



## WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<http://www.woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

**Sunday 1 October 2023**

### SEASON OF CREATION

*'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'* (Amos 5:24)

Leader: Janet Kay  
Music: Joan Pratt  
Reader: Piers Booth

### We Gather as people of God

*The Gong is struck three times. We hold silence. We listen to the gong, calling us to gather, calling us to be present.*

*Prelude music*

#### Gathering Words

#### Acknowledgement of First Peoples

#### Lighting of the candle

*The community candle is lit.*

#### Opening Sentences

Great Provider,  
may the green of Spring praise you,  
**may the buds and blossom praise you.**

May the stubble and the grass praise you,  
**may the shrub and fruit tree praise you.**

May the bursting new life praise you,  
**may the birds and the bees praise you.**

Abraham, the founder of faith, praised you,  
**may the seven days and the stars praise you.**

Moses and Miriam praised you,  
**may male and female praise you.**

Great Provider,  
**may we and all that breathes praise you.**

**Song Morning Prayer - music file © Paul Chalson**

*People stand as they are able, to sing*

**Welcome**

**Prayer of Living Attentively**

**Prayer of Confession**

When we gather together we remember that God wants us to be re-created.

We have failed to love you with all our heart and to be good stewards of your creation: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to take up the cross of discipleship and to be good stewards of your gospel:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We have failed to be faithful members of your church and to be good stewards of your spiritual gifts:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.** (*Uniting in Worship 2*)

Hear that in God we are a new creation, God sends God's Spirit on us and the whole creation is renewed.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**The Peace**

Leader: May a heart of peace rest within you.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace of God with your neighbours, in whatever way is comfortable for you.*

**Song Within.** (Helen Wiltshire) Tune: O Waly Waly (TIS 654)

*People stand as they are able, to sing*

Within our lives are seams of gold,  
talents to stir, gifts to unfold.  
Within our lives, the sacred gives  
a call to life we've yet to live.

2. Within our hearts are joys to share,  
deep love to give and gentle care;  
the gift of grace forgiveness makes:  
within our hearts, the sacred wakes.

3. Within our minds are words that live,  
reflections wise with hope to give,  
and embers stirred, a fire that glow:  
within our minds, the sacred grows.

4. Within our souls are myst'ries deep,  
joys given life and hopes that leap,  
visions new born and given wings:  
within our souls, the sacred sings.

5. Within each heart and soul and mind,  
are dreams for earth and humankind,  
new ways to live with paths untrod:  
a sacred space infused by God.

**We Reflect on the Word for our time**

**Readings**

Reader: Into this day will break moments of awareness,  
tiny shards of light that illumine  
the whole reality of existence.

**All May these readings be such a moment**

**and may we be blessed by their gift.** (*Gretta Vosper - adapted*)

**Exodus 17: 1-7**  
Short reflection

**Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16**  
Short reflection

**Rev 22: 1-5**  
Short reflection, including excerpt from <https://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au/dadirri/>

*Music for reflection*

## **We Respond to the Word**

**Song: The Power of Love** (G Bullock, adapted Aaron Harper) Tune: TiS 685 (The Power of Your Love)  
*People stand as they are able, to sing*

God has come to me,  
As my heart is changed, released  
This miracle of grace gently sets me free.  
God I've come to know,  
The weaknesses I see in me,  
Will be stripped away  
By the power of love.  
*I'm held close,  
And God's love surrounds me,  
I'm brought near  
Drawn into God's side.  
In God's life  
I'm rising like the eagle  
And I will soar with you  
God's spirit leads us on  
In the power of love.*

2. God who comes to all,  
Hope that shines to light the way,  
Mercy soothes our souls, healing every heart.  
Love that sees the tears  
Overcomes our darkest fears  
Grace that lifts us up  
In the power of love.  
*I'm held close,  
And God's love surrounds me,  
I'm brought near  
Drawn into God's side.  
In God's life  
I'm rising like the eagle  
And I will soar with you  
God's spirit leads us on  
In the power of love.*

## **Offering**

### **Prayers of the People**

*The Care Candle is lit as we sing the Care Candle song.*

We take a match,  
And light a spark,  
To show the want,  
Within our hearts,  
To share each joy,  
To bear each pain,  
We take a spark,  
and light a flame.

We take a flame,  
And light a fire,  
To represent,  
Our hearts desire,  
To share our hopes,  
To bear our shames,  
We take a spark,  
And light a flame,  
We light a flame.

### **Abba Prayer**

**God – heart of the world, revealed through every aspect of creation,  
understood through our awareness.**

**May we honour the holiness of creation, and act accordingly  
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.  
May we always be thankful for the food we eat  
and the friends we have.**

**May we forgive those who transgress against us  
and be forgiven for our own transgressions.  
In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat  
And not be compromised by hesitation.**

**Through our freedom, may your justice  
be seen and heard and experienced  
forever and ever. Amen** *(Rev Sherri Weinberg)*

**Song TIS 183 Song of faith that sings forever**

*People stand as they are able, to sing*

Song of faith that sings forever  
through God's people, ages long,  
Word that holds the world together  
when our hearts take up the song,  
always, always somewhere sounding,  
though the source we do not see,  
counterpoint to all despairing  
it is hope that sets the key.

2. Song of faith in exultation,  
rising through the vaults of prayer,  
tune of simple celebration  
offered up in open air,  
song in chapel and cathedral,  
descant to our daily tone,  
song from sickbed or in prison:  
faith must often sing alone.

3. And when life would overwhelm us,  
when there seems no song to sing,  
hear the constant voice of courage  
out of fear and suffering:  
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,  
all who lift us to be strong,  
endless, endless are the voices  
of the faith that makes the song.

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**Words of Mission**

Let us embrace the wonder of this week  
with expectation and imagination, faith and love.

**Blessing**

Go in peace;  
May you carry God's wisdom, speak forth God's word,  
and embody God's presence  
wherever you are.

And the people said: **Amen**

*Candles are extinguished.*

*Postlude*

**'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

*Joys and concerns; Church notices; significant birthdays, anniversaries & events*

Song: *Within*. Words Helen Wiltshire © Pilgrim Publishing 2011

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