

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



13 September 2026

Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

Living Water



Photo: Alexi Gorovoi on iStock

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 earth and spirit

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Words from the Jewish Yigdal, (alt.)

Tune: Leoni (TiS 102)

Praise to the living God,
all praise be to the One,
who was, and is, and is to be,
and still the same:
the one eternal Love
before what now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
the timeless years.

The Spirit freely flows,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word speaking of old,
is speaking still.
Established is God's love
and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart,
on sea, on land.

Please remain standing as you are able.

GATHERING

In the beginning,
the Spirit hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

We give our thanks and praise.

Spring has come – Murrai-yunggaray.
The waratah blooms in the forest.
Flying foxes gather in the branches.

We give our thanks and praise.

In the cool getting warmer
we stir ourselves in the ceremonies of life,
called together to worship and give thanks.

**We give thanks
and celebrate the wonders of creation.**

ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather, we honour the Gadigal people as the original
custodians of the land on which this church stands and where we
meet.

**Creator God has long dwelled with the traditional
custodians of this ancient land. We commit ourselves to
journeying with them and working for a more just future.**

Please be seated.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle
celebrating Christ's presence in community,
and in every expression of creation,
and with us on our journey.

Light of the World, be with us all.

The Christ candle is lit.

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In this space, we come as we are:
whole and broken, hopeful and tired.
We bring our humanness into the light of God's quiet love.

Let us pause, breathe, and turn our awareness toward the ways
we and others have missed the mark:
in our hearts, in our relationships, and in our world.

Silence

TAIZE CHANT

Words and Music: Trish Watts
sung three times

Let us rise with you in lib - er - at - ing grace

with lives that know the pow - er of your gaze.
(free - dom in)
(heal - ing in)

Let us rise with you in liberating grace,
with lives that know the power of your gaze.

We know how easy it is to live separated from the ground beneath us, consuming more than we need, and treating our planet as a mere resource rather than sacred space.

May we learn to walk more gently with Mother Earth.

Creator God, who spoke life into Country long before our feet walked on these lands known as Australia, we reflect honestly on our failure to listen deeply to First Nations peoples.

May we open our ears to hear wisdom.

We acknowledge the fragile reality of being human in a world marked by fear, power, and violence.

We reflect on the reality of violence in our homes, on our streets, and woven into our cultural silence.

May we know the courage to build a culture of safety and respect.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Know today that liberating grace surrounds us, renewal is offered to all, and the light of the Christ is making all things whole.

Thanks be to God!

Please stand to sing as you are able.

SUNG RESPONSE

TiS 720
sung twice

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu- jah!
Hal-le-lu- jah, Hal-le-lu- jah!

We listen for words of faith

GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

For Scriptures which challenge our thinking and living:
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

Elizabeth Lee

Bringing forgiveness into question

HYMN

Words: Frederik Herman Kaan (alt.)

Tune: Omni Dei (TiS 101)

God! When human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill,
to restore the hope of healing
give us grace and make us still.

Through that stillness, with your Spirit,
come into our world of strife.
For the sake of Christ forgiving
All the changes of new life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in Jesus and in us.
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

(continued)

Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly, hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger give us faith.

Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God! Encourage and renew!

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Words and music: Pat Mayberry
Arrangement: Pat Mayberry and David Kai
sung once

The musical notation is written on three staves in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 'O _____ Ho - ly, O _____ bles - sed, O God hear our prayer, O _____ Ho - ly, O _____ bles - sed, O God hear _____ our prayer.' The lyrics are written in a serif font, with the words 'O', 'Ho', 'ly', 'bles', 'sed', 'O', 'God', 'hear', 'our', 'prayer' in a larger font size than the filler words 'O', 'Ho', 'ly', 'bles', 'sed', 'O', 'God', 'hear', 'our', 'prayer'.

O _____ Ho - ly, O _____ bles - sed, O God hear our
prayer, O _____ Ho - ly, O _____ bles - sed, O
God hear _____ our prayer.

O Holy, O blessed,
O God hear our prayer.
O Holy, O blessed,
O God hear our prayer.

A time of silence.

*We also pray in silence for all that rests upon our hearts
and minds ...*

*Please offer your own prayers, in silence, or, if online,
use the chat facility on Zoom.*

We lift up all our prayers, spoken and silent.
In the name of the Christ.

Amen.

JESUS' PRAYER

Remembering Jesus whose story shapes our stories, we pray together:

**God, you are life for us,
Holy be your name.
Your new day come,
Your will be done
on earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
and deliver us from evil.
For yours is the power, the splendour
and fulfillment, now and forever.
Amen.**

OFFERING

We share our offering, as a symbol of our commitment to God
and the world God loves.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

**God, our Creator, whose Spirit moved over the deep,
through your love you have given us these gifts to share.
Accept our offerings as an expression
of our deep thanks and respect for those in need,
including all expressions of life on planet Earth.
Amen.**

Please remain standing as you are able.

Living in the world God loves

HYMN

Words: Margaret Forrester (alt.)
Music: Saltash (TiS 774)

God, you fill the world with beauty,
form and purpose bring to birth;
make of us your loving children,
gentle workers with the Earth.
Grant us to revere creation,
hold and use your gifts with care,
keep your harvest with all nations,
humbly handle, gladly share.

Christ, who walked our human journey,
showed the way that we should live.
Risen now, Christ comes and meets us,
heals our wounds and strength will give.
Take, O God, the gifts we offer,
heart and will to you belong.
Guided by your light and wisdom,
in your love we can be strong.

Spirit, God, we know your presence
pulsing through the church and Earth,
where the broken find true healing,
where the outcast learns their worth,
where the pris'ner knows real freedom,
where the hungry have their fill.
Pour on us your Holy Spirit
send us out to work your will!

SENDING OUT AND BLESSING

Let us go from here,
celebrating the creativity of Earth,
and sharing in the recreating of all life.

May the sun warm your soul,
and Earth's moon
pour out its gentle light upon you.

May the Creator inspire us
with love for Earth and each other.
May the Risen One accompany us
in all our healing endeavours.
May the Spirit bring power and energy
to fulfil our highest hopes.

SUNG AMEN

African American

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING AND NEWS

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Words: Julie Perrin

Music: Robin Mann

[alternating his and her on relevant lines]

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

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Arien He

Morning tea and coffee will be served directly after the service.

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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Jesus' Prayer (adapted) paraphrase by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit*.

The D'harawal season of Murrai'yunggaray falls in September and October. This time of year is characterised by the flowering of the waratah and the flying foxes gathering in the forests. The weather is cool, getting warmer and the people knew it was time for major ceremonies. (Weather cycles around Sydney from the Bodkin/Andrews clan of the D'harawal People)

Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Season of Creation Pitt St liturgies and from seasonofcreation.org Living Water resource.

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.

The Season of Creation is the annual Ecumenical celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. We unite to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

This year, we unite around the theme “Living Water”, inspired by Ezekiel 47. Ezekiel’s vision is ultimately one of hope. Through living water comes healing, but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God’s river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

seasonofcreation.org



Patron: Clover Moore AO, Lord Mayor of Sydney

PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH

Organ Restoration Fund

The historic William Hill & Son organ at Pitt Street Uniting Church has been a vital part of Sydney's musical life since it was installed in 1910. However over a century of use means it is now in need of major work to restore it to its original grandeur.

This work will be funded in part by a generous Heritage NSW grant of \$190,000, but the church is seeking further donations to provide the remainder, over \$300,000.

Your donation will help preserve this important part of Sydney's heritage.

Donations can be made by EFT to the Pitt Street Cultural Foundation:
BSB 634 634 Account Number 100047660

Or click on the QR code below to pay by credit card.



All donations of \$2 or more to the Foundation are tax deductible.
For further enquiries, or if you would like a receipt for tax purposes,
please email your name and contact details to
foundation@pittstreetuniting.org.au

The William Hill & Son Organ



William Hill & Son was one of the main organ builders in England during the 19th century. The company provided organs for many famous buildings including Westminster Abbey, King's College Chapel Cambridge, and St James Palace London.

A number of fine Hill organs were exported to Australia between 1871 and 1910. The Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney town halls all had Hill & Son organs, but very few have survived intact. The Pitt Street Uniting Church organ was built in 1910, and is one of the largest Hill organs surviving unaltered in the world. The Pitt Street organ and the world-renowned Sydney Town Hall organ are the only examples with a tubular pneumatic action surviving in Australia. More information on the history of the organ and on its restoration can be found at www.pittstreetuniting.org.au/organ-appeal/



Nepal Emergency Appeal and Pastoral Prayer from Revd Charissa Suli

The Uniting Church's international development agency, Uniting World, has launched an appeal for the devastating floods and loss of life in Nepal. They will work with church partners on the ground in Nepal.

UCA national President, Revd Charissa Suli, has offer a pastoral prayer, which commences as follows:

God of compassion and mercy,

We hold before you the people of Nepal following the devastating flash floods in the Bhote Koshi River area.

We grieve with those who have lost loved ones. We pray for the many who are still missing, local people and visitors alike, for families waiting anxiously for news, for those who have been injured...

Options to donate and the full prayer are at the following link:

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/nepal-2026>

In the service of peace
Pitt Street (264) Uniting
Sunday, 20 September 2026,
3pm

Music. Words. Silence.
A sacred gathering for
peace seekers

Led by
Stephanie Dowrick &
Kim Cunio

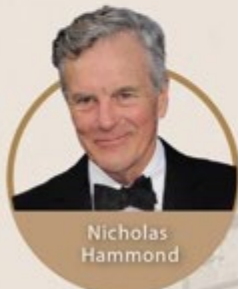
To lift hearts, spirits, and hopes
for a kinder, calmer world for
ALL.

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



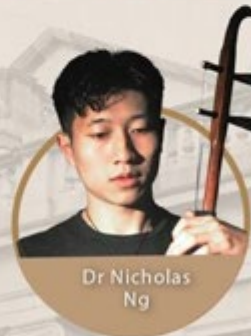
Nicholas
Hammond

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

Organiser |



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Get Tickets Here



INHERITANCE

Passing it on: 200 years of Progressive/Evolving Christianity

A conversation for the ages | 17-18 October 2026

INHERITANCE is the first large-scale opportunity since 2016 for Progressive Christian thinkers around Queensland and beyond, to meet.

We have inherited a rich and priceless tradition of progressive thinking from the past. Speakers from around Australia will challenge us to seek ways of ensuring that open and up-to-date thinking about the world-altering legacy of Jesus of Nazareth will continue to inform and inspire 21st century Christianity.

There will be ample and intentional times allotted for connecting with other progressives and embracing progressive Christianity's existential challenge for the future.

THE SPEAKERS



Rev. Dr Lorraine Parkinson
Inheritance: Passing it on - 200 years of progressive/Evolving Christianity



Rex A. E Hunt
Starry, starry night: A tapestry of awe, wonder and mystical naturalism in progressive/evolving religion.

Rev. Emeritus Prof Dr Philip Hughes AM
The challenges and possibilities for progressive Christianity in a secularising world.



Rev. Dr Gregory Jenks
Imagine this! Practising the wisdom of Jesus under the shadow of Empire.



Rev. David Busch
Progressive Christianity: church renewal or new wine-skins?



Rt Rev. Bishop Tiffany Sparks
Faithful to the Future: because the Kingdom of God is not a museum - and the revolution will have tea-breaks.

Venue

Assembly Hall, The Lakes College,
2 College St, North Lakes Qld 4509

Dates and Times

Saturday 17 October 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 18 October 9:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost

Two days \$130 (Early-bird \$100)
One day \$80 (Early-bird \$70)

Tickets

Bookings open 6 July. Tickets are available only through Trybooking.com:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DMSME>

or

<https://www.trybooking.com/1594324>

Or use this QR code



**Book early for
Early-bird savings!**

Enquiries

Lorraine Parkinson: parki@netspace.net.au; Ian Brown: brownwalkden09@gmail.com

INHERITANCE is the initiative of non-denominational progressive Christian groups in South-East Queensland, supported by progressive Anglican partners.