

Pitt Street Uniting Church

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



SUNDAY GATHERING

21 November 2021

For the Sunday variously called:
**The Reign, or Community, of Christ
or Christ the King**

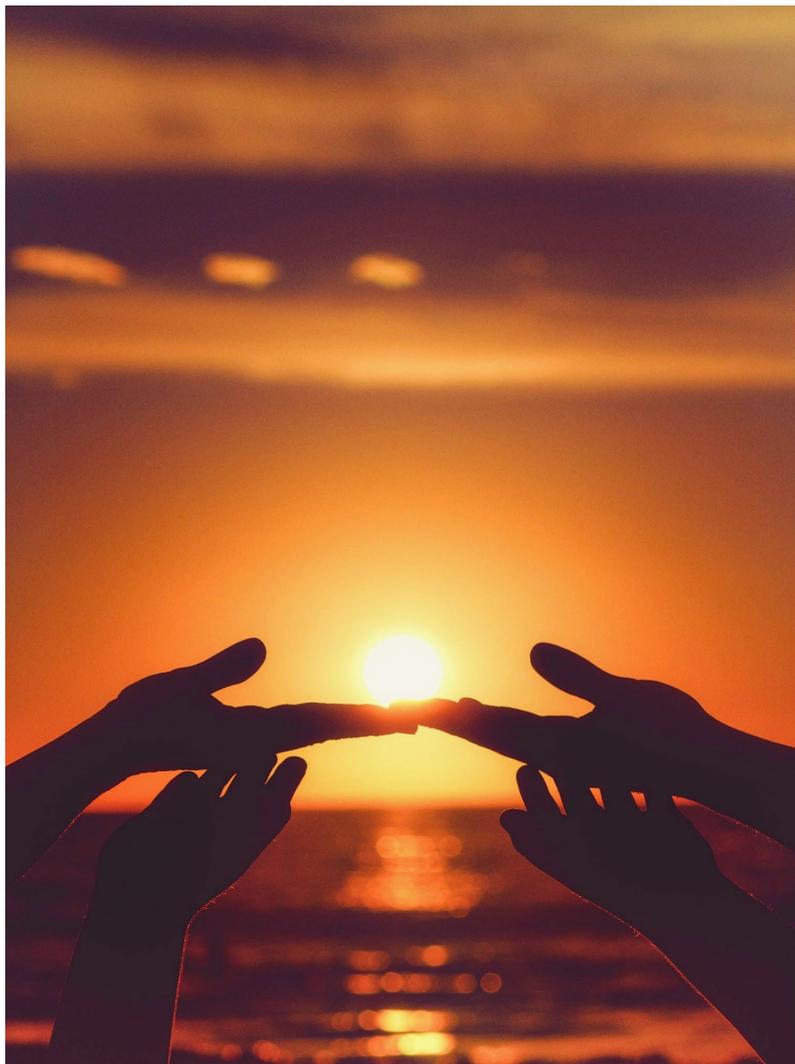


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Welcome to Pitt Street Uniting Church

This is a place 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.

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.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold italics***.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

We gather as people of faith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Light of the World:

Open our lips

that we may sing of your wonders;

Open our eyes

that we may behold your glory

Open our hearts

that we may embrace your love

Open our minds

that we may discover your wisdom

Open our hands

that we may show your generosity

Open our lives

that we may embody your presence.

ACT OF RECOGNITION

As we come to share God's grace and hospitality, we acknowledge the First Peoples and their long history of care and stewardship

The Gadigal people of the Eora Nation are the original custodians of the land on which our church stands.

We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and recommit ourselves to walk into a brighter and just future.

OPENING HYMN

Let us Build a House (All are welcome)

Words and Music: Marti 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 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 all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 And loved and treasured,
 taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace,
 Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome
 All are welcome in this place*

WELCOME**Budyeri Gamarruwa****LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE****J**

We light the Christ candle today
 as a sign of the light of Christa shining in the world
 sharing and transforming our pain and shame
 and leading us into new life and hospitality

The candle is lit

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Loving God,
all your children are written on your hands:
you are a mother who neither forgives nor forsakes her own.

All creation is held within your very self.

Before we were born, you knew us.
In our mothers' wombs, you formed us.

All creation is held within your very self.

Before all beginnings, you called us by name.
Beyond all endings, you will remember us in your heart.

All creation is held within your very self.

You, O Wisdom, do not forget your children:
like a hen, you gather your chicks.

All creation is held within your very self.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Generous Hospitality,
we confess before you that we do not always live
as those who walk in your love.
We sometimes live as those who walk
with a harsh and punishing God:
one who looks nothing like you, in Jesus the Christ.

silent reflection

If we have lived with a God of our own making,
smaller and meaner than you would ever be

Forgive us, O gracious God, and expand your loving life in us.

If we refuse your forgiveness
because we cannot imagine loving ourselves

Forgive us, O gracious God, and expand your loving life in us.

If we separate others from your love
by our lack of grace and compassion

Forgive us, O gracious God, and expand your loving life in us.

When we doubt your love
because others stand between us and your love for us

***Forgive us, O gracious God, and expand your loving life in us,
you who come to us in truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.***

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

TiS 736

JESUS PRAYER

*Loving 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 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

Let us receive the compassion of God
 embodied in the person and work of Christ
 and let us walk again in love.
 This an act of faith,
 an act which will carry us into grace upon grace.
 Let us be a people of faith and hospitality,
 knowing that we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

SONG

Jubilate Deo

Taizé

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

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

We are invited to share a sign of peace with others

We listen for God's Word

THE WORD IN TEXTS

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: from 1 Samuel chapter 8

For wisdom in ancient stories

We give thanks

HYMN

This day God gives me

TiS 642

Tune: Bunessan (St Patrick's Breastplate)

This day God gives me
Strength of high heaven
Sun and moon shining
Flame in my hearth.
Flashing of lightning
Wind in its swiftness
Deeps of the ocean
Firmness of earth.

This day God sends me
Strength to sustain me
Might to uphold me
Wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful
Your ears are listening
Your lips are speaking
Friend at my side.

A Reading from the New Testament: from the Book of Revelations 1.4-8

For proclamations of divine glory

We give thanks.

A Contemporary Reading: *The Kingdom*, by R.S.Thomas

For wisdom in contemporary writing

We give thanks

HYMN

This day God gives me

TiS 642

Tune: Bunessan (St Patrick's Breastplate)

God's way is my way
 God's shield is round me
 God's host defends me
 Saving from ill.
 Angels of heaven
 Drive from me always
 All that would harm me
 Stand by me still.
 Rising I thank you
 Mighty and strong One
 King of creation
 Giver of rest
 Firmly confessing
 Threeness of Persons
 Oneness of Godhead
 Trinity blest.

REFLECTION

Josephine Inkipin

On kings, and kingdom language

a time of silent reflection follows

We respond in love

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

***We believe that we do not own God,
 we do not know all of God
 and we are not God in ourselves.***

***We celebrate a God
 who cannot be contained
 by any of our ideas,
 any of our rules,
 or any of our plans.***

***We lift high a God
who is greater and more vulnerable than us,
who feels more than we will ever feel,
who is wiser than we will ever be,
who weeps more tears of grief than we will ever weep
and laughs in joy for our smallest moments of good,
who creates another dream each moment
and lives in freedom
beyond our widest horizons.
Amen.***

PRAYERS FOR THE RENEWING OF THE WORLD

Let us pray:

Loving God,
you long for all creation to come to fruition.
In Christ you offer peace and restoration to new life
for all that has been betrayed, separated and destroyed.
Through your Holy Spirit you pour out gifts of renewal
for all that needs healing, transformation, and joy.

We pray for your creation:
for all that is and all that is coming into being.

***For all that brings light, we give thanks;
for all that struggles with darkness, we seek your renewal.***

We place into your hands the pain of the world:
the divisions of classes, cultures and nations;
the disparities of wealth and power, and the violence they inflict;
remembering especially the struggles of the poor and outcast.

***For all that brings light, we give thanks;
for all that struggles with darkness, we seek your renewal.***

We place into your hands the pain of so many in our communities:
the desperate realities of vulnerability, fear, and shame;
the cruelties and crimes, and the cycles of hurt they perpetuate;
remembering especially those who hold leadership positions in our
society, that they may exercise power and influence in the spirit of
your love and vision.

***For all that brings light, we give thanks;
for all that struggles with darkness, we seek your renewal.***

We place into your hands the pain of our own lives:
the legacies of life's hurts which we bear;
the challenges of relationships we face, and all that weighs upon us;
remembering especially our own needs for healing and restoration.

***For all that brings light, we give thanks;
for all that struggles with darkness, we seek your renewal.***

pause

In our circle of prayer today –

- We remember the lands and people of East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia and the Philippines.

We are thankful for those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

We pray for all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards.

- Here in Sydney we pray for Uniting staff and their Executive Director, Tracey Burton.
- In the face of our global pandemic, we pray for all in need,
for governments and hard-pressed workers,

And we continue to pray for bold and urgent action
to address the climate emergency

We hold a time of silence together to offer our own prayers, to reflect upon what has been in our media headlines and whatever rests heavy on our hearts...

- please feel free to share brief petitions via the Zoom chat facility.

We offer these prayers and all the prayers of our hearts.

May God's grace transform us all.

Amen.

OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together:

*Hospitable God, through your love
you have given us these gifts to share.
Accept our offerings as an expression
of our deep thanks and of our desire
to share your mercy and justice with all.
Amen.*

We go out to the world God loves

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Walk in love,
and carry that love around you
like a warm covering, wherever you may go.

Walk in love,
and share that love with those around you,
like a tender embrace, wherever you may be.

Walk in love into a harsh world,
and help transform tomorrow,
in the strength and hospitality of Christa.

This is our commission in the grace of God.

BLESSING

May you know the love of God in all creation,
and be strengthened as fellow children of the universe.
May you know the restoring peace of Christ in all that you are,
and take courage and delight in all that you do.
May you know the healing of the Holy Spirit in all that will be,
and walk with hope and humility into the future.

SONG

For you, deep stillness

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.

*All are warmly invited to stay for our community time
 to meet with others and share news*

COMMUNITY GREETING*Welcoming visitors and newcomers***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

*Christa is sometimes used in our liturgy to point to the reality that the risen Christ is in and beyond all gender and evidenced as we follow the Way the human Jesus chartered.

TiS is the Australian Hymn Book *Together in Song*.

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Call to Worship (adapted), and Prayer of Adoration, from *Uniting in Worship 2*.

Prayer of Confession, Affirmation of Faith, and Prayer of Commitment, by Dorothy McRae-

McMahon in *Liturgies for the Journey of Life* and *In this Hour: Liturgies for Pausing*

Jesus Prayer adapted from Jim Cotter's version.

Other prayers and adaptations by Josephine Inkpin.

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Safe Church Statement

The Uniting Church believes that all people are made in the image of God and that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance and that our relationships with each other should express love and respect and not be abused.

We welcome all 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.

Pitt St Safe Church Contacts:

safechurch@pittstreetuniting.org.au

John Floyd 0419 128 453 and Elizabeth Lee 0422 932 044

Reportable Conduct

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused please contact the police.

In addition, child-related allegations made about a congregation, presbytery or faith community employee or volunteer are required to be notified to the General Secretary of the Uniting Church who is responsible for investigations and fulfilling reporting obligations to the NSW Ombudsman. Allegation can relate to conduct outside a person's work or volunteer role.

Reportable Conduct Contact:

GeneralSecretary@nswact.uca.org.au (02) 8267 4300

or

General Secretary (confidential) , PO Box A2178, South Sydney 1235.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PASTORAL SUPPORT

1. Contact details for urgent support 24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

BeyondBlue <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> **1300 224 636**

MensLine <https://mensline.org.au/> **1300 789 978**

Lifeline <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> **13 11 14**

Specialised support for survivors of abuse is available through Blue Knot Foundation (not 24 hours) <https://www.blueknot.org.au/> **1300 657 380**.

This line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

2. Reports of abuse should be made to local police.

Reports of abuse can be made to local police. Church leaders may wish to contact their local Safe Church unit for advice on what to do if abuse is disclosed:

NSW/ACT Safe Church Unit

Rev Bronwyn Murphy, Associate Secretary

Ms Anne Empson, Manager Compliance

Rev Tara Curlewis, Safe Church Relationships Minister

safechurch@nswact.uca.org.au

nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/safe-church/