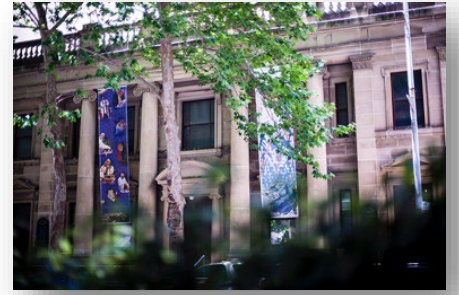


Pitt Street Uniting Church

*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in
Australia*

Founded 1833



Sunday Gathering

17 May 2026

Seventh 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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

We gather as people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Let us build a house

Words and Music by 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.*

Please remain standing as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you
and also with you.

All creation sings with joy:
God is love.

Cross and Resurrection speak the Word
Christ is Love.

Life that leaps forth reminds us again
the Spirit is Love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land,
and we recognise that we meet on sacred land.

We honour the Gadigal of the Eora,
their elders past and present.

**And we pay our respects as we celebrate life in Christ's
name.**

HYMN (Cont)

Let us build a house

Words and Music by Marty Haugen

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 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 be seated.

GREETINGS

Budyeri Gamarruwa

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND AWARENESS

Always moving forward to our need
unconditionally accepting and gracious
participating in our pain and grief
releasing us towards new life
never leaving us alone
forgiving and recreating.

Silence

When we forget that you are greater
and more mysterious
than anything we can imagine.
When we shrink your love
to our own needs and assumptions,
when we limit Christ
to our own philosophies and understandings,
**lift us up and transport us, like Jesus,
into your immensity and your peace.**

Silence

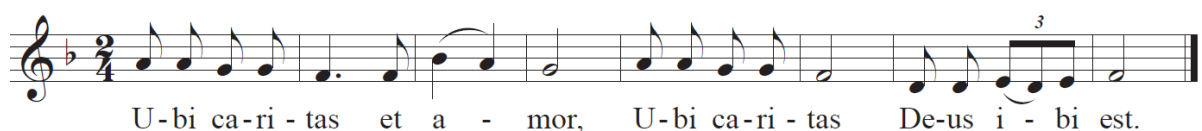
In all of us is a longing for a life that has not yet come,
for a world that is free and just
a dream of hope for all people.

In the midst of your call to unite and reconcile all humanity
before your love for us,
we make our humble confession:
we have not so loved each other.

Remain seated to sing.

TAIZÉ

sung three times



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear words of assurance.

Our emerging God makes all things new.
Beyond fear there is confidence.
Beyond despair there is hope.
Beyond shame there is honour.
Beyond violence there is peace.
Hold fast this word and grow in trust. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

SUNG RESPONSE

Santo, santo, santo

TiS 723

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 God!**

Please remain standing as you are able.

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

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

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

HYMN

Come dearest God

TiS 443

Come dearest God, descend and dwell
by faith and love in every breast;
then shall we know, and taste and feel
the joys that cannot be expressed.

Come, fill our hearts with inward strength,
make our responding souls possess,
and learn the height, breadth and length
of your immeasurable grace.

Now to the God whose power can do
more than our thoughts or wishes know
be everlasting honours done
by all the church, through Christ the One.

Please be seated.

We listen to Words of Faith

Reflections on Psalm 68

Jim Cotter from Psalms for a Pilgrim People

Exuberant is our victory song,
yet we are no better
than those who oppose us.
We too are greedy for spoil,
self-righteousness in slaughter.

Let us see you again
as you came to us,
contracted in the span of a child,
helpless in the arms of his mother
compassionate in bearing
while pinned to a cross,
taking the trampling of blood
deep in the heart of your being,
breaking the barrier of death
to new life.

Silence

We fall silent before the mystery of love,
this renouncing of power familiar so long,
the reversal of power that none can defeat,
this wonder we can scarcely believe.

Listen for words of faith in the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:6-14

For the stories from the early Christ communities,
We give thanks.

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel

John 17:1-11

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

Rev Joy Steele-Perkins

Prayer – the last act of love

Please stand, as you are able, as we affirm our faith.

Let us together affirm our faith.

With the whole church

**We affirm that we are made in Christ's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
unfolding purpose of God
forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

Please remain standing as you are able.

HYMN

We limit not the truth of God

TiS 453

We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect,
crude, partial and confined:
no, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
*our God has yet more light and truth
to break forth from the Word.*

Our faithful forebears searching went
the first steps of the way;
this was the dawning, yet to grow
into the perfect day.
And grow it shall, our glorious sun
will brighter rays afford:
*our God has yet more light and truth
to break forth from the Word.*

O God and Son and Spirit, send
us increase from above;
enlarge, expand all living souls
to comprehend your love;
and make us all to know,
with nobler powers conferred,
*That you have yet more light and truth
To break forth from your Word.*

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

In Australia, and elsewhere around the southern hemisphere, Sunday 17th May marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This week we are invited to pray together for unity among churches.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4)

Silence

Living God,
We ask you to bless us.

We wait expectantly
for the renewing energy of your love for us
and for the world.
We open ourselves to the power of your healing.

Silent prayer.

Gracious God
we are deeply concerned about
the people and situations
which we bring before you.
We ask your blessing on them.

Silent prayer.

Breathe your life into us, O God.
Gather us under the wings of your love.

Comfort our grief,
ease our pain with your gentleness.

Lift our hopes
**that we may stand free
and take up our life
with new courage and faith.**

A time of silence

*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.*

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.**

Gracious God, as we struggle to understand
and use the power of Love
that you entrust to us,
set before us again the way of Jesus,
and work through us in your Spirit,
that we may love extravagantly,
so all may take their share in the inheritance of life.
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 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.**

Please remain standing as you are able.

HYMN Our feet are on the road ahead

Tune: Tallis' Canon TiS 443

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.

Please remain standing

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING

Please stand as you are able.

RECESSIONAL SONG

Words 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 your 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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This liturgy was based on older Pitt Street Liturgies

Sending Out Prayer written by Rev Penny Jones

Jesus Prayer written by Rev Dr Josephine Inkpin

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 before our AGM Part 1 begins at 11.30am.
Those attending on Zoom are warmly invited to stay online for community time.*



Autumn Quarterly Luncheon

Sunday 31 May

The next Quarterly Luncheon will be held after our worship service on Sunday 31 May. Bring a plate to share and join in a time of community and sharing.