

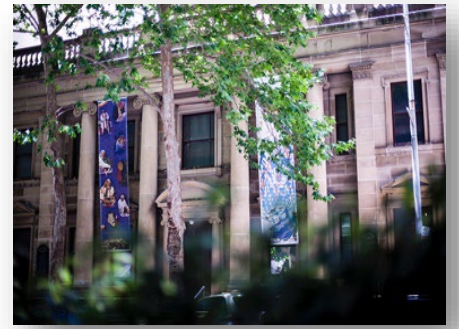
Pitt Street Uniting Church

A Congregation of the Uniting Church in
Australia

Founded 1833

Sunday Gathering

7 June 2026



Third Sunday after Pentecost



*Disciples/refugees heading to a small town :
Google AI generated image*

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 the people of God

And as he sat at the door of his tent, in the heat of the day, Abram saw three strangers standing a little distance away, and he ran to meet them.

PROCESSIONAL HERITAGE HYMN¹ O come o come Emmanuel TiS 265

O come great God of incandescent light
as strangers you met Abraham's sight
and gave a promise they found hard to bear
that Sarah, in old age, a child would bear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the son of God appears.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

¹ A hymn written in a different time and culture, with words unchanged from 18th century.

O come, O come great Lord of Light
who to the tribes of Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the Law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

Please remain standing as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on genesis 18 written in 6th century BCE)

As we gather at the beginning of Refugee Week, let us be like Abraham, dreamtime ancestor of Judaism, Islam and Christianity, and let us welcome the stranger with hospitality and expectation.

Let us say, do not pass by your servant, but stay and drink water, eat bread and sustain your hearts.

We will be like the childless Sarah, and find amusement in the promise of an unlikely and unexpected future and gift.

Let us hear the promise of God – “is anything too hard or too wonderful for Yahweh”.

Let us be like the three strangers who willingly accept the hospitality, and who brought hope and a blessing.

Let us receive with Joy, all that *the God of many names* offers this day.

HERITAGE HYMN

O come, O come Emmanuel
TiS 265

O come, O key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

O come, O come O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your presence here
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and deaths dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

God of many names, of refuge and hospitality,
you gather us together in this place of peace and security.
Deepen our awareness that you are the God of All;
large enough for all people, all nations, all tongues.
Help us, with your Holy Spirit, to create space and support
for all those who seek asylum and refuge.

Amen.

GREETINGS

Budyeri gamarruwa

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather we acknowledge the original custodians of this place, the Gadigal of the Eora, and all First Nations peoples in our communities, their elders past and present. We grieve the unjust loss of their lands and waterways. Their land was never ceded, and was taken without consent, compensation or treaty.

From their beginnings, the Spirit of God, Bai-ame (*By-ah-me*)², in the Gadigal language, has dwelt with the First Peoples of this ancient land.

**We honour the Gadigal of the Eora nation
and commit ourselves to walk for just reconciliation**

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ candle is lit.

Please stand to sing as you are able.

² Bai-ame (By-ah-me), is the creator god and sky parent in the Dreaming of some Indigenous Australians including the Wonnarua, Kamilaroi, Guringay, Eora, Darkinjung, and Wiradjuri people. They reference both sky father and earth mother.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

Mindful of God, hearts filled with gladness
Come into God's presence, singing for joy.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

Know that Bai-ame is our creator
Yes, God is our parent where we belong.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

We are like sheep in God's green pasture
For we are a people; living in God.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

In this small space we bring thanksgiving
But seeing God's cosmos, we're filled with awe.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

Bai-ame is good, with love enduring
The Word is abiding now with us all.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

Honour and praise to the creator,
To Christa and Spirit, world without end.

All the earth proclaim Bai-ame, Sing your joyous praise.

Please be seated.

We listen for witnesses to God's word.

A reading from the book of Exodus 19:2-8a

For stories of fleeing oppression and finding hope.

We give thanks.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 9:35-10:8

For the challenge to reach out to the bewildered, harassed, distressed, dejected and helpless.

We give thanks.

PENTECOST HERITAGE³ HYMN O breath of God TiS 409

O breath of life, comes sweeping through us
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
'till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us
revive, restore: for this we plead.

O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

Revive us Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting
equip your church to spread the light.

REFLECTION Interviews and Reflections Des Perry & Jarrod McKenna

³ A hymn written in a different time and culture, with words unchanged from the 1914 original.

We respond in love

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

A time of silent reflection.

TAIZÉ CHANT

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 joy in the Holy Spirit; Come God and open in us, the gates of your kin-dom.

Loving God,

You call us into new life, out of all past hurts and harms.

Like Sarah and Abraham, Moses and the decendents of Jacob, and the early disciples, let us not be afraid to let go and move onward.

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit; Come God and open in us, the gates of your kin-dom.

You call us into new relationships, out of pain and shame.

Like refugees seeking loving homes and freedom

let us take courage to find healing.

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit; Come God and open in us, the gates of your kin-dom.

Pour out your mercy on us, Holy One.

As you did for people of faith who have gone before us

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit; Come God and open in us, the gates of your kin-dom.

*Sing out and give glory, make praise with your music
Exalt and honour God's name.*

(Musical interlude)

In darkness find courage, in sorrow know comfort
Spirit of the living God (*proclaiming*)
Solace for the weary, release for the burdened
Splendor of the "Great I am"
Repeatedly revealed again

(Musical interlude)

Come then all you people, sing of our God's goodness.....

(Musical interlude)

Praise God with your singing, and praise with the trumpet
Sing praise with the violin. (make noise with)
Clashing of the cymbals, join God with the dancing
Even 'till the end of days
Thanksgiving in every way.

(Musical postlude)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

(Based on Romans 5:1-8)

SUNG REPONSE

TiS 710

**Come Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove;
Come, fire of love.**

Let us pray for people of every faith who believe that God has to be placated, and who live in fear of a vengeful and punishing God. Help them to find peace and to reconcile this fear with your gracious love. We give thanks that nothing can separate us from your loving kindness

**Come Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove;
Come, fire of love.**

We pray for people who rely on laws and rules, or traditions and customs, in order to feel that they are loved, and who feel obligated to point to others who do not meet their expectations. Help them to let go if what is not important and to find confidence in your unconditional love. We give thanks, that there is nothing that we can do which will be acceptable to you, because we are already accepted.

**Come Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove;
Come, fire of love.**

We pray for people who believe that physical pain or mental anguish, or material or financial struggles, or deep grief and sorrow, or even having to flee to a place of safety, is a punishment from God. Help them to know that difficult circumstances are a part of the human experience. We give thanks that even in such adversity, your spirit does abide in us, just as God's spirit dwelt with Jesus, the anointed in his human frailty, sadness and despair.

**Come Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove;
Come, fire of love.**

We pray for people who are indifferent to the suffering of others, and who say that they deserve this, or that they do not merit our care. Help them to stand in the shoes of the other and find a human bond. We give thanks that the example of Jesus was so moved with compassion for people who seemed like sheep without a shepherd.

**Come Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove;
Come, fire of love.**

*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:

**O God, our Divine Lover,
may your presence be ever revered.
May your peace and justice dwell among us.
May your love and compassion
live within and between us.
Nourish us daily with the necessities of life;
sustenance for our bodies,
and inspiration for our spirits.
And may the forgiveness we have received
be that which we give;
the kindness we experience
be that which we show.
For your world is our world,
now, and always. Amen.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us share our offerings
as a loving expression of our response to God's call.

*We give thanks for the gifts brought to the table, and
gifts given to support the mission of the church
through automatic payment.*

**God of Love and Mystery,
You call us to welcome the stranger and cherishing the
outsider,
placing your little ones at the centre:
may these and all our offerings bring hope,
that the gifts of the Spirit may bud and bear fruit in everyone.
Amen.**

We go out as part of the world God loves

PRAYER OF SENDING OUT

Spirit of heavenly Grace and Truth,
nothing is impossible with you.

Help us to live - love

Your good news has been sown in a needy world
And you send us out, confident of your love for us

And for the world.

As we go from this place, may we know your touch
Like a consuming fire

And may your warm flame go with us to the cold places,
Your wind sweep away all that holds us back

And your dove of peace hover over the world
in reconciling gentleness. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Merciful God, in Christ you became a refugee
and had no place to call your own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger –
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your commonwealth
of justice and peace;

and the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and sanctifies,
bring you peace and joyful laughter this day and always.

Amen.

SUNG AMEN

African American

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

FINAL HYMN

TiS 461

*God your glory we have seen in the One, full of truth,
Full of heaven'ly grace
This One helps us live-love shining on our face
And all people will see and feel the full light from your sun*

In the fields of this world, this good news has been sown
Sending us to reap till the harvest is done
God your glory we have seen....

In this love like a fire that consumes, God passed by
The flame that touched our lips: let us shout, "here am I!"
God your glory we have seen....

We no longer need the flame of these candles, as we take the fire of
God's love with us into the world

FINAL HYMN

TiS 461

*God your glory we have seen in the One, full of truth,
Full of heaven'ly grace
This One helps us live- love shining on our face
And all people will see and feel the full light from your sun*

They were broken for us, God-forsaken their cry
And still the bread they break: to ourselves we must die
God your glory we have seen....

Trampled grapes of new life, suffering of the cross
Now drink the wine and live: a cup filled full for us
God your glory we have seen....

God has founded a kin-dom that none can destroy
The corner-stone is laid: go to work, build with joy.
God your glory we have seen....

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Peter Bennett

*Everyone onsite is welcome to stay for morning tea and coffee,
and everyone on Zoom is invited to stay on for
a community time together.*

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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Opening Prayer adapted from UCA Refugee Sunday worship resources

Jesus Prayer adapted from Bret S. Myers, United Church of Christ
Prayer of Sending Out, adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon.

Blessing adapted from Sabeel Centre, Jerusalem.

Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin and Desmond Perry

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.*

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SUN 12 JULY

2- 4PM
WITH TEA AND CONVERSATION TO
FOLLOW

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CHURCH & LIVE
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Naomi Wolfe and
Amy N Allan - Indigenous biblical
scholars in conversation



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A Postlude

Featuring Ella Briggs and Friends

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17.07.26

7pm, Pitt St Uniting Church