

Pitt Street Uniting Church
A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia
Founded 1833



22 June 2025

Pentecost 2 UCA Anniversary

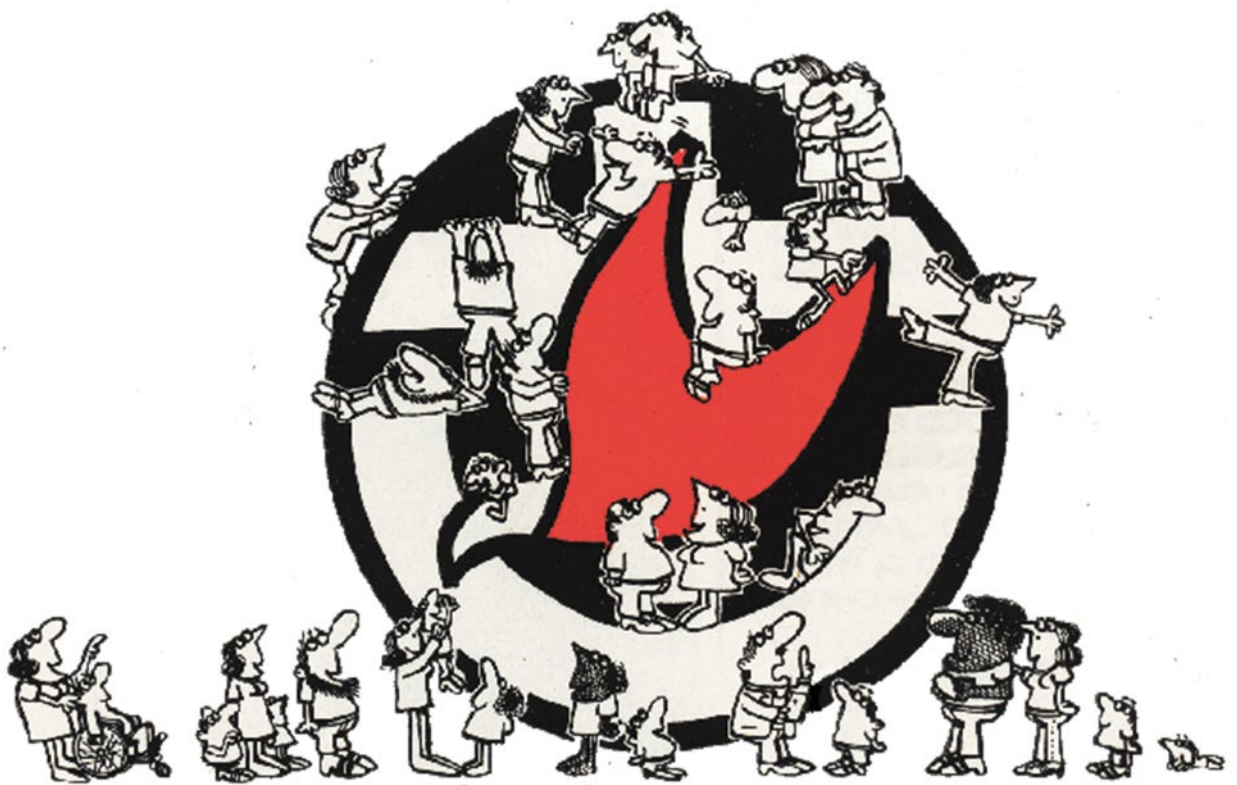


Image: Mernda Uniting Church

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

A gong sounds – centring prayer / meditation

Please stand as you are able.

We gather together

GATHERING

As we gather, let there be joy in our coming together.

Let there be truth heard in the words we speak
and the songs we sing.

Let there be help and healing for our disharmony and despair.

Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.

Let us be nurtured in the presence of God.

HYMN

Let us build a house

Words and Music: Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell, how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace,

Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger, bear the image of God's face,
Let us bring an end to fear and danger
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith
and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Please be seated.

OPENING RESPONSES

Before we speak, God is here
within us and among us, knocking at our door.
Living God, open what is closed
that the Spirit may come in.
Open our hands to give and to greet.
Open our minds
to new truth and old wisdom.
Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance.
Open what is closed
that the Spirit may come in.

WELCOME

Budyeri gamarruwa (*greetings*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather we acknowledge the original custodians of this place,
the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.
We grieve the unjust loss of their land,
taken from them without consent or compensation.

From their beginnings, the Spirit of God
has dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land.

**We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora nation
and offer respect as we gather to worship God.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES FOR PEACE

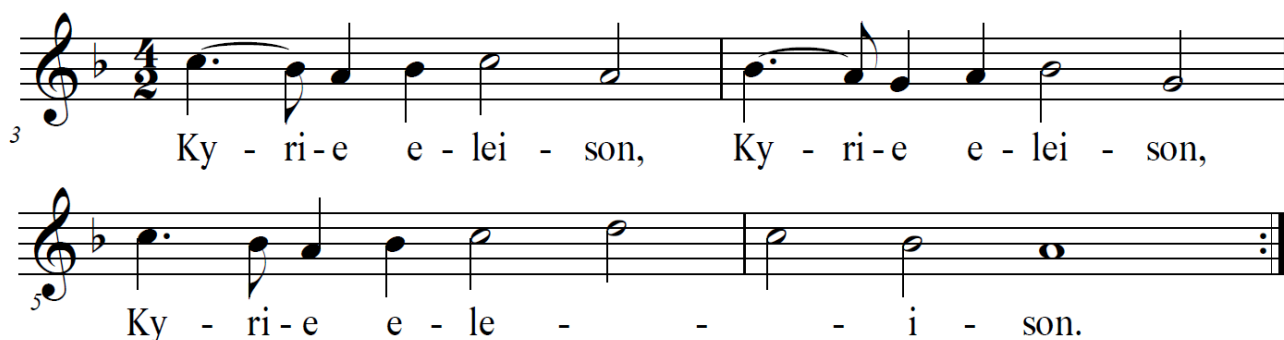
As we light the Christ candles, we acknowledge our concern for
Gaza and Ukraine, for persecuted people in other countries.

The Christ candle is lit.

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND HOPE

Gracious and loving God,
we who claim the name of Christ,
who seek to follow in the way of Jesus,
know all too well our failings
and those of the Church we love;
failures of action and inaction,
of neglect and naivety,
of fear and lack of courage.

We know the hurt they have created
and the toll they have taken.
We feel the weight of that failure,
of those shortcomings, of the harm done.



Gracious and loving God,
help us to trust your grace.

That we may know ourselves
yet not be afraid.

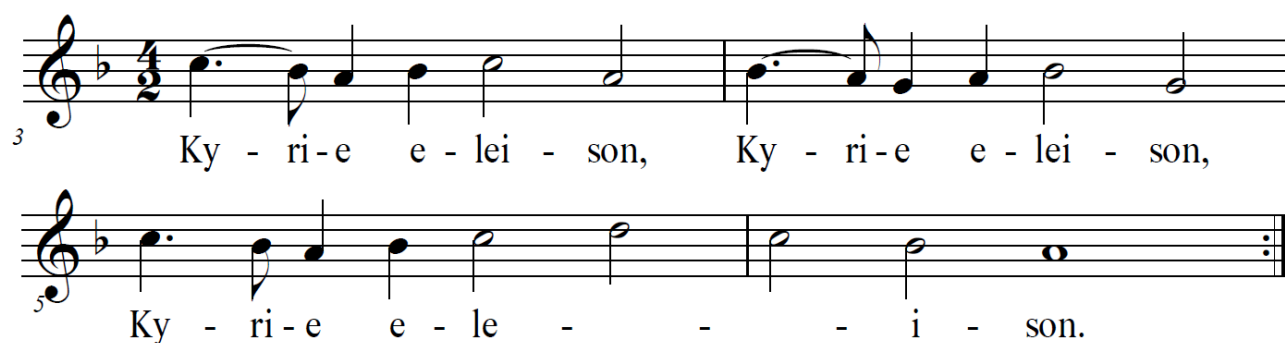
That we may face
our foolishness and our shortcomings
yet not be despairing.

That we may be aware of
our gifts, virtues and strengths
and not hide them in false humility.



As we reflect on our past,
help us to accept, as gift,
the insights we have gained
and the truths we have come to understand.

As we face our future,
help us to hold those vital insights in one hand,
and hold in the other,
profound gratitude for all that we have been gifted
in our life together,
and be stretched large by both.



WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

We were not made to hide our light.
We did not receive life in order to quench it.
We are created in God's image;
made to make justice, love and peace.

**For gifts of grace and forgiveness,
we give thanks to God.**

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of Divine Presence be with you now and always!
And also with you!

*People are invited to greet those around them,
sharing a sign of peace.*

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Song of faith that sings forever
Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Tune: Abbot's Leigh TiS 153

Song of faith that sings forever
through God's people, ages long,
Word that holds the world together
when our hearts take up the song,
always, always, somewhere sounding,
though the source we do not see,
counterpoint to all despairing,
it is hope that sets the key.

Song of faith in exaltation,
rising through the vaults of prayer,
tune of simple celebration
offered up in open air,
song in chapel and cathedral,
descant to our daily tone,
song from sickbed or in prison,
faith must often sing alone.

And when life would overwhelm us,
when there seems no song to sing,
hear the constant voice of courage
out of fear and suffering:
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,
all who lift us to be strong,
endless, endless are the voices
of the faith that makes the song.

Please be seated.

For Wisdom Found in Texts

A Reading from the Epistles: Galatians 3:23-29

For early reflection on the life of faith and trust

We give thanks.

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 7:1-10

For the Word that was in the beginning,

for the Word that invites and inspires,

for the Word embodied in all creation,

We give thanks to God.

Please stand to sing as you are able.

SUNG RESPONSE

TiS 720

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!

Hal-le-lu- jah, Hal-le-lu- jah!

Please be seated.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Angels by Mary Oliver

For words of creativity and inspiration

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

Vladimir Korotkov

We respond in love

WE LIGHT CANDLES TO MARK THE 48th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

We light our first candle to mark the Uniting Church past.
We remember all those who went before us
in the long and multifaceted history of the wider Church
and the founding traditions of the Uniting Church in Australia.

**We give thanks for those who prayed and worked
to bring about a new creation in Christ.
We remember and honour their gifts,
courage and hopefulness.**

a candle is lit

We light our second candle to mark the Uniting Church present.
We give thanks for all those who continue
to respond to the call of Christ and the vision of God
in the life of the Uniting Church in Australia.
We give thanks for those who pray and work
in so many different life-giving ministries.
We remember that change and uncertainty
are in the Church's DNA:

**for we are a pilgrim people, ever on the move,
called to be responsive to the unsettling, grace-filled,
loving Spirit that moves through all.**

a second candle is lit

We light our third candle to mark the invitation to the future.
We give thanks that the future that awaits is already with us,
and we shape that future in all we do right now.
We give thanks for the new gifts and opportunities offered to us,
and the new relationships into which we are invited.

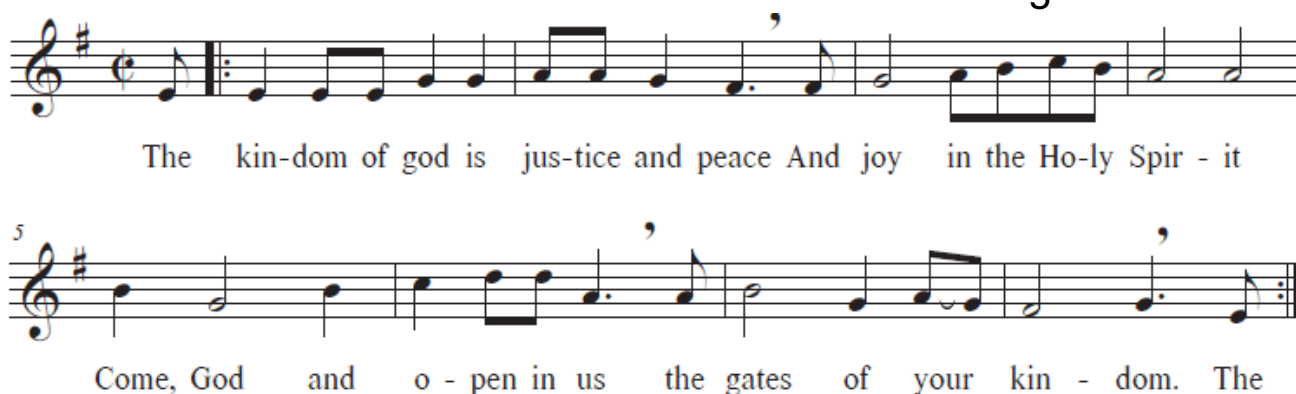
**We remember that, however flawed our efforts at times,
God is always present with us,
calling us on into renewed faith and hope and courage.**

a third candle is lit

May we become the people we are called to be,
recognising the connectedness of all things;
overcoming the pain of division and exclusion;
healing the hurts of colonialism and abuse;
and recalling God's love for all creation. Amen.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung three times



The kin-dom of god is jus-tice and peace And joy in the Ho-ly Spir - it

5
Come, God and o - pen in us the gates of your kin - dom. The

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

We pray for the world-wide church,
that wherever people gather in the name of Christ,
they may know your abundant grace
and live out your liberating hope.
Make your people a sign of reconciliation and renewal.
God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray for political leaders in our world,
that they would see and heed your call for peacemaking,
for hospitality for migrants and refugees,
for care of creation,
and a economic justice.
God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and for ourselves.
May your presence be
with people who are ill or bereaved,
with people who are travelling and away,
with people who are in distress and seeking peace.
God of love,
hear our prayer.

*Please offer your prayers in silence or in a loud voice
using the microphone if you can. (printed not spoken).*

In your many names, O God, we pray.
Amen.

JESUS PRAYER

Remembering Jesus, who showed us the way of Divine Presence,
we pray together:

**God you are life for us.
Holy be your name.
Your new day come, your will be done,
on earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
and forgive our wrongs,
as we forgive those who do wrong against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
and deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour
and the fulfilment are yours,
now and forever,
Amen.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We share gifts of money and food
as a sign of our commitment to God,
and to the world God loves.

*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 remain seated to sing as the offering is collected.

HYMN

Community of Christ

Words by Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: Leoni TiS 473

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross our own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in the street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears
of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun:
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Show us, gracious God,
How to be frugal, 'til all are fed;
How to weep, 'til all can laugh;
How to be meek; 'til all can stand with pride;
How to mourn, 'til all are comforted;
How to be restless, 'til all live in peace;
How to claim less, 'til all find justice.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

God gives us a future
Words: Elizabeth J Smith
Tune: Camberwell TiS 687

God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and
find our future there.

Please remain standing as you are able.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

To be filled with the Spirit of God we say:

Amen.

To the power of the Spirit at work in us we say:

Amen.

To being the body of Christ we say:

Amen.

May we go
with the protection of God
who made us for wholeness,

the encompassing of Christ
who calls us beloved,

and the grace of the Spirit
who bids us be one.

SUNG AMEN

African American (twice)

Please sit.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Greg Woolnough

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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Opening hymn: words and music by Marty Haugen, © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Responses from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*. Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville and London, 2008, p.186.

A part of the Prayer of Lament is based on a prayer of Bruce D. Prewer, *Australian Prayers*, OpenBook, 2002, p. 86.

The Lord's Prayer by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit*.

Prayers of the people adapted from Mediacom "Words for Worship" for Sunday 24 June 2018.

The blessing from Jan Richardson's *In the Sanctuary of Women*, Upper Room Books, Nashville, 2010, 2010, p.296.



Fourth Friday Labyrinth Walk

Centennial Park Labyrinth, Friday 27 June at 10am

Facilitator: Nicky Locke

Nicky is an emotionally focused therapist, harp therapist and trained labyrinth facilitator. The theme for the June labyrinth walk will “turnings – of the year and other matters” with reference to Proverbs and Romans 12. The walk will take place in most weathers, unless there is a risk of thunder or lightning. Please email Nicky on familylock@bigpond.com for more details or to RSVP.