

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



23 August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Pentecost



Canaanite Woman
Artist unknown

Source: www.womenpriests.org

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 people of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Let there be light (adapted)
Tune: Dort

God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Christ, who didst come to bring,
on Thy redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to humankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth Thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place,
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.

Please remain standing as you are able.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

From before recorded time, the First Peoples, the Gadigal people of the Eora clan have cared for this Land over the centuries. We acknowledge the Elders and community members who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

GATHERING

We gather in this sacred place
made holy by the Spirit alive in community
celebrating life in all its rich diversity
grateful for the gifts we recognise in each other
affirming the love offered to each of us.
We come into a time of worship
where we tell stories of our faith
and open ourselves to the transforming Spirit
touching our lives with grace and healing
bringing hope to our suffering world.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

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

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

God of every land and people,
we celebrate your boundless love.

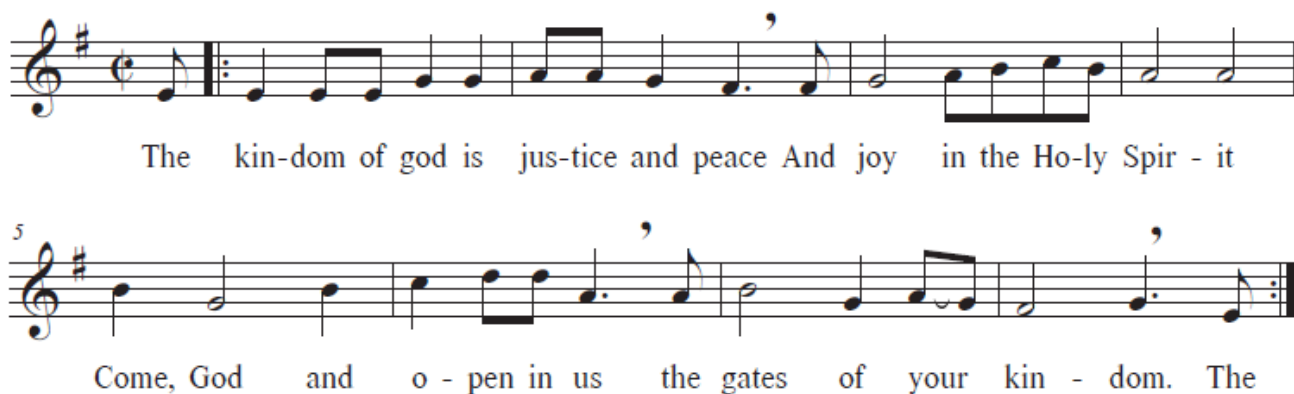
You have called us to walk with our faithful partners, sharing hope,
seeking justice, working to make lives whole and hopeful in the
face of poverty, injustice and a changing climate.

For generations, Your Spirit has woven lives together in courage
and grace.

Today, stir our hearts with their witness — steadfast, resilient, alive
with faith.

Open our eyes to the needs of your world, and our hands to Your
work of healing. Plant in us a bold hope that no injustice is too
great, no dream of renewal too small.

Together in Christ, make us sowers of justice and harvesters of joy.



Gracious and merciful God, we give you thanks for the gift of life,
the beauty of the universe.

O God, you know the depths of our hearts and see what we miss
or ignore.

Forgive us, for missed opportunities to connect with people.

Sometimes we are too distracted by our own concerns and listen
only to those who say what we want to hear.

Forgive us, for missed opportunities to hear other people.

Sometimes, O God, we are deaf to your Word because we are too
busy, or afraid that you might challenge us and call us out of our
comfort zones.

Forgive us, for missed opportunities to open to You.

Grant us the strength to follow in your ways and experience your
grace

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our guide and our friend.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news!

God knows us from the beginning
and calls to us by name.

We are loved and forgiven
called to live with hope and courage.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is liberty.

Thanks be to God!

SONG

TiS 720

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of the Reconciling One
be always with you!
And also with you!

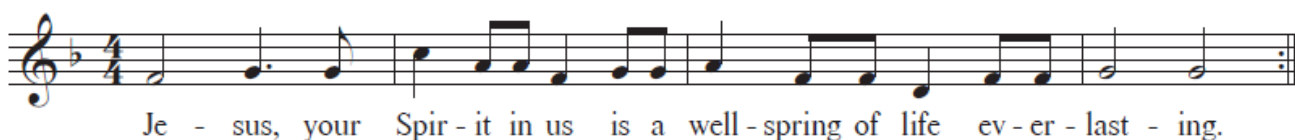
We share a sign of peace with each other.

We listen for Words of faith

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

For stories of grace and acceptance.
We give thanks!

TAIZÉ CHANT



Contemporary Reading: Stubborn Blessing by Jan Richardson

For the Word of God in poetry and scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.
We give thanks.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light ...

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light ...

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come

Christ, be our light ...

REFLECTION

Barry Higgins

VIDEO PRESENTATION

UnitingWorld <https://vimeo.com/1139896841?fl=pl&fe=>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, we give thanks for your great gift of Creation and ask that we may learn to walk softly on the Earth.

May we know a sense of awe and wonder as we experience the intricate beauty and renewing power of the Natural world that sustains us.

We pray for those who suffer through droughts and floods, wildfires and famines exacerbated by human-induced climate change. We pray especially for the poor in developing countries who are impacted by our world's greed and the desire for evermore economic growth on a finite planet.

We pray that here, in our own congregation, we may have the clarity to make choices which are life-giving for our brothers and sisters in our own communities and in the world beyond.

We give thanks for Uniting World working to alleviate child malnutrition in Timor Leste, partnering to improve education for children in Dalit communities in India, supporting families to grow fruit and vegetables in kitchen gardens in Indonesia and many other development projects around the world.

We give thanks for those who bring awareness of the suffering planet and work to bring about a change in our collective attitude towards the Earth and all its peoples.

O God, touch our hearts with compassion, inspire our will to stand with others to make a fairer world, that all may simply live.

We have a time of Silence to offer our own prayers.

We bring all these prayers trusting in your grace.

Amen.

THE JESUS PRAYER

In the Spirit of Jesus we gather up all our prayers in these words, or in those of our 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 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 offerings as a sign of our commitment to God and the world god loves.

Please stand as the offering is brought forward

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

Please remain standing, as you are able, to sing.

HYMN: DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE

Chorus:

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 (x2)

SENDING OUT AND BLESSING

Go now into the world in peace.
May the love of God guide us,
the compassion of Christ inspire us,
and the breath of the Spirit stir us into action.

Care for the earth, tend to one another,
seek justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with our God.

And may the blessing of God —
Creator, Christ, and Spirit —
be with us and remain with us,
now and always.

**We go in peace to love and serve God
And our neighbours,
In the name of Christ.**

SUNG AMEN

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY NEWS

RECESSIONAL HYMN

TiS 779

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.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Ross Johnston

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Elements of the service from Uniting World liturgy

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.



Across NSW, communities have spent decades fighting to protect our precious native forests. The proposed Great Southern Forest National Park is the next ambition, creating a connected protected landscape of almost 1.2 million hectares stretching from the Illawarra to the Victorian border.

[More information and registration.](#)



Angels, Devils and Cookbooks - keeping and sharing stories about food

Who decided to wrap a prune in bacon and call it a 'devil on horseback'? What makes a cake angelic? It's time to spice up your Friday night and enjoy some culinary history focused on good and evil. Not only will you get to hear the back story of foods associated with angels and devils, you will also be tempted to taste these spiritually-inspired morsels.

This is a unique opportunity to feast your senses on an evening of delectable hors d'oeuvres, light-hearted food history, devilishly good wine (with non-alcoholic options), and atmospheric music in an 1840s church building.

Food historian, curator and author of *Eat Your History*, Dr Jacqui Newling, will be in conversation with social history curator Alison Wishart.

Date: Friday 4 September 2026

Time: 5.30 for 6pm seating. Finish by 7-7.30pm

Venue: Historic Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney

Cost: \$40 per person (includes a drink on arrival)

Bookings essential for catering purposes. Please book by 1 September. Places are limited.



All funds raised will go towards the restoration of the state heritage-listed Pitt Street Uniting Church Organ, which was installed in 1910 by Hill and Son.

Please note, we are unable to accommodate all dietary requirements but there will be a variety of food and hopefully something you can eat!

Questions: Email: office@pittstreetuniting.org.au

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A CROSS CULTURAL NIGHT

Australia-Singapore Musical Connection

"Sound of Music" favourites—reimagined, *Carl Vine's "Three Fantasies" and more...

Featuring
Conservatorium Open Academy,
Melophile & BeMe students



Nicholas
Hammond

Hollywood Actor
"Sound of Music"
original cast



Dr Poom
Prommachart

Head of Department
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
School of Young Talents



Dr Nicholas
Ng

Associate Lecturer
Chinese Music Ensemble
Sydney Conservatorium of Music



Ray Lin

Conductor
SCM Australian Chinese Music
Youth Ensemble



Heather Lee

Soprano
ABC Classics



Lachlan Massey

Artistic Associate
Sydney Children's Choir



Jingqi Guo

Pipa soloist



Victor Ong

Adjunct Faculty
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

*Australian premiere

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 6.00 PM | PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

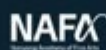
Doors open 5.30pm

264 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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Get Tickets Here

