

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



26 July 2026

Ninth Sunday in Pentecost



SZAKACS, Imre
Mustard Seed, 2009

www.artway.eu/posts/imre-szakacs-mustard-seed

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

Please stand as you are able.

We gather as the people of God

We come to worship God.

We gather as a community called by the Spirit.

A Voice cries welcome, let all my guests come in.

We come as friend and stranger.

A Voice cries welcome, let all my guests come in.

We are the open-hearted and the broken hearted.

A Voice cries welcome, let all my guests come in.

We are those who dance and those who weep.

A Voice cries welcome, let all my guests come in.

We are those who feel safe and those who feel lost.

A Voice cries welcome, let all my guests come in.

We come in response to God's love shown to us in Jesus.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lord of our days

Words: Neil Quintrell; Music: Doug Simper

Chorus:

Lord of our days
Lord of yesterday
Lord, our Lord, for ever,
Your people we are.
Lord of our days,
Lord of yesterday,
Lord, our Lord, for ever,
Your people we are.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music, each with a measure number at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff begins with a measure number of 5. The third staff begins with a measure number of 9. The fourth staff begins with a measure number of 13. The fifth staff begins with a measure number of 17. The sixth staff begins with a measure number of 21 and includes the instruction 'Final ending to chorus' below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Lord of our days, Lord of yes - ter - day, Lord, our Lord for ev - er Your peo - ple we are.' repeated on the first two staves, and 'From man - y pasts you fash - ion one his - tor - y a peo - ple of God cre - a - ted to hold for all human - kind the myst - 'ry of faith. Lord of our days, your peo - ple we are.' on the next three staves. The final staff shows a long note with a fermata, indicating the end of the chorus.

Lord of our days, Lord of yes - ter - day, Lord, our Lord for ev - er Your peo - ple we are.

Lord of our days, Lord of yes - ter - day, Lord, our Lord, for ev - er Your peo - ple we are.

From man - y pasts you fash - ion one his - tor - y a peo - ple of God cre - a - ted to hold

for all human - kind the myst - 'ry of faith. Lord of our days, your peo - ple we are.

Final ending to chorus
are.

From many pasts you fashion one history,
a people of God created to hold
for all who live the myst'ry of faith.
Lord of our days, your people we are.

From many wills you fashion community,
a people of God created to love;
being for all the promise of hope.
Lord of our days, your people we are.

Chorus:

Lord of our days
Lord of yesterday
Lord, our Lord, for ever,
Your people we are.
Lord of our days,
Lord of yesterday,
Lord, our Lord, for ever,
Your people we are.

From many calls you fashion one destiny,
a people of God created to be
for all who live the body of Christ.
Lord of our days, your people we are.

From many dreams you fashion a unity,
a people of God created to serve;
bringing to all the witness of love.
Lord of our days, your people we are.

Chorus

Please remain standing as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In mystery and grandeur we see the face of God.

In earthiness and ordinary we know the love of Christ.

In heights and depths and life and death.

The Spirit of God is moving among us.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle celebrating Christ's presence in community.

The Christ candle is lit.

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.

Jesus your light is shining within us;
Let not your doubts or my darkness speak to me.
Jesus your light is shining within us;
Let our hearts always welcome your love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge the generous wisdom, spirit and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the First Peoples of this country. We grieve the theft and violence inflicted on them under colonisation. The Gadigal of the Eora are the original custodians of the land on which our church stands. We acknowledge and respect their long history of continuing relationship with land and waters, land which was taken from them without consent or compensation. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

Creator God has always dwelt with the traditional custodians of this ancient land. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to journeying with them and working for a more just future.

Please be seated.

GREETINGS

Budyeri gamarruwa

PRAYERS OF AWARENESS AND CONFESSION

God of ancient calm.

Let your peace still us.

God of fearful storm.

Fill us with awe.

God of mountains

Widen our vision.

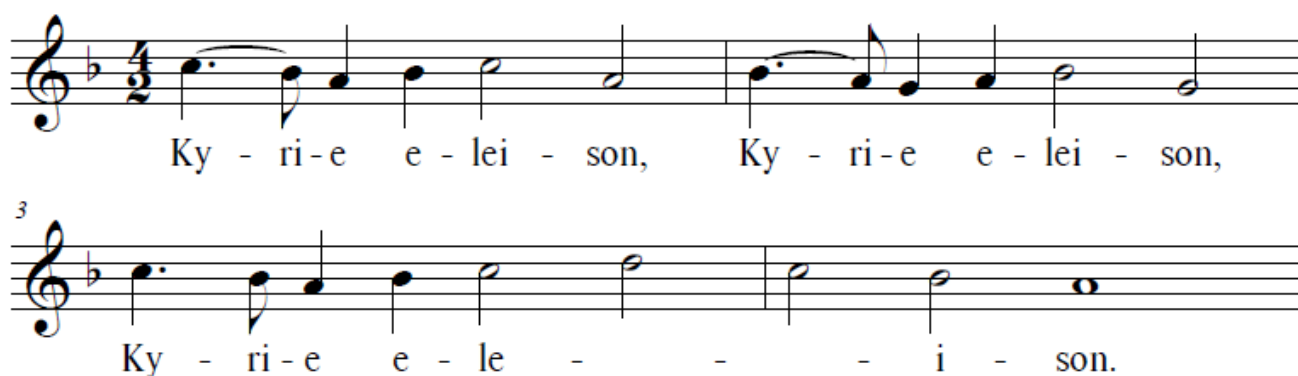
God of shining stars.

Illumine our journey.

God of lonely plains.

Touch these empty spaces within us where we are vulnerable enough to meet you.

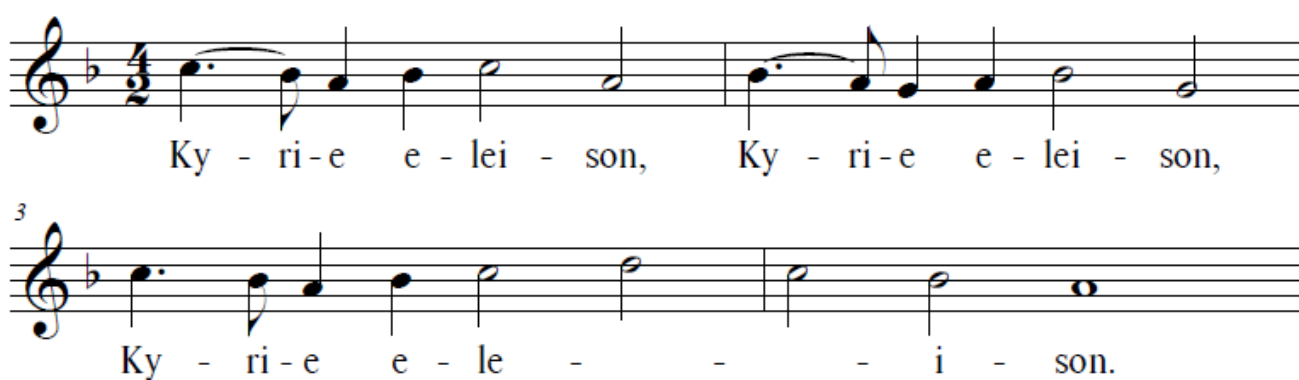
In moments of silence, let us reflect on times in our own life and in the life of the church when we have resisted the life-giving movement of the Holy Spirit.



We recall times when we have had a sense of grief about ourselves, a sense of betraying our own possibilities.



We acknowledge our wavering courage
our faltering hope
our vulnerable faith.



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news
Through God who knows us from the beginning
We are named
We are loved as children of God.
God is always faithful and gives to us a new day
to claim with hope and courage.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is
there is liberty.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able to sing the Gloria.

SUNG RESPONSE

sung twice



SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Let us share the peace;
the peace of the Reconciling One.
May the peace of Christ be always with you!
And also with you!

*You are invited to greet people around you,
sharing a sign of peace.*

Please be seated.

PITT STREET SINGERS

Abendlied
Josef Rheinberger

Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden, und der Tag hat sich geneiget.
Stay with us, for evening is falling, and the day will soon be over.

We listen for Words of faith

Epistle: Listen for words of faith in Paul's letter to the Romans.
Romans 8:26-39

For the insights in early Christian writings.
We give thanks

Gospel: Listen for words of faith in the Gospel according to Matthew.
Matthew: 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Lionel Robson

HYMN

TiS 459 (altd)

In Christ there is no east or west
in Christ no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
Christ's service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands then, people of the faith
wherever you may be
All those who serve our loving God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in Christ meet south and north;
in one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Loving God, Creator of all

We give you thanks for every blessing in our lives.

For those who have gone before us

who planted and tended the seeds of faith,

For family and friends

For the gift of Mother Earth, the common home of peoples,
cultures and species.

For the wonder, mystery and surprise of life on this planet.

**May our reverence for You be manifest in our reverence
for all life.**

We have made an unjust world

where some consume and pollute more than others

and the poorest face the greatest impact of climate change.

**May we share the earth's riches fairly. May we live simply,
honouring Earth so that it may sustain all living beings both
in the present and for future generations.**

Spirit of God

We thank you that you dance through creation, scattering sparks of
peace and healing in our wounded world.

Where there is war and violence – in Gaza and the West Bank, in
Lebanon, in Ukraine, in Iran, in Myanmar, the Congo, Sudan and
everywhere there is conflict

We pray for peace.

Where there are natural disasters-flooding in Chile, Vietnam and
China, drought in Africa, earthquake in Venezuela, everywhere
that communities are devastated and suffering.

We pray for support to give hope for the future.

Where there is discrimination, racism, sexism and intolerance,

We pray for understanding and mutual respect.

Where women live in fear of violence and death

We pray for safety.

Where there is poverty and homelessness, where people call a
bed on the street their home

We pray for a society that demands quality of life for all.

Where there is oppression, exploitation and slavery

We pray for justice and for freedom.

Where there is loneliness, pain and grief

We pray for true community, where people care for each other and bring healing.

As a Christian church in a divided world

We pray for people of different faiths and people of no faith to learn from each other in openness and humility.

JESUS' PRAYER

In the spirit of Jesus, we gather up our prayers in these words, or in those of our own language or tradition.

Breath of our very being,

Who dwells in all things,

Holy is your truth.

May your wisdom come,

Your embracing circle unite all of creation.

Give us today a nurturing spirit.

Heal through us as we ourselves are healed.

Lead us into fullness of life,

and liberate all that is good.

For the love, the power, and the presence

are yours, now and always.

Amen.

OFFERING

Let us share our offering for the church and the world.

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of generosity and grace
we bring these gifts for your blessing.

**We bring them with thankful hearts and we commit to work for
a world where your love is made known and everyone is
valued. Amen.**

We go out to the world God loves

HYMN

Community of Christ
Words: Shirley Erena Murray
TiS 473

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out our creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears
of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

PRAYER OF SENDING OUT

Let us go forth in faith:
grounded in wisdom passed down to us,
and inspired by the good examples
of those who have gone before us

Let us go forth in the faith of Christ

Let us go forth in love:
renewed by the grace of God
and following the Way of Jesus
with gladness and gentleness

Let us go forth in the love of Christ

Let us go forth in hope:
transformed by the Holy Spirit
and sharing the seeds of God's new creation
with trust and joyfulness

Let us go forth in the hope of Christ

BLESSING

May the Holy God surprise you on the way
Christ Jesus take you by the hand
And the Spirit be a cloud of grace around you.

SUNG AMEN

African American

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming newcomers and visitors

*Choir to sing the first verse and then
the congregation is to sing both verses.*

RECESSIONAL SONG

Song of Blessing

Words: Donald Bell; Music: Doug Simper

May Christ, our way and end, direct you,
From cross beyond your power protect you,
To life abundant resurrect you,
In faith and hope and love perfect you.
May God his mighty succour lend you,
In loneliness and grief befriend you;
From hate and craft his arm defend you,
In dearth of spirit still attend you.

In pilgrim way the Spirit speed you,
On living manna ever feed you;
In light her gracious counsel lead you,
In doubt, the cloud and fire precede you.
The Church's common weal* surround you,
Support you in the love that found you;
The everlasting arms be round you,
Till everlasting joy astound you.

* 'weal' – huge well being – as in the old couplet 'weal and woe'

This blessing was written for Jac Brown when he was leaving Adelaide to return to Canada in 1984.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Opening words – adapted from Leonard Cohen, *The Guests*

Call to Worship -Dorothy McRae-McMahon, Echoes of our Journey

Prayer of Awareness and Confession - elements from Peter Millar, *The Surprise of the Sacred*,
and also from Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Solidarity adapted from Daniel Castellanos Velasco

Jesus prayer adapted from Prayer from Dominican Sisters Retreat, March 1993, Great Bend,
Kansas

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.

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.



**A Special Morning Tea for Newcomers and People interested in
membership at Pitt Street Uniting Church
Sunday 2 August**

It's an opportunity to hear more about the particular ethos of this community and our understanding of progressive Christianity. We will also explore different ways to connect with the community.

We will meet in the Fellowship Room after the service.

LEON LAN SOLOIST • TIM LIN CONDUCTOR • TERRENCE FAN DIRECTOR

RACHMANINOFF PIANO CONCERTO No 2



2ND
AUG
2026

tickets online



Program

Lalo Overture to 'LE ROI D'YS'
Tchaikovsky Slavonic March
Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto
No. 2 in C minor

 **bokonon**
orchestra

in partnership with


Australian Children's
Music Foundation

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Winter Retreat Day - Theme - Thresholds

Saturday 1st August 2026

10.00am to 4.00pm

The Cottage, St Benedict's Monastery

121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia

Led by Bethany South and Jenn Pearson

Join us for our Retreat Day at St Benedict's Monastery.

[Further information and registration.](#)

INHERITANCE

**Passing it on: 200 years of
Progressive/Evolving Christianity**

***A conversation for the ages
17-18 October 2026***

SPEAKERS

Rev Dr Lorraine Parkinson, Rev Emeritus Professor Dr Philip Hughes, Rev David Busch, Rex A.E. Hunt, Rev Dr Gregory Jenks and Rt Rev Bishop Tiffany Sparks.

[Further information and ticketing.](#)