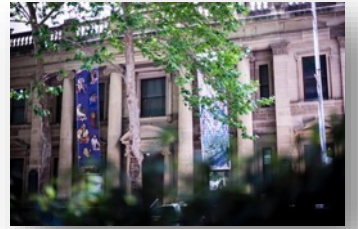


# Pitt Street Uniting Church

*A Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia  
Founded 1833*



## SUNDAY GATHERING

10 October 2021

---

### 20th Sunday after Pentecost Mental Health Sunday



Sky Trees  
Free Big Pictures.com

## **Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church**

This is a space of welcome for all people regardless of race, sex, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Wherever you are on your faith journey,  
wherever 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 italics***.

Our liturgy seeks to reflect a healthy diversity of faith understanding  
and to be open to God whose image is reflected in all life yet transcends all.

## **MUSICAL PRELUDE**

# **We Gather as People of Faith**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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 truth and old wisdom.

Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance.

***Open what is closed  
that the spirit may come in.***

## **GATHERING WORDS**

O God,  
scattered we may be,  
aware of distance and separation,  
but seeking once again to be together as your people,  
to worship you,  
to rest in your presence,  
and to know your abiding grace.

And so we come...

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 thanks,***

***to celebrate wholeness***

***and your gift of abundant life.***

## **ACT OF RECOGNITION**

As we gather for worship,

we acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia,

the traditional custodians of the scattered lands

where we reside this morning.

We honour especially the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation

on whose land the Pitt Street Church stands.

We acknowledge that all these lands across our continent,

were taken without consent, treaty or compensation.

At this time, as we mark Mental Health Week,

we acknowledge the trauma of that theft,

the trauma of children removed by force from their parents,

of the loss of language and story, of ritual and corroboree,

the desecration of sacred sites.

We mark in lament

the truth of our shared history.

We say 'sorry' and we pray for forgiveness, healing and hope.

***We commit to stand alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait***

***Islander Australians,***

***to listen deeply to truth-telling,***

***to participate in the grace of Makarrata.***

## **WELCOME**

## **Budyeri Gamarruwa**

Welcome to all especially any newcomers joining with us this morning  
We are pleased you are here among us.

Today, we mark Mental Health Sunday.

This is a day when we reflect on our need as human beings,  
for healing and wholeness;  
for every last one of us.

It is a day, too, when we give thanks  
for the work of health professionals and carers,  
for loving family and friends  
and supportive communities.

But, it is also a day when we acknowledge  
that not everyone has a caring family to see them  
through darker times.

It is a day when we recognise that, as a community  
we have failed to accord mental health provision, in all its aspects,  
the high priority it deserves.

For us as a faith community, this is a day of reflection  
about who we are called to be in this troubled  
and imperilled world of ours,  
how we are to face an uncertain future that will test us all.  
And to ask yet again, what it means to love our neighbour as ourselves.

## **HYMN**

Tune Bunessan TiS 156

God, the All-Holy, Maker and Mother,  
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer  
old hurts for healing, new hopes for holding,  
giving, receiving, loving and care.

Spirit, all-seeing, knitting and blending,  
joy in desiring friendship and ease,  
make our belonging loyal and lasting,  
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, all-completing, nature enfolding,  
evil exhausting in love's embrace,  
weaving and mending, make every ending  
God's new beginning glowing with grace.

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS AND HEALING

To all that is chaotic  
in you,  
let there come silence.

Let there be  
a calming of the clamouring,  
a stilling  
of the voices that  
have laid their claim on you,  
that have made their home in you,  
that go with you even to the holy places  
but will not  
let you rest,  
will not let you  
hear your life  
with wholeness  
or feel the grace  
that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you  
cease.

Let what divides you  
cease.

Let there be an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans you,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.

Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.

*A time of silent reflection*

### **TAIZE CHANT**

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
In God my peace and joy.

### **JESUS' PRAYER**

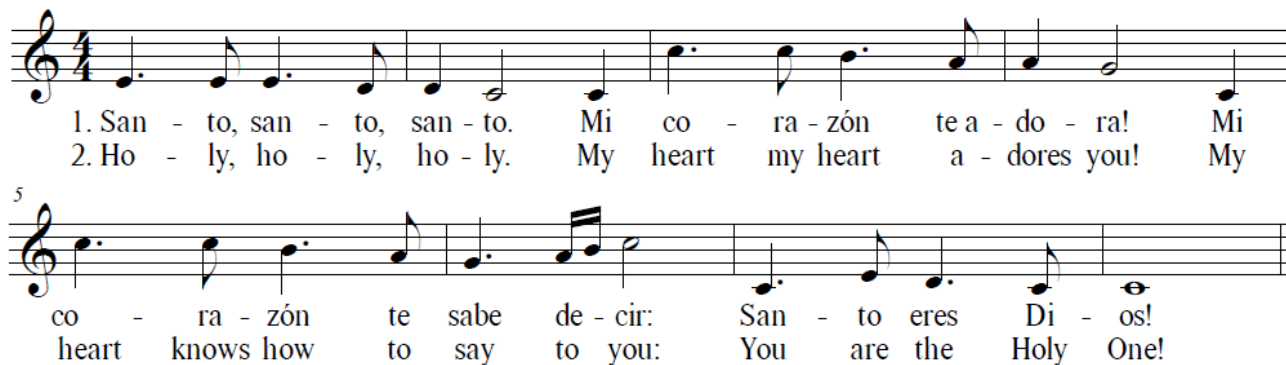
*God, you are life for us,  
holy be your name.  
Your new day come, your will be done,  
on earth as in your vision.  
Give us our bread for the morrow;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the power and the splendour  
and the fulfilment are yours,  
Now and forever,  
Amen*

## WORDS of ASSURANCE

There is grace in the midst of life,  
Grace that finds and frees us,  
Grace that heals and makes whole,  
Grace that liberates and leads us  
to live and to love anew.

*Amen.*

## SUNG RESPONSE



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!

## THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.

*Let us claim it.*

God makes peace between us.

*Let us share it.*

May the peace of God be with you all.

*And also with you.*

## A STORY for CHILDREN, YOUNG and OLD

*Lelo's Story* by Jessica Spooner

# We Listen for God's Word

## SUNG BLESSING

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.*

Glenbrook Uniting Church recording

### **CONTEMPORARY READING 1**

From *Health and Wholeness* by Laurence Freeman

### **CONTEMPORARY READING 2**

From *Attention and Love* by Laurence Freeman

### **SUNG BLESSING**

Words: Julie Perrin  
Music: Robin Mann

*For you, deep stillness of the silent inland*

### **GOSPEL: Mark 10: 17-31**

For the Word that was in the beginning,  
For the Word that enfolds and sustains community,  
For the Word embodied in us,  
***We give thanks.***

### **HYMN**

O Christ the healer, we have come

TiS 638  
Verses 1,3 and 5

O Christ, the healer, we have come  
to pray for health to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored  
when reached by love that never ends?  
How strong, O Lord, are our desires,  
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths  
unconscious pride resists or shelves.  
Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.



**A POEM by MACRINA WIEDERKEHR**

the quiet in me smiled on my noise  
the slow in me smiled on my hurry  
and my life miracled into  
a calm on the lake.

Jesus woke up in my boat  
without my asking  
and commanded the winds  
to subside.

I was asked not to run away  
from my noise and my hurry  
but to enter it  
and embrace it most gently.

it was at that moment  
of my entering  
that I felt the miracle.

the quiet in me smiled on my noise  
the slow in me smiled on my hurry  
and my life miracled into  
a calm on the lake.

*Silence*

**PRAYER FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES**

As we move into this time of prayer for ourselves and others,  
we ask for grace to acknowledge how greatly  
our lives depend upon others,  
upon their courage, their industry,  
their honesty and integrity,  
their diligence and professionalism  
and, at this time of pandemic,  
for their care of us.

We ask, also, for the humility to acknowledge that we are all capable of one another's faults.

And so we pray...

We pray 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, or race, because of sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or health status.

God of grace and peace.

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for political leaders around the world that they may heed your call for peacemaking, for hospitality for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, for care of creation and the future of our planet, and for economic justice.

God of grace and peace,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for our own leaders, for sorely needed wisdom, courage, humility and grace.

We pray that our politicians may value truth and honesty in all they do and say,

that they may strive to balance the rights and interests of all and seek protection for the vulnerable.

We pray for urgent, well-informed, decisive and clear-eyed action to address the climate catastrophe.

God of grace and peace,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the world-wide church, that wherever people gather in the name of Christ, they may know your abundant grace and live out your liberating hope.

Make your people a sign of reconciliation and renewal.

God of grace and peace,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for this congregation and for ourselves.  
May your presence be with people who are ill,  
facing death, awaiting test results and surgery,  
those in rehabilitation or undergoing other treatments,  
those who wait with them and care for them.  
We pray for all who are in distress and seeking peace.  
God of grace and peace

***Hear our prayer.***

In our circle of prayer today –

- We remember the people and lands of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. We are thankful for church leaders and others who continue to struggle for justice, human rights and dignity, and who work for reconciliation in these lands. We pray for children and youth who are traumatized by violence and flee to other lands.
- Here in Sydney we pray for the people and ministries of Uniting Church congregation of South Sydney and their minister Andrew Collis and Minister in Association, Dorothy McRae-McMahon.

We pray in the firm belief  
that we are bonded  
with everyone and everything that exists,  
in the Great Mystery  
we name God.

***We pray with faith and confidence.***

***Amen***

*Silence*

## **OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us pray together...

***God whose holy name  
defies our definition,  
but whose will is known  
in freeing the oppressed,  
and the healing of the earth,  
as we offer these gifts and ourselves***

*make us to be one  
with all who cry out for justice,  
that we who speak your praise,  
may struggle for your truth.  
Amen*

## **We Go Out to the World God Loves**

Henri Nouwen writes...

*Nobody escapes being wounded.  
We are all wounded people, whether  
physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually.  
The main question is not  
“How can we hide our wounds?”  
so we don’t have to be embarrassed, but  
“How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?”  
When our wounds cease to be a source of shame,  
and become a source of healing,  
we have become wounded healers.*

### **HYMN**

Draw the circle wide

Words and music: Gordon Light

*Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
no-one stands alone,  
standing side by side,  
draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,  
‘Round whom all creation turns;  
Nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God’s gracious arms.

*Chorus*

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
So encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders,  
Faithful to God’s call.

*Chorus*

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
Than we've ever dreamed before;  
Let the dream of Christ be in us,  
Open every door...

*Chorus twice*

## **BLESSING**

### **Blessing of Hope**

So may we know  
the hope  
that is not just  
for someday  
but for this day—  
here, now,  
in this moment  
that opens to us:  
hope not made  
of wishes  
but of substance,  
hope made of sinew  
and muscle  
and bone,  
hope that has breath  
and a beating heart,  
hope that will not  
keep quiet  
and be polite,  
hope that knows  
how to holler  
when it is called for,  
hope that knows  
how to sing  
when there seems  
little cause,  
hope that raises us  
from the dead—  
not someday  
but this day,  
every day,

again and  
again and  
again.

And so...  
May the Christ  
who gives himself to us  
with abandon  
enfold you with  
his extravagant love,  
now and always  
***Amen.***

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

Gathering prayer from Leanne Jenski and Susan Wickham in *Singing While it is Still Dark*, p.32. (altd.)

Opening hymn from *Piece Together Praise*, by Brian Wren, Used by permission CCLI Licence No. 208789. Dedicated to Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney.

The Prayer for Healing and Wholeness is a blessing from Jan Richardson's *Circle of Grace*. ©

Jesus Prayer by David B Royer and Jonathan C Nelson. Published in *Flames of the Spirit. Resources for Worship*. Edited by Ruth C Duck. ©

*Lelo's Story* is by Jessica Spooner. Unpublished work. 2010

The Offering Prayer is by Janet Morley from *All Desires Known*.

The words of Henri Nouwen are quoted in Macrina Wiederkehr, *The Flowing Grace of Now*, p.202

The words and music of the hymn, *Draw the circle wide*, are by Gordon Light. Music arranged by Michael Bloss. From *More Voices*. The United Church of Canada.

'A Blessing of Hope' is by Jan Richardson, in *The Cure for Sorrow*, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orlando, Florida, 2016. ©

CCLI Licences: Copyright 208789    Streaming 17918    Reproduction 557214  
Church Video 128166