

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



25 October 2026

Twenty Second Sunday in Pentecost



For what binds us by Jan Richardson

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

We gather as people of faith and spirit

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Praise my soul
TiS 179 verses 1 & 2

Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise the One who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

GATHERING

In the Spirit of God who shares divinity with us,
In the Spirit of God who shares humanity with us,
In the Spirit of God who unsettles and inspires us ...

Let us celebrate life, in its beauty and diversity.

Love calls us,
love longs for us,
love inspires us,
love recreates us,

love liberates us,
and God, who is love and the lover of all,
dwells among us here and everywhere,
now and forever.

Please remain standing as you are able.

HYMN

Praise my soul
TiS 179 verses 3 & 4

Praise the Spirit sent among us
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, One and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe,
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

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 to 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 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.

Please be seated.

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.

Please stay seated to sing.

SONG

Make me a channel of your peace

TiS 607

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt, truth faith in you.

*O Teacher grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Chorus

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Chorus

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

We who have lost our sense and our senses
our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are:
we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body
or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt.

We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest.

We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us,
that is the ground of every unique expression of life,
the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

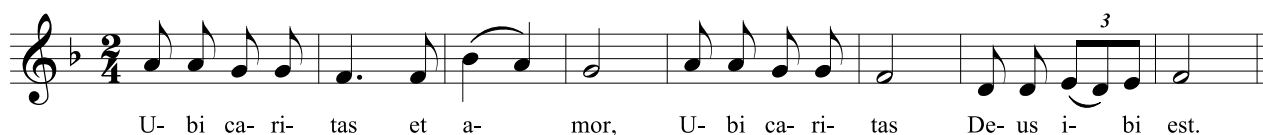
We declare a Sabbath, a space of Quiet; for simply being and
letting be;
for recovering the great, forgotten truths;
for learning how to live again.

A time of silent reflection

Today we hear again the words of Jesus.
'Love God and love your neighbour'.
Today this call rings in our ears,
resonates in our hearts and opens our souls,
so that love may become our very breath
and heartbeat.

TAIZÉ CHANT

Where charity and love are found, God it there.



Ubi caritas et amor, Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

JESUS' PRAYER

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

**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.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In response to our prayers comes assurance of grace.

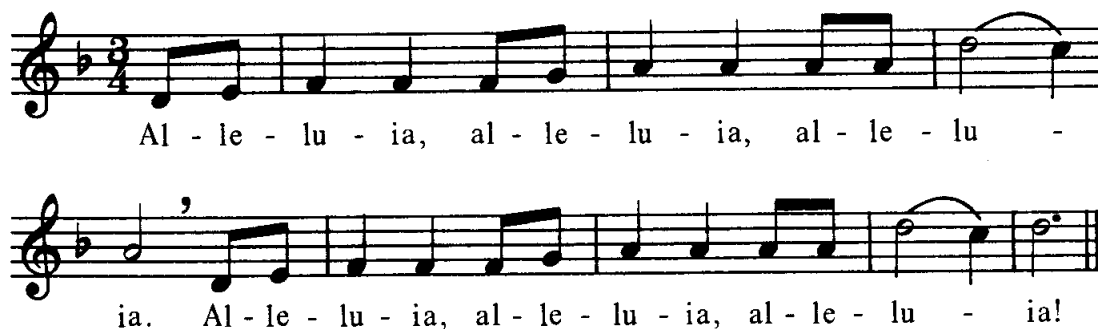
We are beloved of the Holy One.
There is no more, there is no less.
Let us live liberated lives, free from all that harms us,
so that we might dwell in love.

Alleluia! Amen! Thanks be to God!

Please stand to sing as you are able

ALLELUIA

Alleluia 7



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

HEBREW BIBLE

Hear God's ancient call to love from the book of Leviticus

For the Holy One forever calling us to love.

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Listen for contemporary words of faith from theologian Dorothee Soelle, in *Against the Wind: Memoir of a Radical Christian*.

For words that touch our hearts.

For words that tell our lives.

For words that challenge and inspire. **We give thanks.**

Please remain seated to sing.

HYMN

Loving Spirit
TiS 417

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit
you have chosen me to be –
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

GOSPEL

Hear words of wisdom from the Gospel of Matthew

May we hear these words with our minds and hearts
And respond with our love and our lives.

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Allison Gentle

We respond in love

Please stand as you are able.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us stand and together affirm our faith.

**We believe in a God who seeks the lost
calling into the empty spaces of life with a voice of love
drawing us into community.**

**We believe God is present
in every display of kindness
in every act of justice
in everything that sustains creation
and even here among us now.**

**We believe that in Jesus, the Christ,
we glimpse the life God offers to us.
It is a life of wholeness and richness.**

**As Jesus reached out to the rejected and marginalised,
so he calls us to follow in his way.
We believe the Holy Spirit enters into our daily lives
to teach, inspire, admonish and sustain us.
And we are grateful.**

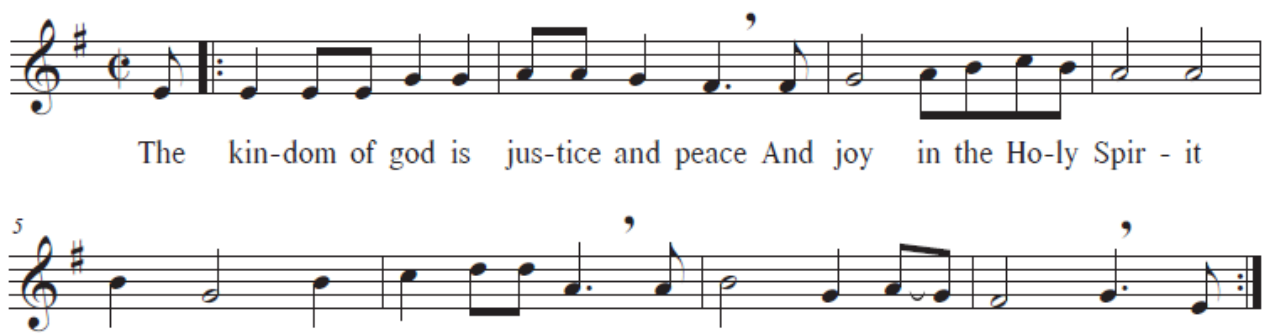
**This is our God
This is our faith
This we believe
Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS FOR THE WAY

We offer our prayers for the way and for our world.

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.

Eternal Divine Presence, you who are always and everywhere,
we see the news, we hear the reports,
and our hearts go out to people who are suffering.
We want to ask you how you can let such things happen,
and then we hear you asking us how we can let the suffering go on.

As we try to follow in the way of love revealed in Jesus,
please sustain our hope and reshape our priorities
so that we may not be overwhelmed by our fears,
or in despair, turn aside from the journey.

Help us to know ourselves as empowered people
filled with your Spirit,
capable of discernment, creativity and compassion .

Give us wisdom and insight
that we may accept our small part
in bringing reconciliation and restoration
to the brokenness in ourselves and in the world.

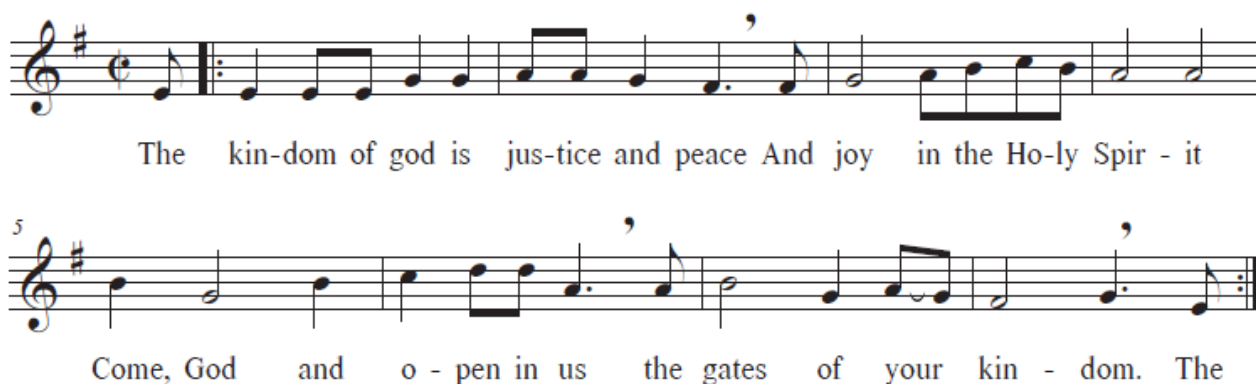
O Christ, who is the Way,
refresh us for the work of restoration.
May your Word be a spring within us,
flowing out for the healing of nations.
Holy Spirit, carry us on currents of grace
until justice rolls down like waters from an ever-flowing stream.

A time of silence

*Please feel free to offer your own prayers, in silence,
or, if on Zoom, via the chat.*

In our circle of prayer today:

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

OFFERING

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:

**We give thanks to God for our life
and the courage we are given to live it.
Let our gratitude be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed through living justly.
Let our hope for the future find full expression
in loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves.
Amen.**

Living in the world God loves

HYMN

Words: W L Wallace

Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae TiS 137

May the sap flow in our hearts
Like the greening of the earth:
May our liveliness untold
Like the joyful spring time's birth,
For these powers lie in our hearts
And wait to be released.

May the waters of our love
Nurture joy in arid lives;
May the fire within consume
All injustice, hate and lies,
For these powers lie in our hearts
And wait to be released.

May life's unity in Christ
Be the rhythm of our days:
May our dancing spirits song
Be God's universe of praise,
For these powers lie in our hearts
And wait to be released.

May these dreams be born in us,
Taking flesh in all our ways
And the rainbow love of God
Fill our hearts with constant praise,
For these powers lie within our hearts
And wait to be released.

SENDING OUT

As we go from this place
may we continue to experience the birth of hope in our lives.
May we find ourselves watching for signs of new possibilities
and discover the treasures of love in surprising places.

BLESSING

The blessing of God – sacred presence
The spirit of Jesus – unsettling teacher
The breath of life – awakening every being
be with us all.

SUNG AMEN

African American Spiritual

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming visitors and newcomers

We go out to the world God loves

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Words: Julie Perrin

Music: Robin Mann

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

Greg Woolnough

*Morning tea and coffee will be served after the service.
The AGM Part 2 will commence at 11.30am.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Christa is sometimes used in our liturgies to convey that the risen Christ is not defined or determined by gender.

Hymns used under CCLI Copyright Licence No. 208789 unless otherwise noted.

Contemporary Reading from theologian Dorothee Soell, in *Against the Wind: Memoir of a Radical Christian*, p. 156

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

Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Pentecost Pitt Street liturgies October 2014 and 2017.

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.

 **With One Voice**
SYDNEY CBD
Community • Harmony • Belonging

VOICES FOR THE ORGAN — IN CONCERT —

*A special afternoon of choral music
in support of the restoration of
Pitt Street Uniting Church's
magnificent pipe organ.*



SUNDAY
22 NOVEMBER 2026
3:30 pm
(Doors open 3:00 pm)



PITT STREET UNITING CHURCH
264 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Music • Community • A Lasting Legacy

Join With One Voice Sydney CBD
for an inspiring afternoon of choral
music featuring the ensemble's
distinctive sound, in support of the
restoration of Pitt Street Uniting
Church's historic pipe organ.



TICKETS

Details and booking information
to be announced.



ALL PROCEEDS

support the restoration
of Pitt Street's magnificent
pipe organ.



EVERYONE WELCOME

Bring your friends,
family and music-loving
community.

WITH ONE VOICE SYDNEY CBD

Singers • Connections • Community