

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



28 June 2026

5th Sunday after Pentecost



Abstraction White Rose by Georgia O'Keefe

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come as you are
TiS 693

First verse soloist, then stand to sing.

Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are: that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.

GATHERING

How will we name God today?

With each voice, we bring forth our many names and images for God.

We bring our separate selves, to be woven into community as the Spirit moves among us. We open ourselves to the Sacred Presence, calling us by name, touching our hearts, drawing us together in love.

**Let us celebrate this richness and diversity
in the presence we name God.**

AN ACT OF RECONCILIATION

The Gadigal of the Eora Nation are the original custodians of the land on which our church stands.

We acknowledge and respect their history and their suffering under the colonisation of their ancient land.

**Just as the land survives, so does the culture, heritage
and spirit of the Gadigal. We pay our respects to their elders
past and present.**

Please be seated.

WELCOME

Stay seated to sing as the candle is lit.

SONG Spirit of life come unto me

Words: Carolyn McDade

Spirit of Life,
come unto me.
Sing in my heart
all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind,
rise in the sea,
move in the land,
giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close,
wings set me free;
Spirit of Life,
come to me,
come to me.

6 Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my
10 heart all the stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the
15 wind, rise in the sea, move on the land, giv - ing
20 life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close, wings set me
free, Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me.

A RESPONSIVE PSALM 113

How long, O Lord, will you forget me?
How long will you hide your face from me?

**How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow
in my heart all day long?**

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

My enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love,
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

**I will sing to our God,
Because God has dealt bountifully with me.**

Solo first then stay seated to sing.

Soloist sings once, then remain seated to sing.

SONG As the deer pants for the water

TiS 703

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength and shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

May silence surround us now,
like a mantle
as we open ourselves to the Spirit.
Holy One, calm our fears and uncertainties
as we let go of the things
that separate us from you
and those around us.

Silence.

When we feel isolated, lonely, misunderstood or vulnerable
Call to us and reassure us of your love.

Spirit of God, Giver of Life
move between us and around us.
Breathe into us your freshness that we may awaken
To the flow of enlivening energy within.
Cleanse our vision that we may see more clearly

Who we are and
What we can offer to the world.
Kindle our senses that we may feel more deeply
As we find inner resources of compassion and love
That can heal our wounds and reach out to others.
We open to the grace and wholeness you offer,
Loving Christ.

Solo first then stay seated to sing.

TAIZÉ CHANT



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

**God, you are life for us,
holy be your name.
Your new day come, your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
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 the power and the splendour
and fulfillment are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

Hear the word to us in Jesus Christ:
I am with you always
until the end of the age.
Rise up and live with faith and freedom;
I am making all things new.
Amen.

Please stand to sing.

TAIZÉ CHANT

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Taizé Chant 'Alleluia'. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with a final half note held over to the second staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -' are written below the first staff. The second staff starts with a measure rest marked '5', followed by the continuation of the melody and lyrics: 'ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PASSING THE PEACE

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

*You are invited to greet those around you,
sharing the peace.*

We listen for God's Word

FOR WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

Contemporary Reading

Listen for words of inspiration and hope in the poem *Welcoming Blessing* by Jan Richardson.

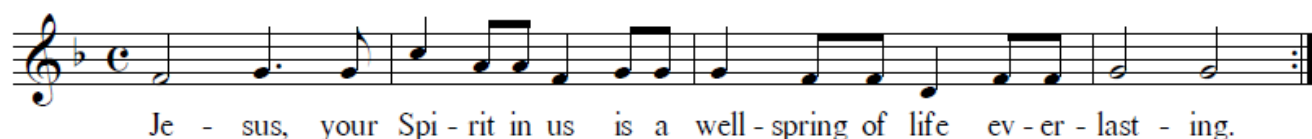
For profound understanding of the need for “welcome”, expressed in a contemporary poem,

We give thanks.

CHANT

sung twice

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



Gospel

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel of Matthew 10:40-42.

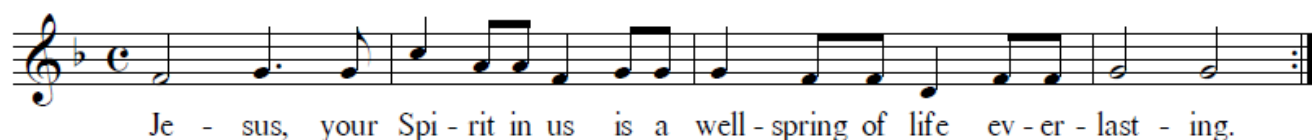
For the Word of God in scripture and song,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

We give thanks.

CHANT

sung twice

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



CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Allison Gentle

We respond to God's love

*As we sing the next chant, you are invited to come forward
and take a welcome affirmation from the baskets on the table.*

*As you return to your seat, I invite you to contemplate the
significance of the affirmation for you.*

CHANT

sung twice
music over page

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest
find its rest and peace.

♩=100

In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in

God my peace and joy.

On - ly in God my soul can find its rest.

find its rest and peace. In

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we know that all around the world there are people who have to make difficult choices.

We remember those who must choose between safety for their families and love of their homelands.

We remember those who must choose between buying food and finding shelter.

We remember all who must choose to stay and struggle for what they believe in or leave for a chance at peace and safety. We remember all who must choose between remaining silent and safe and speaking out and being at risk.

Loving God, we cannot know the pain of many of these decisions and the sense of loss that people experience as they adapt to new worlds. We pray that we, as a nation, may be able to welcome people who come as refugees.

We pray for indigenous peoples who feel an alien culture inflicted on their way of life and the destruction of the natural environment that was their home. We pray that we may be able to walk together with indigenous people on the long journey towards reconciliation. And now we pray for the whole earth and its people, for particular people, places and situations.

We bring all these prayers, trusting in your grace.

Amen.

OFFERING

Please stand as the offering is carried forward.

We give thanks for the teachings of Jesus,
who shows us the way to a life of care and compassion.

**May our gratitude be shown in what we offer to others, our
time and energy, and in these gifts we bring.**

Amen.

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

We go out to the world God loves

HYMN

Draw the circle wide

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song,
no-one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,
'Round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Chorus

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.

Chorus

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door...

Chorus (sung twice)

SENDING OUT

As we go from here in peace
To take up our daily lives,
May we carry with us;
A renewed sense of the sacred,
The warmth and supportive strength of community
And an openness to the opportunities to serve in the world.

BLESSING

May the Holy One hold us in loving care
May the way of Christ be our guide
As we grow in faith
And may the Spirit of Life be active within us.
Amen.

SUNG AMEN

African American

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

May the feet of God walk with you

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and his 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 his love bring you home.

*Please be seated for the postlude and then join us
for morning tea and coffee.*

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Ross Johnston

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Contemporary Reading "Welcoming Blessing" by Jan Richardson, from *The Cure for Sorrow:*

A Book of Blessing for Times of Grief, Wanton Gospeller Press

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

The Chronicle – The Joy of Water



The Joy of Water is the theme for our next issue of The Chronicle. What does water mean to you? Please email your articles and/or photos to me by Friday 14 August.

Thank you. Linda Murphy: murr_lin@hotmail.com