

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



1 November 2026

Twenty Third Sunday in Pentecost Reformation Sunday



Reformation Sunday, The United Church in Canada
<https://united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/reformation-sunday>

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

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Words: Jane Parker Huber

Tune: Saltash TiS 774

God of days and years and aeons,
All our times are by your grace.
In the past through change and reform,
You have lead us to this place.
Hear our hymns of glad thanksgiving
For foundations firmly laid.
Faith of every generation
Strong example, present aid.

God of moments, hours and decades,
Always present every day.
Through the church in loving nurture
We are guided in Christ's way.
Here our grateful prayers and praises
For your providence and care.
Teach us always to tell the story
Help us to receive and share.

GATHERING

On this Reformation Sunday, we gather to praise the God of grace,
who continuously renews the Church and makes all things new.

We come as a pilgrim people, trusting in Christ alone.

From age to age, the Spirit inspires fresh light and truth,
calling us to walk together in justice, faith and love.

We come as a pilgrim people, trusting in Christ alone.

ACT OF RECOGNITION – TOWARDS JUST RELATIONSHIPS

As we gather, 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.**

HYMN

continued

God of present, past and future
all our years are in your care.
All together, young and ageing
join in gratitude and prayer.
Where we see your purpose clearly
where we hear your clarion call.
Grant us faith to trust and follow
as Christ lived for each and all.

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.

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Please stay seated to sing.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O God, are ho-ly.

5
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone O God are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

Transforming spirit,
on Reformation Sunday we are reminded that in every generation
the church is called to be renewed, reformed and re-imagined.

Open our eyes to the world around us.
Grant us the awareness to see where justice is needed,
where love is lacking,
and where tradition needs to give way to truth.

Help us to listen deeply to the voices of our city,
to the cries of Earth,
and to the movement of your Spirit within our hearts.

May we be daring in our faith,
and have the courage to dismantle what excludes,
and grace to build up what heals
in both the church and community.

Amen.

JESUS' PRAYER

**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.
Know 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 as you are able to sing.

SUNG RESPONSE

sung twice



Please be seated.

We listen for Words of faith and hope

WISDOM IN TEXTS

LETTERS

Listen to the teaching of Paul in his letter to the Romans 3:19-31

For the witness of early Christ communities:

We give thanks.

GOSPEL

Hear words of faith in the Gospel according to John 8:31-38.

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

Pause for silent reflection.

HYMN

TiS 453

We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect,
crude, partial and confined:
no, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
*Our God has yet more light and truth
to break forth from the Word.*

Our faithful forebears searching went
the first steps of the way;
this was the dawning, yet to grow
into the perfect day.
And grow it shall, our glorious sun
will brighter rays afford:
*Our God has yet more light and truth
to break forth from the Word.*

O God and Child and Spirit, send
us increase from above;
enlarge, expand all living souls
to comprehend your love;
and make us all to know,
with nobler powers conferred,
*That you have yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.*

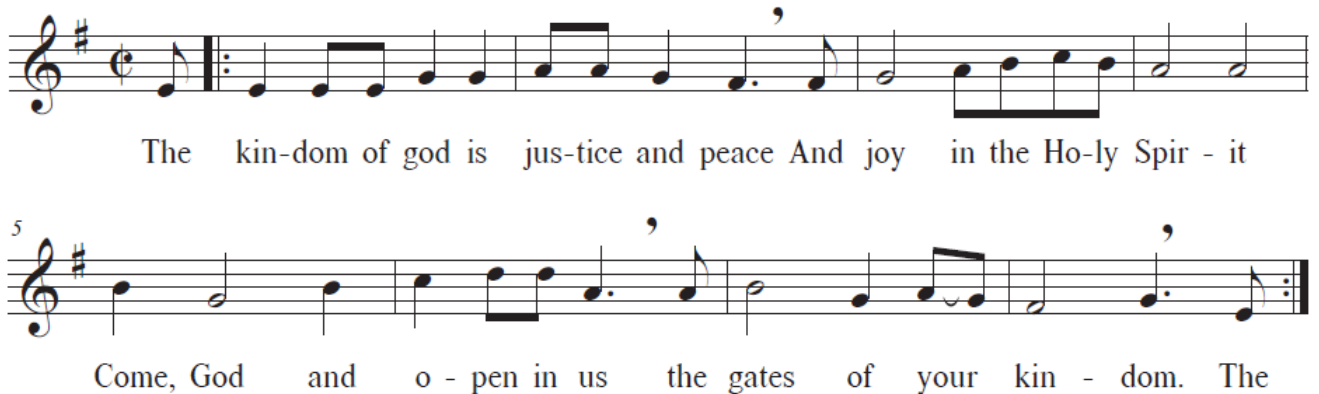
PRAYERS FOR THE WAY

We offer our prayers for the way and the world.

TAIZÉ CHANT

sung twice

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



Let us pray together:

**Source of eternal hope,
you are always doing a new thing among us.
We give thanks today for the witness of the Reformation,
and for the conviction that the Church is continually reformed
by your Word and Spirit.**

**We give thanks for the Reformation witnesses,
who reminded us
that the Gospel is a message of reconciliation for the whole
world, and that our allegiance is given to the way of Christ
Jesus.**

Other prayers followed by a time of silence

We lift up all of our thoughts, prayers, and hopes,
spoken and unspoken,
In the name of the Christ.
Amen.

OFFERING

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

Musical interlude.

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray together:

**Generous God we offer to you these signs of love
and gratitude.**

**May our hearts be generous and healing, as we seek to create
a just, loving and wise community. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Pitt Street Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited to the table. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from, where you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe; you are welcome to participate in communion. This sacred meal is for everyone.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The creativity of the Sacred be with you and all creation.
And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to Divine Presence.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

All loving and ever living God,
we thank you for your love in all creation.
You look upon it, and on us, and name us good.
You abide in your whole creation and make it holy.
The whole Earth is full of your glory.

**You conceive in us possibilities,
and carry us in the timeless struggle
of bringing to birth your vision of a new way of life and being.**

We thank you for Jesus, who gives us hope
who broke through the barriers which separate us from life.

We thank you, Holy Spirit,
for strengthening and empowering us
to share God's love with others.

**For you desire that all creation know God's love
and experience the gift of new life.**

We celebrate the mystery we experience and address as 'God',
ground and sustainer of everything that exists,
in whom we live and move and have our being.

We acknowledge this mystery embodied
in every human person,
aware that each one of us gives God
unique and personal expression.

**We celebrate all creation,
God is everywhere present.**

In grace-filled moments of sharing.
In communities of loving solidarity.
We are one with everything, living and nonliving, on this planet.
Connected. Interrelated. Interdependent.
Held within the web of life!

THE STORY

And so, we remember the story told through generations.
The night before Jesus died, he shared a meal with his friends.
He took bread, and set aside some wine,
honouring the presence of the sacred in the ordinary things of life.

He gave thanks for all the blessings in his life,
broke the bread, poured out the wine
and shared both with his friends.

Together may we work to make all things new.

**Together may we celebrate the possibilities and hope
we each have and are called to share.**

With those who have gone before us,
and those who will come after us,
we join the whole creation in singing praise:

SANCTUS

TiS 723

(sung twice – in Spanish then English)

Let us stand and join in singing the Sanctus.

1. San - to, san - to, san - to. Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart my heart a - dores you! My

5
co - ra - zón te sabe de - cir: San - to eres Di - os!
heart knows how to say to you: You are the Holy One!

Santo, santo, santo
Mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir,
Santo eres Señor!

Holy, holy, holy
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you,
Holy are you Lord!

Please remain standing as you are able

BREAD AND WINE

Bread is broken

We break the bread, remembering Jesus,
and opening ourselves to being transformed by love.

We break this bread
for the unhealed hurts and wounds
that lie within us all.

May we be healed.

Wine cup is raised

This is the cup of peace and new life for all.
A sign of love for the community of hope.

**A reminder of the call
to live fully,
to love wastefully,
to be all that we can be.**

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God of transformation
pour out your Spirit on these gifts
of bread and wine from your earth
that they may represent Risen Life for us,
refreshing us to live fully, love generously,
and dwell respectfully with Earth.

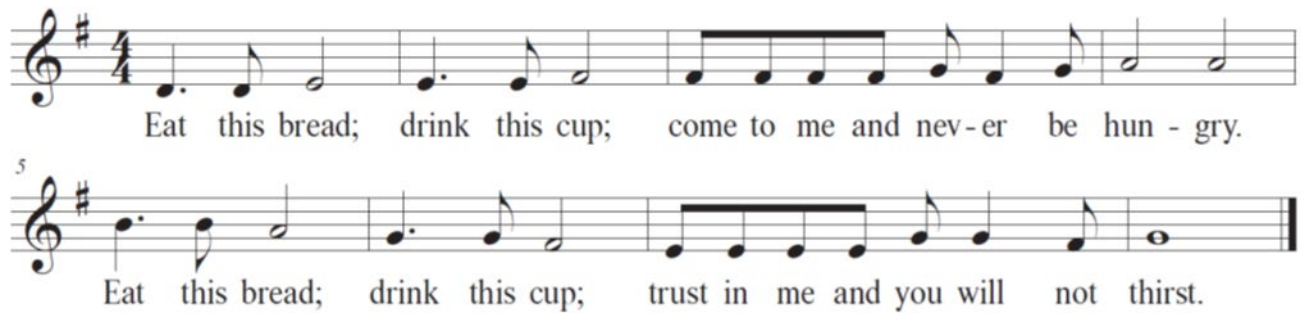
Amen.

SHARING COMMUNION

“The bread of life” and “The cup of blessing.”
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come to receive. Come to share.
Come to embody Christa/Community.
Draw the circle wide!

You're invited to form a circle around the church.

TAIZÉ CHANT



You are invited to return to your seats

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray
Divine Presence in all of life,
we give thanks for our gathering together
in this sacred place.

We rejoice in the blessing of each person here.

We are grateful for who we are for each other.

**May we express this gratitude by caring for our web of life
and living in compassion and peace.**

Amen.

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.

Living in the world God loves

CLOSING HYMN

Words: George Stuart

Tune: Darall TiS 108

Not by the love of power,
But through the power of love
God makes our purpose known,
Not from a lofty throne;
But in a child
So meek and mild
God's loving comes quite undefiled.

Not by the love of power,
But through the power of love,
Not by almighty force
From some celestial source.
But deep inside
God does reside,
And prompts within to be our guide.

Not by the love of power,
But through the power of love,
Not with oppressive laws
Demanding more and more.
Our inner voice,
Can guide our choice
and in God's love we can rejoice.

SENDING OUT

Let us go from here:
celebrating the Reformation witnesses,
and the challenge of constant renewal,
guided by the grace of Divine Presence.

BLESSING

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.

Go...
with the love of God enfolding you,
the peace of Jesus the Christ within you,
and the breath of the Holy Spirit inspiring your life.

SUNG AMEN

African American spiritual

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING

Welcoming newcomers and visitors

(There are no announcements today.)

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.

Morning tea and coffee will be served 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 paraphrase by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed.
Flames of the Spirit.

The Communion liturgy has been adapted from a communion curated by Rex A E Hunt and from the Wisdom Communion in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

Elements of this liturgy adapted from previous Pentecost Pitt Street liturgies.

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.

Closure of Ministry

Rev. Dr Robert McFarlane

Thursday 26 November 2026



From 3:00pm followed by afternoon tea



Centre for Ministry
16 Masons Drive North Parramatta



Livestream options available upon registration



RSVP your attendance and any dietary
requirements by Wednesday 18 November 2026



Register here



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT



Sunday 8 November 2.30-4.30pm Celtic Crossings

Pitt Street Uniting Church

264 Pitt St, Sydney

Doors open at 2pm

Tickets - \$25

Pay at Door (Cash)

All Welcome



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.



FREE EVENT

Register to secure your spot:
events.humanitix.com/voices-



DONATIONS

Optional cash or card
donations can be made



ALL WELCOME

Bring your friends,
family and music-