know,
but whose lives are linked with ours,
whose shared ground we stand on,
and whose common air
we long for connection,
we long for community.
Breath of community, breathe on us.

When we are dry and scattered,
when we are divided and alone,
when we are but off from the source of our life,
open our graves, Divine Source of Life
that all people may be free to breathe,
strong to move,
and joyful to stand together
to celebrate community and belonging.
Amen.

Remain seated to sing.

TAIZE CHANT



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

5
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia

JESUS PRAYER

Breath of our very being,
who dwells in all things,
holy is your truth.
May your wisdom come,
Your embracing circle unite all of creation.
Give us today a nurturing spirit.
Heal through us as we ourselves are healed.
Lead us into fullness of life,
and liberate all that is good.
For the love, the power, and the presence
are yours, now and always. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
We grow together into the fullness of God's love
as we share God's peace.

May the peace that passes understanding be with you now
and abide with you always.

And also with you!

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

We listen for God's Word

Reading from the Gospel: John 5: 1-9

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

Vladimir Korotkov

A time of silence is kept.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

One in love we meet together
Words: Betty Van Till, adapted
Tune: Hyfrydol TiS 233

One in love, we meet together,
one in time, and never apart.
We in flesh as sister, brother
makes us one in mind and heart.
All incarnate, we would offer,
all we most sincerely prize,
learning though traditions differ
how they join to make us wise.

One in outlook, always searching,
not to bind in common creed,
as a people, be more ready
to respond to other's need.
Here we are so finely fashioned,
understanding, here to serve,
never narrow in compassion,
empathy without reserve.

As in Christ, may we discover
that to give is to receive,
that in God the good is present,
ever, always we perceive.
Not by chance the world's creation,
not by chance was life begun,
God is love and our vocation
Is to love 'til love has won.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We all need a home, O Divine Source of Life,
a place to belong,
to be loved even when we're at our worst;

Thank you for being a home to all of us, whoever we may be.
We think of all those who wander in wildernesses,
uncertain of where they will find their place in the world;
The orphan without parents or a real name,
and the well-loved children who feel the emptiness
left by well-loved parents who are no longer here;

The lover abandoned or betrayed by a partner
who was trusted and adored,
and the partners who, in spite of love,
were unable to stay together.

The strong and vibrant ones who now feel attacked
by their own bodies and frailty,
and the ones who peacefully and gladly
await the imminent time of death;

The courageous and creative poor who somehow manage
to get through each day,
and the comfortable who have discovered the end
of the comfort that their wealth can bring;

The powerful who cannot let go of the control and influence
they have known;

and the leaders who gently pass the mantle on
while still uncertain of what their next contribution can be.

Thank you for being a home to all of us, whoever we may be.
As Jesus came and made a home among us,
so that you, Loving Infinite Source of life
could become a home for us.

We thank you, and pray for ourselves
and all who need to find their way home today.
Amen.

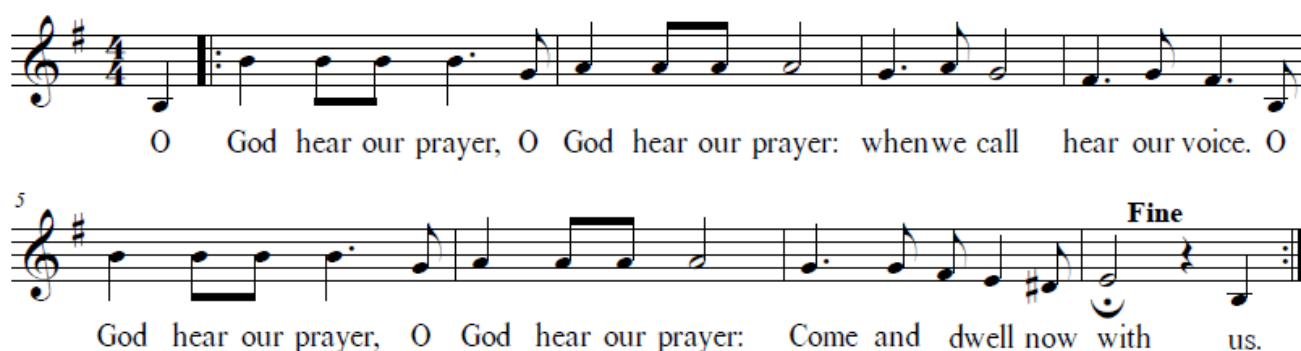
In our circle of prayer today we offer our prayers for our
congregation:

*We offer our prayers for all that rests heavy on our hearts, in
silence, or (if on Zoom) via the chat facility.*

Remain seated to sing.

TAIZE CHANT

sung three times



O God hear our prayer, O God hear our prayer: when we call hear our voice. O

God hear our prayer, O God hear our prayer: Come and dwell now with us. **Fine**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We share our offering as a symbol of our commitment to God and to the world that God loves.

*As our collection is taken up
we will sing a hymn as we remain seated.*

HYMN

Wake, Now My Senses
Words: Thomas J S Mikelson
Tune: Slane TiS 547

Wake, now my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new,
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honour the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer your limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbour both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now my conscience, with justice your guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
Divine love embraces the whole human race.

Wake, now my vision of agency clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together ...

**Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in mutual flourishing
with all that lives and breathes.
Let our hope for our world find justice and peace
in all that we do and share. Amen.**

*We give thanks for the gifts of food (for the Wayside Chapel)
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 No. 100025916

Reference: Your Name

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We go out into the World of Infinite Love

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Beauty for brokenness (TiS 690)

Words: Graham Kendrick

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Christ in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

Chorus

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

Chorus

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

May you live this day
Compassionate of heart
Gentle in word,
Gracious in awareness
Courageous in thought
Generous in love.

Amen.

May the blessing of the eternal and transcendent Presence,
the blessing of the Divine Life moving between us
and luring us into greater well-being
and the blessing of the Spirit
who leads us into life giving truth and new life,
be with us all, now and always. **Amen.**

SUNG AMEN

African American

Please sit after the Sung Amen

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

*Those attending in Pitt Street are warmly invited to stay for
refreshments and Quarterly Luncheon.*

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

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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Honouring Life by Peggy McDonagh, adapted

Opening Sentences by Jan Berry, adapted

A Prayer of Longing by Janet Morley, adapted

One in love we meet together by Betty Van Till, adapted

Prayers of Intercession from www.sacredise.com , adapted

Sending Out from *In the Harsh Desert of Doubt* by John O'Donohue



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.



Winter Afternoon

Mozart, Bax & Devienne

Sunday 15th June, 3pm | Pitt Street Uniting Church

www.wollemichambersociety.com

Join the Wollemi Chamber Society for a winter's afternoon of exquisite chamber music in picturesque Pitt Street Uniting Church.

PROGRAM:

François DEVIENNE | Bassoon Quartet No. 1 in C Major, Op. 73/1

Arnold BAX | Oboe Quintet

W.A. MOZART | Divertimento No. 7, K. 205/167A

Buy tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1401669>