

Pitt Street Uniting Church

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



Reconciliation Sunday

1 June 2025

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to *Next*

27 MAY –
3 JUNE

#NRW2025



RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

 RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA

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

Words: Keith Pearson

Tune: Melita TIS 138

Creator God, you made this land
and gave to us the gift of life.
You wish that we should live as one,
but we acknowledge wrong and strife.
Let justice everywhere be found,
Let discord end and love abound.

Your covenants of old stand firm,
your ways are faithful, right and just.
Bind us together in your love
to live and work in growing trust.
Strengthen those ties which keep us true
to serve each other, serving you.

We remain standing.

OPENING SENTENCES

God of holy dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
From the dawn of creation, you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In vast deserts and dense forest,
and in cities at the water's edge
your Presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you,
to each other and to your whole creation.
Lead us on, Great Spirit,
**Enable us to walk together in trust,
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather we acknowledge the First People of this land,
and we recognise that we meet on sacred land, country which was
never ceded, yet gives birth and sustains us all.
This land is Aboriginal ground.

We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora nation
and pay our respects.
**With First Nations peoples
we yearn for peace with justice
for all people and for the land.**

HYMN

Words: Keith Pearson
Tune: Melita TIS 138

Liberator Christ, you came to earth.
You know our joys, our hopes, our pain.
To call us into covenant,
you gave your life and rose again.
You make us yours, you give us worth
to be your light in all the earth.

Great Spirit in this ancient land,
speak in the stillness deep within.
Remove all prejudice and fear,
give life to all, new hope begin.
Then help us bravely walk as friends,
while on this land your peace descends.

WELCOME

Budyeri Gamarruwa (greetings)

*Please be seated as we light the Christ candle
and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candles*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CANDLES

As we light the Christ candle, we acknowledge our concern for Gaza and Ukraine, for persecuted people in other countries

Today we light these candles of Reconciliation, which announce that Creator God moves between us to breathe love into reconciliation, inspiring transformed relationships, cultural respect and structural changes.

GATHERING

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

“Justice stands at the heart of God. Justice is nothing other than love which seeks to understand, resist and overcome the structure of oppression. Bearing witness to the love of God involves working for justice.”

Rev Dr John Brown, Uniting Church in Australia

O Divine Source of Life,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,
in whom diversity dwells and dances with delight,
we come to recommit ourselves to Covenanting.
To create relationships based on respect, friendship and love with
the hope of ending racism
against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
We recommit to learning from Indigenous people
about their culture
and understanding and living our inter-connectedness
with all forms of life and the earth.

Please remain seated to sing.

I AM THE LAND

Words and Music: Trish Watts
(sung three times)



I am the land,
living, breathing
dying, rising.

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of God 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 Words of Reconciliation

READINGS FROM THE EPISTLES:

Galatians 3:23-28, 5:1, 13-15

For the gift of divine love and relationship,
For the promise of unity and reconciliation,
For diversity in communion
thanks be to the Divine Source of Life.

A READING: ULURU STATEMENT OF THE HEART

Professor Megan Davis, member of the Referendum Council, reads out the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Megan was the person chosen to deliver the statement to the Australian people. Megan Morris is an Aboriginal Australian (Cobble Cobble, from south-east Queensland) and South Pacific Islander.

SONG

its not too late, Archie Roach

REFLECTION

Vladimir Korotkov

HYMN

We are standing on holy ground

Words: Rev Dr John Brown

Tune: Ellacombe(2) TiS 453

We're standing here on holy ground,
on land your hand has made;
Your art displayed in timeless rocks,
in purple haze and space;
Its mighty gums and feathery ferns
your beauty magnify.
Tread softly then, in awe reflect,
and listen to the land.

We're standing here on holy ground,
on land which ancients trod.
They wrote your law in hills and streams
in rocks and caves and trees;
A law to tell us who we are,
to guide and make us strong.
Tread gently then, respect the earth,
remember whence we've come.

We're standing here on holy ground,
on land that toil has shaped.
It's fertile plains will feed us all,
when tilled with care and love.
But mindless greed and drought and flood
wreak havoc in the land.
Then let us tread with love the earth,
that's fed us faithfully.

We're standing here on holy ground,
on land we long to share,
Where each has space and equity,
and neither want nor fear
But demons fierce are dancing here
of race and greed and hate.
Engrave upon our wills, we pray,
your ancient covenant law.

We're standing here on holy ground,
we seek your rule on earth;
Your will be done in politics,
in law court, market, church;
Your gentleness among us reign,
and each one dwell secure;
May generations yet unborn,
live here in harmony.

*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.*

PRAYERS FOR RECONCILIATION SUNDAY

Gillian Hunt

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.*

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.**

May the Divine Source of generosity
Giver of the Bread of abundant life
and all things new be with you!

And also with you!

THANKSGIVING

Divine Presence of grace and tenderness,
even when we look for Jesus
for all the wrong reasons,
we are gifted the bread of life;
though we offered the cross to Jesus,
we are graced with new life;
though we would divide each other
by class, race, gender, sexuality or condition,
the story of Jesus invites equality and oneness in you.

Holy Presence of wonder, feed us with the bread of life,
so we might feed those who know true hunger;
as your justice shines in the shadows of our hearts,
may we light the way for the lost and despised;
as you speak in truth of your love for us,
may we be the voice for the unloved and forgotten;
as you reshape our brokenness into wholeness,
may we bind up the wounds of our world.

And so we give you thanks with the faithful
of every time and place, joining with the whole creation
in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and vulnerability,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver of life.
Blessed is the One
who comes
in the name of our God.
Come and deliver us,
God the giver the Bread of Life.**

SONG

TiS 723

**Santo, santo, mi corazon to adora!
Mi corazon 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 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 and minds 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

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
“This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me”
In the same way, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and again giving thanks, said:
“This cup is the sign
of my new covenant with you.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.”

BREAKING OF BREAD

We gently break the bread
of fragile life.
**Our breaking down
becomes our breaking through.**

And we pour this wine
Life given for life.

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:

**Our Parent God, who cares for us,
the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.
Enable kindness, love and justice
shine in our world.
May your secrets be known
here on earth as in heaven.
Give us the food and hope
that we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and despair
and from the fear and hate
which can swallow us up.
In you are truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE

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,
Come To Me And Never Be Hungry.
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup,
Trust In Me And You Will Not Thirst.

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.**

OFFERING

We bring our offering
as we seek to love God, to love creation,
and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

*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.

*We remain seated to sing while the offering is being
collected.*

HYMN

We come here not knowing
Words: George Stuart
Tune: The Ash Grove TiS 531

We come here not knowing
The myst'ry of growing,
But still we are thankful for what it may bring;
New life in the making
With ev'ry awak'ning
Gives promise of joy, so with nature we sing;
In myst'ry we're seeing
The Ground of all Being
Displayed here before us – a wonderful sight;
All new life is telling
That God is indwelling,
And in that assurance we take great delight.

The womb with safe water
For each son and daughter
Has been the first home in which love is the food;
Now water of blessing
In love is expressing
The welcome of God and our own gratitude;
Clear water refreshes;
It cleanses then blesses
With what is essential for life to abound;
So love, like the water
For each son and daughter
Through us, is God's gift with which they can be crowned.

In great jubilation
With all of creation
We honour the living with all of our heart;
To mould the potential
To be influential
We pledge to give nurture, accepting our part;
We look at each baby
And feel that just maybe
God's face is all smiling with these gifts of grace;
We all have the duty
To live out our beauty
By holding each one in love's richest embrace.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we dedicate our offering and our prayers, we pray for healing, forgiveness and restoration for all peoples who call Australia home. Bless and use these gifts, so that, through the power of your Spirit they may contribute to true reconciliation and unity. Amen.

**Let our gratitude for life
be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in just living.
Let our hope for the future bring reconciliation.
Amen.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

HYMN

Words: Rev Dr John Brown
Tune: Living Lord TiS 526

Creator God, you made every race
giving each your law,
good and true.
We are to worship you, O God,
care for creation in your name,
love and forgive as you love us,
Holy God.

Jesus the Christ, you have made us one,
binding each to you,
making peace;
healing the wounds our hands have made;
asking for truth and grace to rule,
justice, respect and loyalty,
Loving God.

Spirit of Life, present from all time,
guiding, shedding light,
giving life;
Counsellor, make us strong to fight,
Free as the wind to do the right,
ready to follow on the Way,
Breath of God.

God, Three in One, bonded strong in love,
reaching out to all,
giving God!
Build in this land community -
black, white and brown, one family
serving the world your love has made,
God of grace.

SENDING OUT and BLESSING

Let us go in peace to live and love,
guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
May you always stand tall as a gum tree
Be as strong as the rock Uluru
As gentle and still as the morning mist
Hold the warmth of the camp fire in your heart
And may the Creator Spirit always walk with you.
Amen.

SUNG AMEN

African-American

BLESSING SONG

For you, deep stillness

Words: Robin Mann, Music: Julie Perrin

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ
In the name of Christ

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Peter Bennett

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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Creator God, you made this land by Keith Pearson, © Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Opening Sentences by Rev Lenore Parker, An Indigenous Anglican Priest, adapted

Prayer of Awareness by Rev Dr John Brown, Uniting Church in Australia, adapted

Sending Out and Blessing by Auntie Betty Pike, Aboriginal Elder

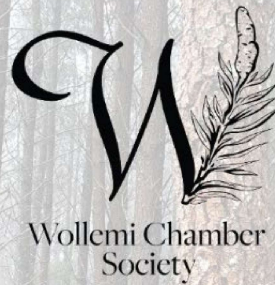


Attention all Worship coordinators, Event Hosts and keep the church open minders!

On Sunday 8th June, after church at about 11.40 , Robyn Floyd will be running a short, simple but exciting meeting to go through some of the Health and Safety policies and activities Church Council has decided on.

It would be wonderful if you could come for this short time to find out about the evacuation routes and emergency procedures and much more!

Looking forward to seeing you there!



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>