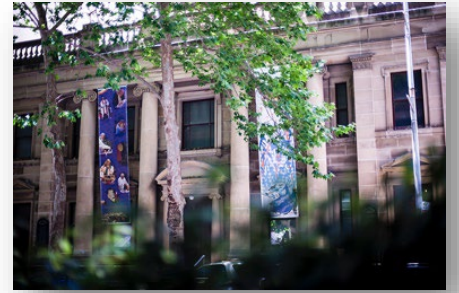


# Pitt Street Uniting Church

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



## Sunday Gathering

19 April 2026

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### *THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER*



## **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.*

## **We gather as the people of God**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**    Now the green blade rises    TiS 382

Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth  
many days has lain:  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
*Love has come again,  
Like wheat that springs up green.*

In the grave they laid him,  
Love whom hate had slain,  
thinking that he never  
would wake again,  
laid in the earth.  
like grain that sleeps unseen,  
*Love has come again,  
Like wheat that springs up green.*

Up he sprang at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
He who for the three days  
in the grave had lain,  
raised from the dead  
my living God is seen:  
*Love has come again,  
Like wheat that springs up green.*

*Please remain standing.*

## **GATHERING**

In a world of many tears, we search each day  
for markers of hope:  
for the small, unexpected signs of light and love;  
for the quiet assurance that goodness is planted  
more deeply  
than all that is wrong.

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

Peace be with each one of you.

**And also with you.**

Come and share the love God has given to us.

**Come and share what it means to be the people of God.**

Come and be surprised. Christ is present with us.

**Christ is here. The risen Christ is among us!**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the ones who were here before us, the  
Gadigal of the Eora Nation, first inhabitants of this place.

**We honour their custodianship of the land on which we  
gather today. With them we pray for justice, for Indigenous  
people and sacred land.**

When our hearts are wintry,  
 grieving or in pain,  
 then your touch can call us  
 back to life again –  
 fields of our hearts  
 that dead and bare have been:  
*Love has come again,  
 Like wheat that springs up green.*

**WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF AWARENESS**

God of love and peace,  
 You travel with us;  
**And in our travelling  
 We struggle to shed our fears.**

**Our hearts have not yet reached a trusting openness  
 and we fail to recognise your presence  
 in the stranger in our midst.**

*Remain seated to sing.*

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Trouble not your  
 hearts. My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not a - fraid.

God of love and peace,  
 in our utterly divided world  
**We have not always loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
 We have not always lived as people of faith.**

*Remain seated to sing.*

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Trouble not your  
6 hearts. My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not a-fraid.

## WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

In Easter, we are reminded that  
in every generation,  
God invites us to be people of love;  
to walk not in fear, but in that trusting openness  
which comes as a gift to the human heart  
from the heart of God.

## HYMN

Santo, santo, santo

TiS 723

Let us stand, as we are able, and sing the Sanctus.

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!

**Santo, santo, santo  
Mi corazon te adora!  
Mi corazon te sabe decir,  
Santo eres Señor!**

**Holy, holy, holy,  
My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you,  
Holy are you Lord!**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## **SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE**

May the peace of God be with you!  
**And also with you!**

*In invite you to greet people around you,  
sharing a sign of peace.*

*Please be seated.*

## **We listen to Words of Faith**

### **Listen for words of Faith from the Psalms**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (adapted)

I love God, who has heard my prayer,  
who bends down to hear my call.  
The cords of death entangled me:  
The grip of the grave took hold of me

Then I called on the name of God,  
'Gracious God, I pray, save my life'.  
God is gracious and just,  
God is merciful.

**I will walk in the presence of God,  
In the land of the living.**

How can I repay God  
for the goodness done for me?  
The cup of life and love I will raise  
and call on the name of God.

Gracious God, I am your servant.  
My life, my work, I offer to You.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
You have set me free.

**I will walk in the presence of God,  
In the land of the living.**

For the search for wisdom in ancient times

**We give thanks.**

**Listen for words of faith in a Contemporary Reading:**

The Poem "Stay" by Jan Richardson

For words of spiritual insight in contemporary expression

**We give thanks**

**Listen for words of faith in the Gospel**

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

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**

Deborah Robinson

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN**

Jesus calls us here to meet him

TiS 477

Jesus calls us here to meet him  
As, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm God's promised presence  
where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps God's promise;  
praise the Son who calls us friends;  
praise the Spirit who, among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to each other:  
Found in him are no divides.  
Race and class and sex and language  
Such are barriers he derides.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
Join the hands of age and youth;  
Join the faithful and the doubter  
In their common search for truth.

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray in thanksgiving and solidarity:

Gracious God,  
we carry with us  
the stories of our fellow travellers  
who have experienced devastation and heartbreak.  
Hear us as we pray  
for friend and stranger alike.

We offer our prayers for those who have been betrayed  
by family, friends, or trusted institutions.

**Gracious God, hear our prayers for peace and restoration  
where trust and relationships have been broken.**

We offer our prayers for those who do not share  
in the bounty of the earth,  
those who do not have enough  
while others have so much, more than enough.

**Gracious God, hear our prayers for generous hearts  
and for inspired actions.**

## **JESUS PRAYER**

*In the spirit of Jesus we gather up all our prayers and, in these words, or in those of our own language or tradition, we say:*

**Breath of our every fibre,  
Flowing in and beyond the stars,  
May we rejoice in your ever-renewing life.  
May your love flourish, may your peace be known,  
in all beings and becomings.  
Sustain us in what we need.  
Transform the suffering we inflict,  
as we transform the suffering we endure.  
Free us from all that crushes joy,  
and keep us from unbearable pain.  
Let your way be our journey,  
your truth our story,  
and your life our coming home, now and always. Amen.**

## **OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

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

**We bring our openness to be surprised by life  
We bring our offerings to share in the work  
of opening up the world of justice.  
We bring ourselves.  
Amen.**

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

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## COMMISSIONING HYMN

Our feet are on the road ahead

Tune: TiS 557

Our feet are on the road ahead,  
our nourishment is heaven's bread.  
There is no place Christ is not found;  
we take each step on holy ground.

For, as we go, the Spirit tells  
of desert places, hidden wells,  
of strangers' blessings on the way,  
of how, by grace, we reached this day.

In one another's eyes, we see  
the pleasures of community,  
the dreams of where this road may go,  
the joy as faith and wisdom grow.

The far horizons call us on  
and still we seek the Holy One.  
Let many walk the way in peace,  
let love and courage never cease.

## BLESSING

May the blessing of God  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
nourish and sustain us,  
and continue to surprise us.

## SENDING OUT

Let us go forth from here:

Touched by the light of new dawn.

**Send us out to dispel the darkness.**

Helped by your grace to look twice.

**Send us out to see you in the stranger.**

Nourished like seeds in rich earth.

**Send us out to bring life to the world.**

Rejoicing that death could not hold you.

**Send us out to bring joy to the sorrowing.**

Brushed by the wings of angels.

**Send us out to proclaim the good news.**

Go in peace, for Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**SUNG AMEN**

African American

**COMMUNITY GREETING**

**RECESSIONAL SONG**

by Robin Mann

TiS 779

May the feet of God walk with you,

And God's hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,

And God's ear hear you cry

May the smile of God be for you

And God's breath give you life

May the child of God grow in you

And God's love bring you home..

**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 was written by Rev Josephine Inkpen

'Our feet are on the road ahead' from *Songs for a Hopeful Church*, Elizabeth J Smith)

This liturgy was based on older Pitt Street Liturgies

Sending out was written by Rev Penny Jones

**BANK DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC OFFERING**

*Account name: Giving Direct*

*BSB: 634-634. Account: 100025916*

*Reference: your name*

*Donation Tap Point is available at the back of the Church.*

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

*Those attending onsite are warmly invited to stay for  
morning tea.*

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

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**Reminder of Special Congregational Meeting**

The Joint Nominating Committee (the team you charged with the task of finding a new minister for Pitt Street), believes it has found the right person to be our new Minister.

The JNC is inviting you to a Special Congregational meeting on Sunday 26 April 2026 at 11.30am.

The livestream will continue so people online can take part in this meeting.

You will be able to hear from the members of the JNC and ask questions and hear the answers, and you will be able to participate in the secret ballot to accept or reject the JNC's nomination.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however, only members and members-in-association can vote.



## PITT STREET ORGAN RESTORATION

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Patron: Clover Moore AO, Lord Mayor of Sydney

This work will be covered by  
a [NSW Heritage Grant](#) (\$190K)  
and by donations (\$310K).

### **Please help**

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible  
Can be made by cash, cheque or online to:  
BSB 634 634 – Account No.: 100047660

Account Name:

Pitt Street Cultural Foundation

**On-line  
Donation  
Form**

