

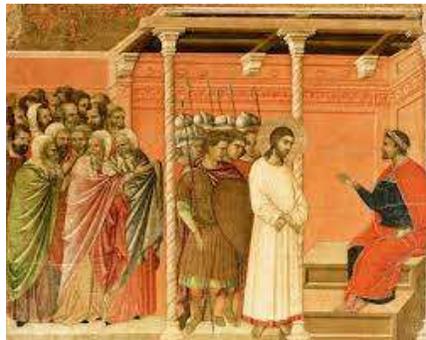


# WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<https://woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

Zoom

## “What is Truth?”



**10 a.m. Worship  
21 November 2021**

**Leader:** Matthew Jackson

**Prayers:** Janet Kay

**Readers:** Libby Osborn & Roger Mauldon

**Music:** Helen Swan & Brendan O’Loughlin

**Zoom:** David and Trish Cran

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome.

## **We Gather as People of God**

The gong is sounded three times to prepare us for worship together.

### **Prelude music**

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

We acknowledge the truth that Canberra is Ngunnawal country. The Ngunnawal are the Indigenous people of this region and its first inhabitants. The Ngunnawal people make their land sacred, as we make our worship sacred. We honour their elders - past and present - and continue to work for truth, reconciliation and justice for all.

### **Light the Community Candles**

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

### **Call to worship<sup>1</sup>**

Come, let us gather together for worship. Show us your ways, teach us your paths, Guide us in your truth and teach us love.

**For you are God, and truth and hope is in you forever.**

Guide us in what is right, turn to us and be gracious when we are lonely and afflicted. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, for all the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful.

**For you are God, and truth and hope is in you forever.**

May integrity and uprightness protect us, because our hope is in you. Remember, your great mercy and love, for they are of old.

**For you are God, and truth and hope is in you forever.**

Let us worship, let us give praise, let us give thanks.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Psalm 25

## Hymn: When I was a Child<sup>2</sup>

1. When I was a child,  
I thought as a child,  
I spoke as a child, with a child's own reason,  
but now I am grown,  
the child's way is gone,  
is weathered by thought of a different season.

2. Yet all that we know,  
and all that we sense,  
and all we discern at the mind's direction  
is partially seen  
as though it had been  
a mirror made dark by a cloud's reflection.

3. And each is a soul  
that looks for the whole  
for God in our life, with its joy and grieving,  
to trust, as a child,  
to love, as a child,  
to know and be known beyond disbelieving.

4. When prophets are dead  
and languages shed  
with knowledge all vanished, and mind's  
endeavour,  
there still will be faith,  
there still will be hope,  
and love, always love, that will last forever.

5. When I was a child,  
I thought as a child,  
I spoke as a child, with a child's own reason,  
but now I am grown,  
the child's way is gone,  
is weathered by thought of a different season.

## Welcome & Introduction

Good morning, everyone. A warm welcome to you all, as we gather together as one, yet also in many places. If you are new here, we welcome you. If you have returned after an absence, we welcome you. It is wonderful to be here with you all. You will be able to follow the service through the liturgy. Please remain on “mute” mode unless called otherwise. There will be time for fellowship at the end of the service, after our notices.

## Prayer to Seek Truth<sup>3</sup>

Help us to seek *truth* today,  
To find it in places and people we wouldn't otherwise notice.  
Teach us that in truth there is *wisdom* and *understanding*.  
May seeking truth help us overcome my fears and frustrations.

Help us to strive for truth in all that we do,  
That our thoughts, words, and actions may reflect your *goodness*.  
Show us that only in truth will we be free,

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<sup>2</sup> Shirley Erena Murray Words © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Jeannie Ewing <https://jeannieewing.com/prayers/prayer-to-seek-truth/>

To live honestly and courageously,  
To love wholeheartedly and unconditionally.

Help us to cherish truth,  
Knowing that You are the author of all that is *beautiful, good, and true*.  
May truth reign in our hearts, give us all *clarity and peace*.

## Passing the Peace

We now come to passing the peace. The Peace of God be with you all.

Please unmute yourselves and share a sign of peace with each other.

## Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness<sup>4</sup>

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
Sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives cures for their ills,  
Work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the  
weak;  
Voices to plead the cause of those who  
can't speak.

**Refrain:** God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
Give us compassion we pray;  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a  
flame.

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from  
fear,  
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,  
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to  
green;  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the  
pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth oceans and  
streams  
Plundered and poisoned our future, our  
dreams  
Lord, end our madness carelessness, greed  
Make us content with the things that we  
need

### Refrain

5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this  
flame  
Until your justice burns brightly again;  
Until the nations learn of your ways,  
Seek your salvation and bring you their  
praise.

### Refrain

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<sup>4</sup> Graham Kendrick, TiS 690

## We Reflect on the Word for our time

### *Revelation 1:4b-8*

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

<sup>7</sup> “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
and “every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”;  
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”  
So shall it be! Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

### *Psalm 43*

Refrain from TiS 27:



**1** Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause  
against an ungodly people;  
from those who are deceitful and unjust, deliver me!  
**Refrain**

**2** For you are the God in whom I take refuge;  
why have you cast me off?  
Why must I walk about mournfully due to  
oppression?  
**Refrain**

**3** O send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your  
dwelling.  
**Refrain**

**4** Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my exceeding joy;  
and I will praise you with the harp, O God.  
**Refrain**

**5** Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise my help and  
my God.  
**Refrain**

### *John 18: 33-37*

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

### **Reflection “What is the Truth?”**

#### **Music for Reflection**

### **We Respond to the Word**

#### **Affirmation:**

There is a relentless search for the factual and this quest often lacks warmth or reverence. At a certain stage in our life, we may wake up to the urgency of life, how short it is.

Then the quest for truth becomes the ultimate project. We can often forage for years in the empty fields of self-analysis and self-improvement and sacrifice much of our real substance for specks of cold, lonesome factual truth.

The wisdom of tradition reminds us that if we choose to journey on the path of truth, it then becomes a sacred duty to walk with truth, compassion and beauty hand in hand.

John O’Donohue (adapted).

## Offering

There are many gifts for which we are thankful today.

We give thanks for all those who are participating, we are truly thankful for all of your presence. We give thanks for those who offer friendship. We give thanks for our musicians, those who help set up our church, operate zoom, those who read, and those who serve. We give thanks for the monetary gifts, through our collection plate or electronically.

We give thanks for truth, faith and trust, hope and patience, which we bring with our offering today.

## Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

Let us pray for truth, for truth with compassion and beauty.

Let us pray for our political leaders, that they may speak the truth, including uncomfortable truth, and not pander to prejudice or fear, to go beyond slogans, and to communicate the complexity of what is right and good.

**For all of our political leaders across the world.**

Let us pray for the human rights activities and the women's rights activists who are speaking up in places where it fraught with danger, seeking to speak truth to power, sometimes even at risk to their own lives.

**For all humanity, especially those oppressed or in danger, across the world.**

Let us pray for the climate scientists, who are seeking the truth of the complex, fragile world we live in. And who seek to tell us the truth, sometimes uncomfortable truth that challenge our interests and understanding. And also let us understand that right and proper climate action affects people differently, and part of our joint enterprise is helping those who bear a heavier burden.

**For all scientists, now and in the future, across the world.**

Let us pray for those who oppose the slave trade, who work to oppose slavery in all its forms, who tell the truth of human oppression in all its forms.

**For all those who help to advance the lives of humans as flourishing and meaningful.**

Let us pray for those who are seeking to talk the truth of COVID-19 vaccines, to overcome hesitancy and worry with patient understanding, not boxing people into entrenched opposition, but rather able to respond to individual concerns and questions.

**For all health workers across the world.**

Let us pray for ourselves, that we can hear the truth with composure and honesty, even when it is painful or hurtful, and then seek to take steps to act on that truth.

**For all of us, we pray.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## We Go out into the World

### Hymn: In My Father's House<sup>5</sup>

1. Rainbow of colours, a complex of creeds  
Age-old perspectives meet fresh ways to see.  
Everyone welcome, fling open the doors,  
You'll learn of my path and I'll learn from yours.

#### Refrain

In my father's house there are many rooms,  
But no walls to divide.  
In my father's house there are many rooms,  
The gates are open wide.

2. The strong and the scared come from left and  
right,  
We're not so different seen in this light.  
There at the table, a banquet is served,  
For every person a place is reserved.

#### Refrain

3. Some greet a stranger, some serve the poor,  
Some shake the system right to its core.  
Some have found true faith, others still search,  
'Cause it takes all kinds to make up a church.

#### Refrain

4. A voice for the voiceless, justice for all,  
And for the listless, a clarion call.  
A church of inclusion we're bringing to birth,  
Just like in heaven, it can be on earth.

#### Refrain

### Blessing

"For Equilibrium, a Blessing:

"Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,  
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,  
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,  
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

As water takes whatever shape it is in,  
So free may you be about who you become.

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<sup>5</sup> Paul Somerville

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,  
May your sense of irony bring perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,  
May your mind stay clear of all its names.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
to hear in the depths the laughter of God.”

**The Worship and Community Candles are extinguished**

**Postlude (A time for quiet reflection)**

**This week at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

*Notices*

*Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events*