

# Pitt Street Uniting Church

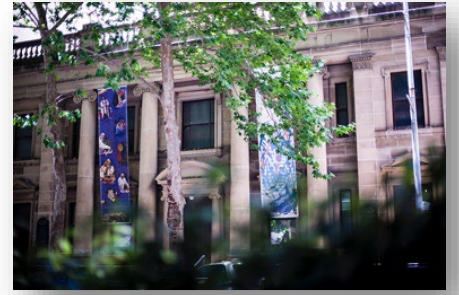
*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in  
Australia*

*Founded 1833*

## Sunday Gathering

3 May 2026

### ***Fifth Sunday in Easter***



*The Elements of the Holy Communion*  
*Jacques Iselin (1933 - 2003)*

## **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

## **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

*A gong sounds – centring prayer/meditation.*

*Please stand as you are able*

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

God is revealed in the amazing transformation of death into life,  
endings transformed into beginnings,  
and obstacles that become a source for new possibilities.

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Words: Jane Parker Huber

Tune: Lobe den Herren TiS 111

O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,  
gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.  
Show us a new Life in your breath-taking view,  
lovely beyond all our dreaming.

Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you.  
May our diversity here be a means to adore you.  
Women and men, young, old, and youthful again,  
make us as one, we implore you.

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.  
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.  
Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark  
whatever clouds dim our vision.

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## **GATHERING**

Discovered in daily life  
divine presence  
opening eyes  
opening minds  
opening hearts  
inviting us to journey deeper ...  
Gentle still point  
silent place of knowing ...  
Unknown God made known among us.

Listen! The One who knows you is calling you by name,  
inviting you to be included in community.

**We will follow the voice of Love.**

You will find here refreshment for your body and spirit  
and your space to rest your weary bones.

**We will rest in this place of Love.**

A table of community is set for you,  
and enemies around and within,  
all are welcome.

**We will gather with the community of Love.**

## **HYMN**

Words: Jane Parker Huber  
Tune: Lobe den Herren TiS 111

Break the sun's rays into colour, a rainbow around us.  
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough  
to confound us.

Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,  
giving us hope to astound us.

Grateful, we come now by Christ's invitation clear spoken.  
We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed  
and broken bread.  
Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call,  
offering our lives as the token.

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle celebrating Christ's presence in  
community.  
God alive among us present in every expression of love, light  
of the world be with us all.

God alive among us, at every turn of the road,  
**Light of the World, be with us all.**

## TAIZÉ CHANT

TiS 702

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

5  
ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Please be seated.*

## ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional owners of this  
land, land that was taken without their consent, treaty, or  
compensation. Sovereignty was never ceded.

**The Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of  
this ancient land. We honour the Gadigal of the Eora on  
which this church stands. We pay our respects to their  
elders, past and present, as we commit ourselves to pray  
and work for a more just future.**

## WELCOME

Bujari Gamarruwa

In this moment  
we are gathered  
welcoming Divine Presence.

**Our hearts are lifted.**

**We open our eyes.**

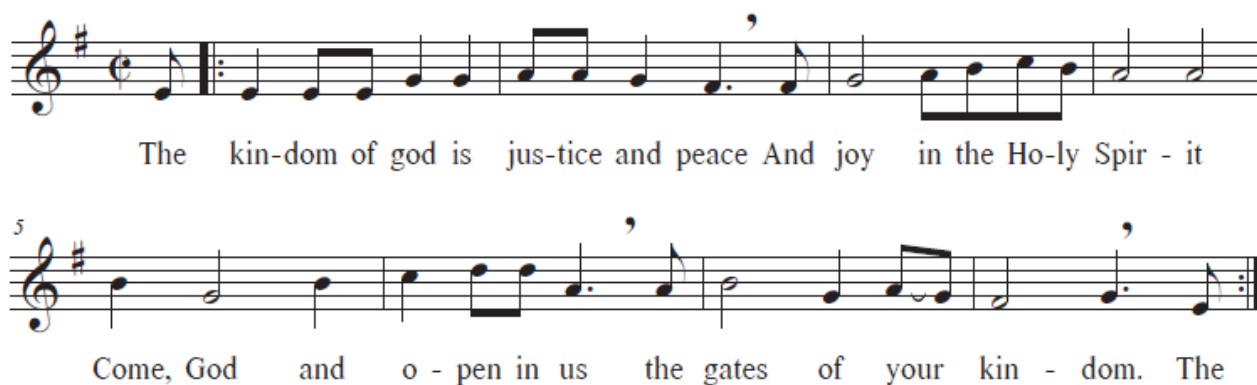
**We welcome love.**

*Remain seated to sing.*

## TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

*Solo first then sing together*



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

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace and peace and joy  
in the Holy Spirit.

Come now and open our hearts.

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

We meet on holy ground,  
for that place is where we meet one another.  
Where lives touch,  
where love moves,  
where hope stirs,  
there is holy ground.

How strong is our need for one another:  
our silent beckoning to neighbours,  
our invitations to share life and a meal together,  
our welcome into the lives of those we meet  
and their welcome into our own.

We meet on holy ground:  
brought into being as life encounters life,  
as we take on the pride and pain of our companions  
as our separate selves become community.

In the quiet we remember our lack of connectedness, the places  
in our lives where we have removed ourselves from the other ...

*A time of silence and reflection.*

The invitation is here – come into this place of communion,  
come into a sense of the holy, and know that you belong.

*Remain seated to sing.*

## TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

*Solo first then sing together*

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

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace and peace and joy  
in the Holy Spirit.  
Come and now and open our hearts.

## **JESUS' PRAYER**

*Remembering Jesus whose story shapes our stories, let us pray in hope for a new day and a new way of living.*

**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**

In response to our prayers comes assurance of grace.

We were not made to hide our light,  
we did not receive life in order to quench it.  
We are human beings  
in the likeness of God,  
loved and forgiven,  
made for abundant life.

**Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand to sing as you are able.*

## SUNG RESPONSE

TiS 720  
sung twice

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.*

## We listen for the Spirit in Word

### WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

**Hebrew Bible:** Hear words of faith and hope in Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16.

For the wisdom of our ancestors of faith  
**We give thanks.**

**Gospel:** Hear words of faith from the Gospel of John 14:1-14

For the Word of God inspiring us,  
for the Word among us,  
for the Word within us.  
**We give thanks.**

### TAIZÉ CHANT

sung once

Jesus, your spirit in us, is a wellspring of life everlasting.



### CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Lionel Robson

# We respond in love

## 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff begins with a measure rest and a '3' above the staff, indicating a triplet. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

*On Communion Sundays a member of the community prepares and offers a prayer reflecting on our community and our world during the week.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Craig Linn

*We hold a time of silence together to offer our own prayers, to reflect upon what has been in our media headlines and whatever rests heavy on our hearts ...*

*Please feel free to offer your own prayers, in silence, or (if on Zoom) via the chat.*

When we do not recognise you  
in those we meet, loving God,  
call to us by name as we walk beside them.

Words and music: Pat Mayberry  
Arrangement: Pat Mayberry and David Kai

O \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly, O \_\_\_\_\_ bles - sed, O God hear our  
5 prayer, O \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly, O \_\_\_\_\_ bles - sed, O  
8 God hear \_\_\_\_\_ our prayer.

**O Holy, O blessed,  
O God hear our prayer  
O Holy, O blessed  
O, God hear our prayer.**

God we pray for the life, the way and the truth ... of love and liberation for all.

## **OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

We pray together:

**Loving God,  
we bring our gifts and we bring ourselves.  
We give thanks for all we have and for all we are  
and accept the privilege of responding  
to the generosity of these gifts given to us –  
with lives lived for others.  
Amen.**

# Holy Communion

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited to the table. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from, where you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe; you are welcome to participate in communion. This sacred meal is for everyone.

## THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the unfolding of matter, mind, and life that has brought us to this moment in time.  
Gifts from an Easter God.

**We celebrate our common origin with everything that exists.**

We celebrate the mystery we experience and address as 'God', ground and sustainer of everything that exists, in whom we live and move and have our being. We acknowledge this mystery embodied in every human person, aware that each one of us gives God unique and personal expression.

**God is everywhere present.**

In grace-filled moments of sharing.  
In communities of loving solidarity.  
We are one with everything, living and nonliving, on this planet.  
Connected. Interrelated. Interdependent.  
Held within the web of life!

## THE STORY

We remember the stories from our tradition...  
How Jesus would share a meal with friends.  
Bread and wine shared in community.  
For everyone born, a place at the table...

How the bread would be taken,  
blessed, and shared between them.  
And all of them ate.

How wine would be poured out,  
blessed, and then passed between them.  
And all of them drank.

The bread and the wine symbolised human lives  
interconnected with all of life,  
the power of giving and receiving.  
May the passion for life as seen in Jesus,  
and in the lives and struggles of other  
committed and faithful people then and now,  
enable us to dare and to dream and to risk...

**Together may we re-imagine the world.**

Together may we work to make all things new.

**Together may we celebrate the possibilities and hope  
we each have and are called to share.**

## SANCTUS

TiS 761

Let us stand and join in singing the Sanctus.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, wis - dom, strength and hope.

5  
hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

10  
Bless'd the One who comes in the name of our God, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy God  
Wisdom, strength and hope.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Bless'd is the One  
who comes in the name of God,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## **BREAD AND WINE**

We break the bread for the broken earth,  
ravaged and plundered for greed.

**May there be healing of our beautiful blue and green planet.**

We break this bread for our broken humanity,  
for the powerful and the powerless  
trapped by exploitation and oppression.

**May there be the healing of humanity.**

We break this bread for those who follow other paths:  
for those who follow the noble path of the Buddha,  
the yogic path of the Hindus;  
the way of the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs;  
and for the children of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar,  
the Jews, and the Muslims.

**May there be healing where there is pain and division.**

We break this bread  
for the unhealed hurts and wounds  
that lie within us all.

**May we be healed.**

This is the cup of peace and new life for all.  
A sign of love for the community of hope.

**A reminder of the call  
to live fully,  
to love wastefully,  
to be all that we can be.**

## SHARING COMMUNION

“The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.”  
The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come for all is made ready.  
Draw the circle wide!

## COMMUNION SONG

Soloist: Cathy Williamson  
Words and Music by Robin Mann

Feed us now, Bread of life,  
in this holy meal;  
let us know your love anew:  
we hunger for you.  
Feed us now, Bread of life,  
come and live within;  
let your peace be ours today,  
Holy Jesus, we pray.

Piece of bread, glass of wine:  
Oh, this food is good;  
love and mercy come to us —  
your promise we trust.  
Piece of bread, glass of wine;  
who can understand  
how his mercy works in these?  
Yet, God, we believe.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Divine Presence in all of life,  
we give thanks for our gathering together  
in this sacred place.

**We rejoice in the blessing of each person here.**

**We are grateful for who we are for each other.**

**May we express this gratitude by living in compassion  
and peace.**

**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.*

*Please remain standing as you can.*

## Living in the world God loves

**HYMN**      Our feet are on the road ahead      Tune: Tallis' Canon

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.

## **SENDING OUT**

Let us go from here,  
to walk with the joy of the Spirit,  
to keep hope alive,  
to live with compassion,  
to create peace and justice.

## **BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN**

Go ...  
with the love of God enfolding you,  
the peace of Jesus the Christ within you,  
and the breath of the Holy Spirit inspiring your life.

## **SUNG AMEN**

African American Spiritual Amen

*Please be seated.*

## **COMMUNITY GREETING**

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

# **We go out to the world God loves**

## **RECESSIONAL SONG**

You shall go out with joy  
Tune: Tree of the Fields TiS 755  
music page

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth in peace  
and the mountains and the hills  
shall break forth in singing.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
and the trees of the field shall clap  
shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands  
and the trees of the field shall  
clap their hands  
and you'll go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace. and the  
 moun - tains and the hills shall break forth sing - ing; There'll be shouts of joy,  
 and the trees of the field shall clap, shall clap their hands.

**CHORUS**

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands, and the trees of the  
 field shall clap their hands; and the trees of the field shall  
 clap their hands, and you'll go out with joy. You shall go

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

Peter Bennett

**FURTHER READING OF OTHER GOSPEL VERSIONS OF JESUS' PARTING WORDS:**

- Mark Chapter 3
- Matthew Chapters 24-25
- Luke 22: 21-38

## 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*.

The liturgy for Holy Communion has been adapted from a communion shaped by Rex A E Hunt from resources created by and adapted from: Carter Heyward, L Bruce Miller, Michael Morwood, Shirley Murray, David Bumbaugh, John S Spong, Rex Hunt, the Iona Community, and was first celebrated at The Centre for Progressive Religious Thought, Canberra ACT, Australia.

Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Easter Pitt Street liturgies.

### *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 on Zoom are warmly invited to stay online for community time.*



*Join us*

# PEOPLE FOR PEACE

Solidarity gathering for peace & justice

**SUNDAY 3 MAY at 4pm**  
**Pitt Street Uniting Church**

on Gadigal land



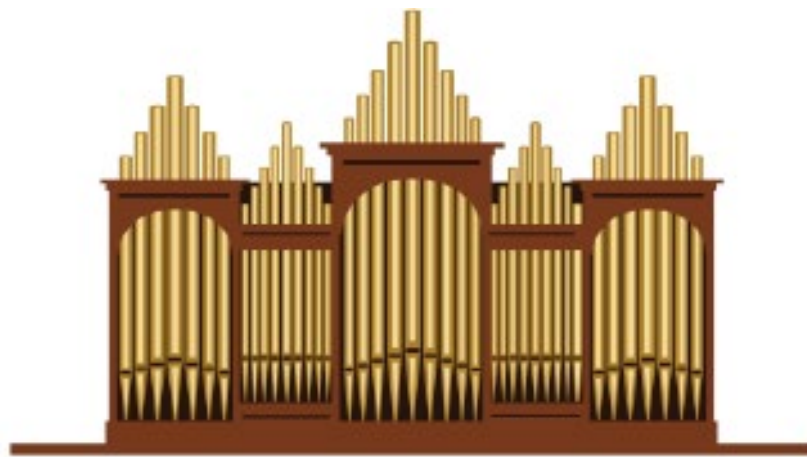
## **AGM PART 1 - Sunday 17 May**

At this meeting we will reflect on our life together during 2025.

At this meeting we will receive the 2025 Annual Report, review our progress in the four areas in the Pathways Plan, receive information on choosing a JNC and extracts from Pitt Street's congregational profile.

There will only be 5 hard copies of the Annual Report available at this meeting.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the meeting.



## 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

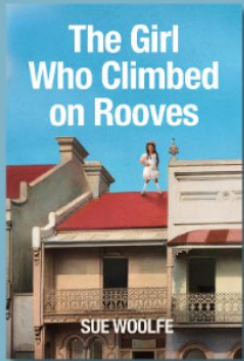
All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible  
Can be made by cash, cheque or online to:  
BSB 634 634 – Account No.: 100047660

Account Name:

Pitt Street Cultural Foundation

On-line  
Donation  
Form





**SUE WOOLFE**

in conversation with Bob Carr

**Wed 13 May, 6.30pm**

In *The Girl Who Climbed on Rooves*, Sue Woolfe tells the story of Frances, a composer looking back on a childhood shaped by beauty, fear and silence. Her mother was mesmerising yet unpredictable, capable of tenderness and sudden rage. No one spoke of why.

As Frances revisits her past, she begins to uncover the hidden life her mother never revealed: a wild girl who once climbed across rooftops, a young woman marked by secrecy, and a family shadowed by an unnamed catastrophe. Life became divided into “before” and “after,” though the truth remained buried.

Rich, searching and deeply affecting, this novel explores the long reach of what is left unsaid and the ways creativity can transform pain. At its heart, it is a story about mothers and daughters, and the fragile work of understanding and forgiveness.

Free Event. Register at

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1570021>



### **Intensive Journal: Life Context Workshop Online over 4 weeks**

Participants attend once each week: 7, 14, 21, 28 May from 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm AEST (Australian Eastern Standard time).

Venue: Your location

Led by Kate Scholl

What would you like your life to be?

The Intensive Journal® method developed by Ira Progoff combines keeping a journal, with a structured format that enables you to get to know the inner core of your life on an ever-deeper level. It empowers you to gain a fuller perspective of your life and unlock hidden creative potential.

The Intensive Journal® Program can help you to:

- Gain greater self-awareness and self-confidence
- Work out career directions and major decisions
- Live more authentically, connected to your deepest values and aspirations
- Develop skills and practices to reflect on all aspects of your life.

More information and registration: <https://www.eremos.org.au/intensive-journal--workshops>



## **Candlelight: Tribute to Drake**

Pitt Street Uniting Church  
Friday 15 May  
**6.30pm**

Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Sydney. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Drake at Pitt Street Uniting Church under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Buy tickets at: <https://feverup.com/m/589786>



## **Candlelight: Ed Sheeran Meets Coldplay**

Pitt Street Uniting Church  
Friday 15 May  
**8.30pm**

Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Sydney. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Ed Sheeran and Coldplay at Pitt Street Uniting Church under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Buy tickets at: <https://feverup.com/m/589784>