

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



27 September 2026

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

Living Water



Fishing on the Mekong in Laos

Photo by Cathy Ashcroft

During the Season of Creation, we come together to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God. This year, we unite around the theme “Living Water”, inspired by Ezekiel 47:9 and 12. 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

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

PITT STREET SINGERS

Kyrie from Bach's Missa Brevis

We gather as people of earth and spirit

GATHERING

We gather here today in praise,
the Creator – the fountain of life,
the Christ – the pulse of life,
the Spirit – the breath of life.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Words: Elizabeth J Smith
TiS 188

Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.

Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

Please remain standing as you are able.

A RESPONSIVE PSALM OF PRAISE

Adapted from Psalms 65 and 104

Oh God, your greatness fills the universe.
You give hope to people everywhere on Earth
**You are clothed with honour and majesty,
Wrapped in light as in a garment.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
Your light dapples the waters.
The whole Earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
**where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

You make springs gush forth in the mountains;
They flow through the valleys between the hills,
Giving drink to the wild animals
so, they may quench their thirst.
**By streams, birds of the air
Sing among the branches.**

You cause grass to grow for the animals
And plants for people to harvest.
The streams of God are filled with water
**to provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.**

I will sing to God as long as I live;
**I will sing praise and rejoice in my God!
Bless our bounteous God, O my soul!**

Please be seated.

ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, land that was taken without their consent, treaty, or compensation. We pay tribute their long history of continuing relationships with land and waters.

Creator God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land. We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora and pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We commit ourselves to journeying with them and working for a more just future.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

Light of the World, be with us all.

The Christ candle is lit.

Job replies to his friends.

Ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask Earth, and Earth will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of Yahweh has done this?
In God's hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Does not the ear test words
as the palate tastes food?

Is wisdom with the aged,
and understanding in length of days?

SONG

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 living waters flow through our lives,
cleansing, healing, invigorating our spirit.

**We pray in the name of the one who came
so that the whole cosmos may have everlasting life,
Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

TAIZÉ CHANT

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Wait for our God, whose day is near.

5

Wait for our God: keep watch, take heart!

Wait for our God whose day is near,
Wait for our God keep watch take heart.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In response to our prayers comes assurance of grace.

God's love flows like living water
to all the dry places in our lives
offering us generous grace.

Rejoice!

We are held in the Divine Presence
loved and forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!

Please stand to sing as you are able

SUNG RESPONSE

Words: UCC USA

Tune: TiS 768

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of God is here, flowing through 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, as you return to your seats.*

We listen for Words of faith and hope

WISDOM FOUND IN TEXTS

CONTEMPORARY READING

Hear words of a prophet in our time in Mary Oliver's poem,
'Swan'

For words that touch our hearts
For words that tell our lives
For words that challenge and inspire
We give thanks.

HEBREW BIBLE

Hear words of hope in Ezekiel's vision 47: 9-12

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in all creation,
We give thanks to God.

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Deborah Robinson

While we sing the chant you are invited to come to the bowl of water at the table.

TAIZÉ CHANT

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.



We respond in love

Please stand as you are able.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We trust that God, the Source of Life,
creates all things,
renews all things
and celebrates all things.**

**We respect Earth as a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with Divine Presence,
a home for us to share with all of life.**

**We affirm that God became flesh and blood,
became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus
who lived and breathed and spoke among us.**

**We trust that the Spirit renews life on Earth,
groaning in empathy with a suffering creation;
and waits with us for the renewal of Earth
and the entire creation.
Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS FOR THE WAY

TAIZÉ CHANT

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

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace and peace and joy in
the Holy Spirit.
Come God and open in us the gates of your kin-dom.

Creator God,
we give thanks for your love for the Earth.
We come before you as a small piece of your vast creation.
We come in awe at the beauty and wonder of our planet,
and we feel its pain.....

O Christ, who is Living Water,
refresh us for the work of restoration.
May your Word be a spring within us,
flowing out for the healing of nations.
Holy Spirit, carry us on currents of grace
until justice rolls down like waters from an ever-flowing stream.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung once

The kin-dom of God is justice and peace and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Come God and open in us the gates of your kin-dom.

A time of silence.

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

JESUS' PRAYER

Remembering Jesus whose story shapes our stories, let us pray
in hope for a new day and a new way of living.

**Creating Spirit, nurturing are your ways.
Your web be woven with love,
Your way be found within, as it is all around.
Thank you, this day, for our daily bread.
Forgive us our misuse of the gifts of your Creation,
as we forgive others their misuse of us.
Lead us not into exploitation,
but deliver us from dominating others,
and our fellow creatures.
For yours are the waters of life,
the hills, valleys and plains,
the breeding, seeding, feeding ground,
for now, and always.
Amen.**

OFFERING

As our musicians Anders and Jack play, we share our offering,
as a symbol of our commitment to God and to the world God
loves.

Musical interlude

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.**

Living in the world God loves

HYMN

Words: Brian Wren
TiS 187, verses 1, 3 & 4

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.

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.

SENDING OUT

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

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the God of creation
warm your heart like the campfires of old.

**Bring wisdom and peace
as shown to the first peoples of this land.**

Shake off the dust from the desert plains
by refreshing rains
followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.

Let the light of God show us the right path
**and stand tall like the big river gums
drawing life from the ever-flowing waters.**

SUNG AMEN

African American Spiritual

Please be seated

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

We go out to the world God loves

SONG

Words: Julie Perrin
Music: Robin Mann

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ, In the name of Christ.

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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Prayer of Awareness by Hildegard of Bingen

The Psalm of Praise adapted from Psalm 65 and 104

Swan by Mary Oliver, from *Devotions* Penguin Press, New York, 2017

Prayer of Jesus adapted from an unknown source.

The Affirmation of Faith Creation 1B Earth Sunday 2018

Prayers for the way adapted from seasonofcreation.org using the Ecumenical resource
Living Water.

Commissioning Prayer from Uncle Vince Ross.

Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Season of Creation and Pentecost Pitt Street
liturgies also 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.



**PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH
INDUCTION & WELCOME
REV DR PAMELA ANDERSON
SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026**

It is with great joy that this invitation is extended to you to join the Pitt Street Uniting Church community as we welcome and induct the Rev Dr Pamela Anderson into the position of Minister in Placement at Pitt Street Uniting Church.

The service will take place during the regular time of worship, 10.00am at 264 Pitt Street Sydney on Sunday 11 October 2026.

Please join us as we mark this special time in our community life and then partake of light refreshments following the service.