

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

15 November 2026

25th Sunday after Pentecost



Image Source
https://www.annettefortt.com/

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 the people of God

GATHERING WORDS

We are your people, O God.
We come bearing stories of pain and joy.
We come in fear and in courage.
We come with tears and with laughter.
We come seeking refuge and re-creation,
knowing that, in you,
we will discover more deeply who we are.
We come to give honour and thanks,
to celebrate wholeness
and your gift of abundant life.
We come.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Words and Music: Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn how to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
rock of faith and vault of grace
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and a symbol of God's grace
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus
is revealed in time and space
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.

Please remain standing as you are able.

OPENING RESPONSES

Before we speak, God is here
within us and among us, knocking at our door.
Living God, open what is closed
that the Spirit may come in.

Open our hands, to give, and to greet.
Open our minds
to new truths and old wisdom.
Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance.
Open what is closed
that the Spirit may come in.

AN ACT TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

As we gather this morning, we acknowledge the original custodians of this place, the Gadigal of the Eora, and all First Nations peoples in our communities, their elders past and present.
We honour their custodianship of the land and waterways.
With them we pray for justice for all indigenous people and for this sacred land.

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.

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

O Holy One,
by your grace
we enter now
the sacred realm,
a place of deep connection
with you,
with each other,
with the planet,
and with creation.

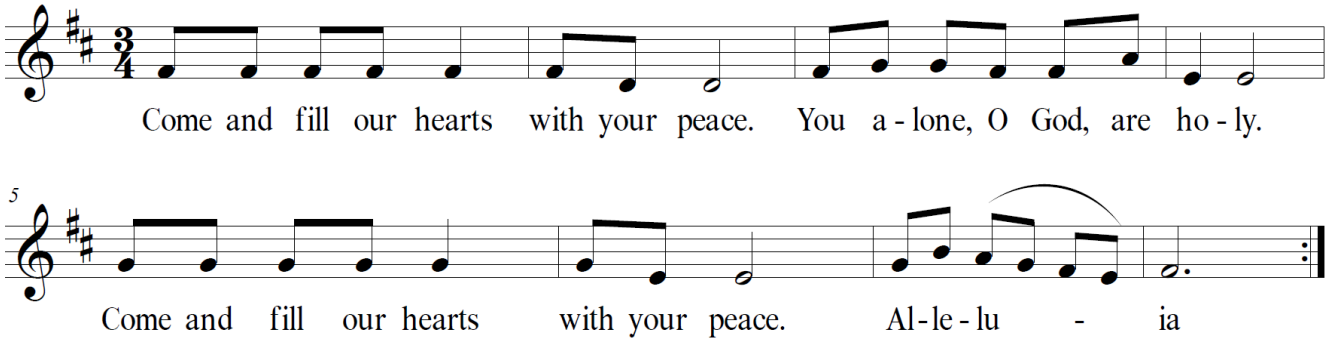
By your grace,
the walls that isolate fall;
fear dissolves into trust;
arrogance is gentled into compassion;
our need to prove ourselves is tempered
by self acceptance.

Now, we rest in a love
that helps us see our lives
as part of a great unity,
a coherence of grace.
We join with all creation in
proclaiming your glory,
and the glory of being alive.

A time of silent reflection

CHANT repeated meditatively

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



A PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

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

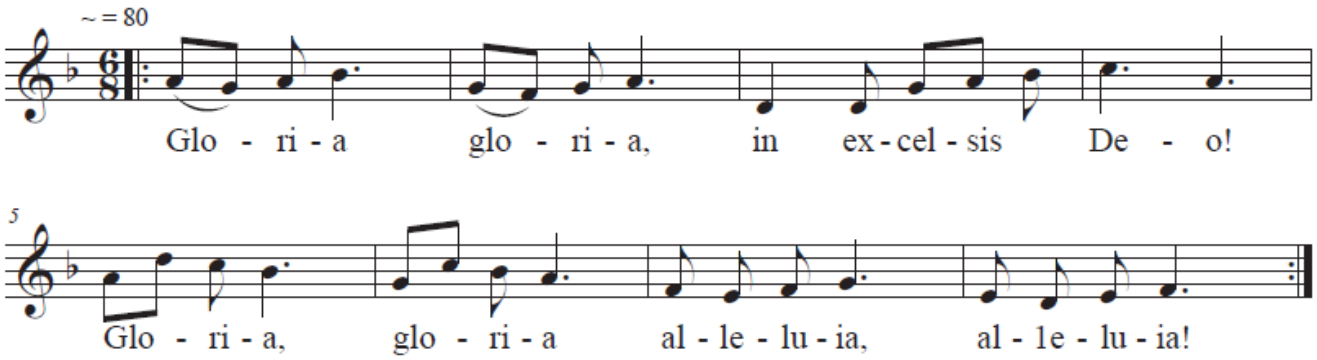
O God,
you who are life for us,
you who cares for us all,
the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,
enable kindness, love and justice to
shine in our world.
May your love be known
here on earth as in heaven.
Give us the food and hope
that we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and despair,
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.
In you are truth, meaning, and love,
while worlds may come and go.
Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God offers grace upon grace
inviting us to take a place and make room for all.
We are children of God – forgiven, loved and welcome.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GLORIA sung twice



SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
We grow together into the fullness of God's love
as we share God's peace and live God's forgiveness.

May the peace of God with you!
And also with you!

People are invited to greet those around them,
sharing a sign of peace.

We listen for God's Word

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Psalm 123 as reimagined by Nan C Merrill

For the glory of the Book of Psalms and the faith of those who have gone before us.
We give thanks.

Epistle: Galatians 6:1-10

For the faith and witness of the Early Church.
We give thanks.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community.
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION Dave Parker, Frontier Services

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN Words: Brian Wren
Tune: Yarnton

We are not our own, earth forms us
human leaves on nature's growing vine
fruit of many generations
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, earth names us
past and present, peoples near and far
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us
dying living love is fully known
and in bread and wine reminds us
we are not our own.
Therefore let us make thanksgiving
and with justice willing and aware
give to earth and all things living
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown
all the saints with prayer surround us
we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome
living stone upholding living stone
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own.

Please remain standing as you are able.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, the Creator Spirit
who moved upon the face of the deep
at the beginning of creation,
who created all that is,
and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We trust in Jesus Christ
into whom God's spirit was poured
in fullness and in power,
that the whole creation might be restored and unified;
and who promised that the Spirit would come
and fill the faithful with power to witness to
the mighty love of God.

We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts,
seeking to be empowered to the witness of God's love,
with fresh words and courageous actions
of love and hope and justice.
So may it be.

Please be seated.

We respond in love

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

Loving God,
We live in a world of glorious difference and diversity
but we have made difference a reason to fear and exclude.

We pray today for a world where people see your image
in others who are different.
We pray for all those excluded from aspects of human community
because of age, nationality, religion, race,
sexual orientation, gender, or health status.

Embracing, enfolding God,
we pray for our country and our city.
Help us to create places of hospitality,
to embrace and celebrate our differences
and our common dreams.
Inspire us to be a people of welcome.

Now let us give thanks and pray for our world, for our nation, our communities and for ourselves.

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

Grant us wisdom and courage
as we strive to enact,
to live,
our prayers,
this day and every day.
In your many names, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

Out of our abundance, we choose to offer these gifts,
knowing that what we regard as excess,
others may need, and that all that we need,
others may regard as excess.

We choose not to waste,
so that others will not want,
and recognise that when all share,
all are enriched.

Loving God, take these gifts and use them for your purposes. Amen.

Please remain standing as you are able.

We go out to the world God loves

HYMN

Words: Shirley Murray
Tune: Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table.
For everyone born, clean water and bread.
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing
For everyone born a star overhead.

Chorus
And God will delight
when we are creators of justice
and joy… compassion and peace:
Yes God will delight
when we are creators of justice
… justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, a part in the song
The hands of a child, in hands that are wrinkled.
For young and for old, the right to belong.
chorus

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,
chorus

For everyone born, a place at the table
To live without fear, and simply to be.
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.
chorus

Please remain standing as you are able.

BLESSING

To be filled with the Spirit of God we say:
Amen.

To having the power of the Spirit at work in us we say:
Amen.

To all that the Spirit can do in each of us we say:
Amen.

To being the body of Christ in our world we say:
Amen.

And so…
May we go
with the protection of God
who made us for wholeness,
the encompassing of Christ
who calls us beloved,
and the grace of the Spirit
who bids us be one.

SUNG AMEN African American Spiritual

Please be seated.

COMMUNITY GREETING Welcoming visitors and newcomers

Please stand as you are able to sing.

PROCESSIONAL SONG TiS 779

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

MUSICAL POSTLUDE Greg Woolnough

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 by David B Royer and Jonathan C Nelson. Published in *Flames of the Spirit*: Resources for Worship. Edited by Ruth C Duck.
Gathering Words are from *Singing While it is Still Dark*. *A gift of prayers and meditations for members of the South Australian Synod*, 2003, p.32.
Prayer of Awareness by Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*, p.135.
Affirmation of Faith is from *Bread for the Journey* edited by Ruth Duck.
Offertory Prayer from Harvest for the World, Compiled by Geoffrey Duncan, p.249 (altd).
Blessing from Michale Morwood, *Praying a New Story*, 2003, p.144 and,
Jan Richardson, *Night Visions. Searching the shadows of Advent and Christmas*, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orland Florida, p.47 and in In the Sanctuary of Women, Upper Room Books, Nashville, Tennessee, p.299

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.

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-