

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



20 September 2026

Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

Living Water



ARRCC supporters raise awareness on the Pitt Street steps, 2021

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: Brian Wren
Tune: Darwall TiS 187

Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time,
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

Our own amazing Earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms,
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.

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 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.**

HYMN

continued

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend
and kindly tend
Creation's song.

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.

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

TAIZE CHANT

sung once

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.

It is in the depths of life that we find you
 at the heart of this moment
 at the centre of our soul
 deep in the Earth and its eternal stirrings
 You are the Ground of all being
 the Well-Spring of time
 womb of the earth
 the Seed-Forces of stars
 and so at the opening of each day
 we wait
 not for blessings from afar
 but for You
 the very Soil of our soul
 the early Freshness of mounting
 the first Breath of day.

Silence

TAIZE CHANT

sung once



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.

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!

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

The Peace of God is here, flowing though the universe,
breathing through us all, renewing and re-creating.
Peace be with you.

And also with you.

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

We listen for Words of faith

HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 47:1-9

For the vision of the prophets.

We give thanks.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

For Scriptures which challenge our thinking and living.

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Singing Yoongoorrookoo from *Tossed up by the beak of a Cormorant* by Dr Anne Poelina and Nandi Chinna

For the gift and challenges of poetry.

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

Thea Ormerod

HYMN

Words: Elizabeth J Smith

Tune: Stuttgart, TiS 272

Holy Spirit, rushing fi-re,
Burn with truth and justice here.
Catch our minds alight with passion,
Perfect love that casts out fear.

Holy Spirit, come in silence,
Wordlessly to heal and bless.
Be the heart that prays within us,
Fill the void with tenderness.

Holy Spirit, blessed Wisdom,
Teach us all of Love's delight.
Offer us the wine of gr-ace,
Make us children of the light.

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Words and music: Pat Mayberry

Arrangement: Pat Mayberry and David Kai
sung once

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

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

5 prayer, O _____ Ho - ly, O _____ bles - sed, O

8 God hear _____ our prayer.

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

Silence

We lift up our prayers, spoken and silent.
In the name of 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 be seated.

Living in the world God loves

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Words: John L Bell and Graham Maule (altd)

Tune: Thornbury, TiS 456

God's is a world of beauty
In land and sea and air;
aesthetics born in heaven
the ocean depths declare.
Both harmony and discord
emerge from Mother Earth,
while sunset sky and thunder
Proclaim their Maker's worth.

God's is a world of beauty
in creatures and in kind;
diversity and contrast
reveal Her lively mind.
In intellect and language,
in gender and in race,
our differences bear witness
to such a radiant grace.

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 GREETINGS 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

Ross Johnston

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

Prayer of Awareness from *Praying the Earth* by John Philip Newell

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



Please sign ARRCC's petition and join their action on 6 October

ARRCC is asking people of faith, faith leaders and faith-based organisations to sign the global multi-faith petition for a Fossil Fuel Treaty and to circulate it as widely as possible. For more about this, please go to https://www.arrcc.org.au/fossil_fuel_treaty

On Tuesday 6 October, as the Pre-COP Summit gets underway in Fiji, Australian faith communities will come together to publicly show, through media events, that we stand with our Pacific neighbours and support their call for a Fossil Fuel Treaty. Three locations are confirmed, Brisbane and Adelaide and this one in Sydney. Please attend it if you can: 10am at Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

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.