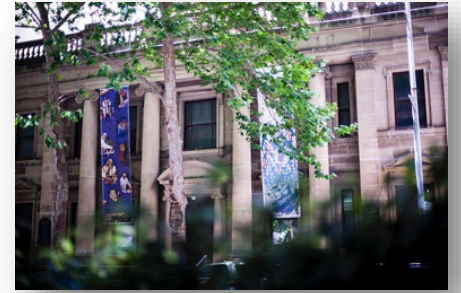


Pitt Street Uniting Church  
A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia  
Founded 1833



# Sunday Gathering

1 March 2026

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## ***SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT***



The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert  
Source: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)

## **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**

# **We gather as people of Earth and Spirit**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All are welcome

Words and Music: Marti 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 how 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 a 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.

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## **GATHERING**

Come let us celebrate Love in all its fullness!

Come let us rejoice in infinite mystery.

**Let us celebrate wonder and diversity.**

Come let us embrace embodied holiness.

**Let us share dreams of peace and justice.**

Come let us nurture deep tenderness and courageous strength.

**Let us receive light and love for all.**

**Let us celebrate life in the Divine Presence  
we name God.**

## **ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS**

For thousands of years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have walked in this land. Land taken from them without their consent, treaty or compensation. We pay tribute to their long history of continuing relationships with land and waters.

We acknowledge the Gadigal as the original custodians of the land on which we meet.

**We honour culture, heritage and spirit of First Nations peoples. This land always was, always will be their land. Sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to their elders past and present for they hold memories, traditions, culture, and hopes for justice for their people.**

## HYMN

All are welcome  
Words and Music: Marti Haugen

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus  
is revealed in time and space  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

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

*Please be seated.*

## WELCOME

Bujari Gamarruwa

## LENT RESPONSES

When our world is warped by greed and wounded by violence  
**we come seeking signs of hope and healing.**  
When our concerns become inward and narrow  
**we come seeking Peace that passes all understanding.**  
When our actions are self-centred and our vision weak  
**inspire in us the search for your nurturing Spirit.**  
**God, Creator and Sustainer of all that is. We come.**

## LIGHTING OF LENTEN CANDLES

We continue our Lenten journey.  
Reflecting on what is challenging us.  
Deepening our self-understanding  
as we enter more into transformation.

There is light on our path but also growing shadows.

*The Lenten candles are lit as we sing.*

*Remain seated to sing.*

## TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us

Let not my doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me.

Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us

Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In these moments of silence may we find strength.  
May our lives be rich in affection,  
deep in understanding and empathy with each other.  
May the blessings of life be known to all.

Spirit of Life and Love, we have gathered  
in this sacred place, again.  
May we create here a circle of love,  
ever expanding,  
ever growing.

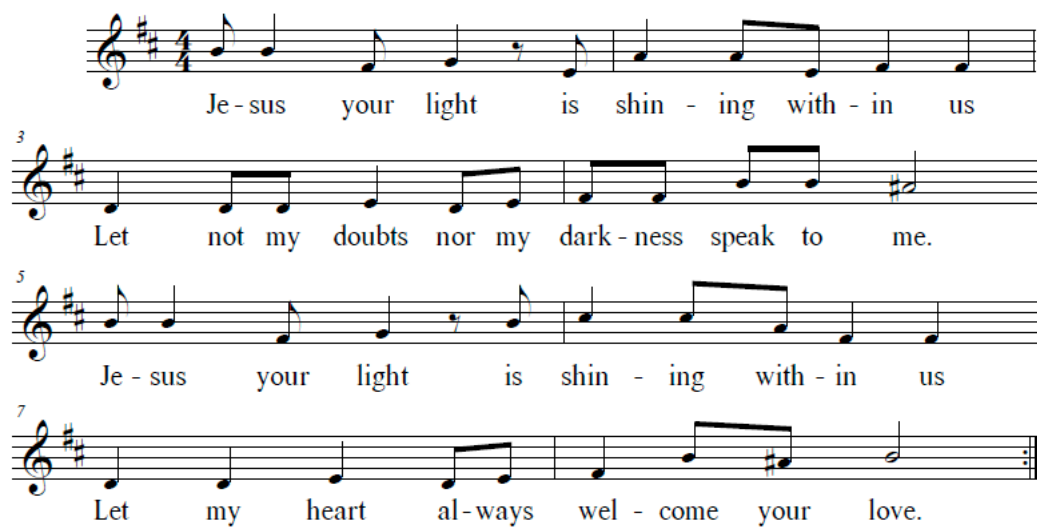
A place of wisdom.  
A place of connection.  
A place of hope.  
That will flow from us to all we meet.

Come, O Spirit of Christ,  
may we feel your presence.  
Breathe your Spirit  
into our awakening souls.

**Bringing all that we are  
and hope to become  
we travel together on this journey  
into freedom.**

## TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice



Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us

Let not my doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me.

Je - sus your light is shin - ing with - in us

Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.

## JESUS' PRAYER

Remembering Jesus, we pray together:

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

**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 us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the power, the splendour  
and fulfillment, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God we meet in Jesus Christ  
has a heart of infinite mercy.  
This God has walked our way  
and knows how easy it is to stumble.  
Grace is ours today.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to sing as you are able.*

## SONG

TiS 720

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Please be seated.*

## Listening for Words of Spirit

### CONTEMPORARY READING:

“Jesus the Question” by Danny Belrose, from *Let the Spirit Breathe Personal Psalms, Prayers and Pieces*.

For Words of faith in our time.

**We give thanks**

### GOSPEL:

Hear words of faith in the Gospel of John 3:1-17.

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

**We give thanks.**

## CHANT

sung twice

*Jesus, your Spirit in us, is a well-spring of life everlasting.*



## CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Rev Geoff Ivers

# We respond in love

## LENTEN CANDLES

This morning, we take time from the busyness of our lives, where we have activities to participate in and tasks to complete. We seek something else. We come here seeking a shift, from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go and breathe. This is a time of deep listening. Listen. Wait to receive what may come. Where is God leading you?

*A time of silence*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of prejudice and discrimination in the world.

*A candle is extinguished.*

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming ourselves and the world. Amen.**

*On communion Sundays members of the congregation prepare a prayer. The people reflect on our community and our world during the week and offer a prayer that they have written.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jenny Reath

### OFFERING

As we sing our hymn we share our offering, as a symbol of our commitment to God and to the world God loves.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### HYMN

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
and joy....., compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice  
justice and joy!*

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
and joy....., compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice  
justice and joy!*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

**God of grace and compassion,  
may our gifts enable your church to be a place  
where strangers become friends,  
outcasts are welcomed,  
and seekers find meaning and hope.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Holy Communion

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Lionel Robson

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited to the table.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to God and to One Another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right and our joy to give you thanks  
Hope-breathing, love-giving God, our creator,  
For you have made us in your own image  
Shaping us with infinite care, as creatures  
of delight and passion, setting us  
in a world of every good thing, a world of our giftedness.

It is right and our joy to give you thanks  
World-gazing, vulnerable God, our Cherisher,  
For you sent Jesus to walk among us, sharing  
our humanity, knowing with us the bodily pain and hurt  
as integrity is trampled in the dust,  
and justice dissolves in empty words,  
One whom even death could not stop from loving us.

It is right and our joy to give you thanks  
encouraging, hope-cheering God, our Companion,  
for you are present with us in the Spirit,  
provoking us, lifting us, nudging us  
to work for the healing of this world's brokenness,

to keep alive the dreams and visions of a world  
where all are valued, where God may look  
from heaven and see that all is good, that all is very good.

And so today, in the company of each other, and  
in company with people throughout the world  
we declare as generations before us have declared

**Holy, holy, holy,  
Hope-breathing god,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one  
Who comes in the power of love;  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THE STORY**

Blessed is God who has brought us to this table.  
We, who have come,  
remember that night among friends,  
the night of deathly betrayal, when Jesus took bread,  
blessed it, broke it, and shared it, saying:  
Take, eat,  
this symbolises my body  
which is given for you and for many.

Do this to remember me.  
And taking the cup, gave thanks and shared it, saying:  
Drink this all of you;  
This represents the life-blood of the covenant  
Poured out for you.

Come, unsettling Spirit of hope.  
Be present in the mystery of this communion  
and lead us out to follow the risking Christ.

## **SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE**

We break this bread  
remembering  
the brokenness of our world  
and declaring  
our hope of wholeness and shalom  
is in Christa/community

**By eating this bread we become one in the hope.**

We pour this wine,  
remembering  
the pain and bloodshed of our world  
and declaring  
our hope in the overflowing love  
of Christa/community

**By drinking this wine we become one in this hope.**

Holy One, let your Spirit well up in us  
and in these gifts of bread and wine,  
that we may be filled with hope for the journey.

**Amen.**

Come to receive. Come to share.  
Come to embody Christa/Community.

*People form a circle around the church.*

## SHARING COMMUNION

“The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.”  
The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Draw the circle wide!

## TAIZÉ CHANT

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

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of heaven and earth  
You feed us in body, heart, soul and spirit  
and make us one in Christ.  
Inspire us with fresh visions  
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.  
Give us strength to accompany each other in faith  
in the days ahead.

**Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.  
Let us claim it.  
God makes peace between us.  
Let us share it.  
Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet those around you, sharing a sign of  
peace, as you return to your seats.*

# Living in the world God loves

## LENTEN FASTING

Peter Millar (adapted)

Fast from worry:

**feast on assurance**

Fast from complaining:

**feast on appreciation**

Fast from unrelenting pressures:

**feast on trust**

Fast from hostility:

**feast on peaceful resistance.**

## HYMN

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann

For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
and joy....., compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice  
justice and joy!*

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
and joy....., compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight, when we are creators of justice  
justice and joy!*

## **SENDING OUT AND BLESSING**

You are loved toward wholeness;  
let that love be good news to all you meet.  
You are blessed with forgiveness and grace;  
pass on the gifts you have received.  
You have inherited God's promises;  
let them find fulfilment in and around you.

Travel gently through the journey of Lent  
Know that Holy One who holds all things will be there.  
That Christ who calls us friend will walk beside us  
And the Spirit who makes all things new  
will mark our way with light and hope.

## **SUNG AMEN**

African American Spiritual Amen

## **COMMUNITY GREETING**

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

## **PROCESSIONAL SONG**

May the feet of God walk with you,  
and his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
and her ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you,  
and his breath give you life.  
May the Child of God grow in you,  
and her love bring you home.

## **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

Ross Johnston

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

\*Christa is sometimes used in our liturgies to convey that the risen Christ is not defined or determined by gender.

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

Lenten Fasting inspired by Peter Millar's book *Finding Hope Again* (2003)

Holy Communion and Elements of this liturgy are adapted from previous Lenten Pitt St liturgies.



**Introducing the Intensive Journal® process  
Online Session (3 hours)  
Led by Kate Scholl**

Thursday 5th March 2-5pm (AEDT)

This 3-hour workshop offers a brief introduction to the work of Dr Ira Progoff and the Intensive Journal method. Participants experience a few of the exercises that are part of the 2-day workshop. It's designed to give people a taste of this process or reconnect with it if you have participated in a workshop in the past. Cost: \$40

More details and to register - [Thursday 5th March 2026](#)

Questions about any of these events  
contact [katescholl@eremos.org.au](mailto:katescholl@eremos.org.au)



## **Update from In-Congregation Computer/Phone/Tablet Reuse/Recycle service**

I received a batch in January and have a some devices available:

- \* iPhone: iPhone SE gen 1 32G (2016, 4G LTE)
- \* Android: Samsung Galaxy J5 Pro 32G (2017, 4G LTE), Galaxy S5 16G (2014, 4G LTE)
- \* Tablet: MS Surface 2 (ARM-based Windows 8 RT, does not support Windows 10/11)
- \* Computers: mostly Intel gen 4, 4~8G RAM, 240G SSD. Can run Windows 10/11 or Linux to handle basic use (e.g. word processor and web browsing)

Please contact Orange if you need them.

Photo by [Daniel Romero](#) on [Unsplash](#)