



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

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

Service location: Curtin



I Count on You

10 a.m. Worship
14th July 2024

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

We Gather as People of God

The Gong is struck 3 times

The gong sounds. We hold silence.

We listen to the gong, calling us to gather, calling us to be present at this time.

Prelude

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

- We acknowledge that we are worshipping on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people. They made their land sacred, as we have made this place sacred. We honour their elders - past and present - and continue to work for reconciliation and justice for all.

We Light the Community Candle

As we light this candle may we see the light of Christ in this service, in each other and in those we meet.

(We light the community candle)

Call to worship

We come with open minds and hearts

Speak Lord your servant is listening.

We bring in our hearts and minds our young ones.

We lay the foundations for your actions through them.

Welcome & Introduction

- A warm welcome is extended to all. An especially warm welcome to those who are worshipping at Woden Valley Uniting Church for the first time, or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Welcome to those at Goodwin and those at home joining us on Zoom. In the printed liturgy the responses are in bold.

Hymn Lord of earth and all creation TIS672 tune2

Please stand as you are able

Lord of earth and all creation, let your Love possess our land.

Wealth, and freedom, far horizons, mountain, forest, shining sands,

May we share, in faith and friendship, gifts unmeasured from your hands.

People of the ancient Dreamtime, they who found this country first,

Ask with those the later comers, will our dreams be blest or cursed?

Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living, hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving, healing Spirit, on our hurts your mercy shower,

Lead us by your inward dwelling, guiding, guarding, every hour

Bless and keep our land Australia; in your will her peace and power.

Passing the Peace

As followers of the God of Peace, we strive together to live in Love and in Peace.

May the God of Love and Peace be with you

And also with you

Let us share that Love and Peace with each other

Hymn TIS 253 O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr

O Lord Jesus Marrkapmirr
All the power belongs to you.
Hold me by this power, O Lord,
You alone are king.

Now we praise you for your Word,
Living, true and full of light.
Yours the hands that rest on me:
Hold me for all time.

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.**

A Reading from 1 Samuel 3:1-18

The LORD Calls Samuel

¹The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,^[a] and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷ "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."

A Reading from 1 Samuel, 16:1, 5-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.


Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Psalm

Song of Simeon (*Nunc dimittis*, text TiS 733 alt.)

Refrain:



Pre-
pared by you for all the world to see.

Now you, O God, have set your servant free
To go in peace as promised in your word
My eyes have seen the Saviour, Christ the Lord
Prepared by you for all the world to see
to shine on nations trapped in the darkest night
To your people you are their glory and light.
Prepared by you for all the world to see

A Reading from Luke 2 :21-40A

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

For the word of God in Scripture, For the word of God among us, For the word of God within us....

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Music for reflection

We Respond to the Word

Hymn Here I am Lord TIS 658

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them, Whom shall I send ?

Refrain

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord , If you lead me. I will hold your people in my hand

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will spread my word to them, Whom shall I send ?

Refrain

I , the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, 'til their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life for them, Whom shall I send ?

Refrain

Affirmation of our Mission:

Christ has no body but ours
No hands, no feet on earth but ours,
Ours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world
Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,
Ours are the eyes, we are his body.

Offering

Our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond, will now be received.

May all our gifts, talents and offerings, build towards the reign of Love in our neighbourhood and our world.

Amen

Prayers of the People

We light the Care candle

Response to Prayers-

Lord in your strength and love

Hear our prayer.

A 21st Century Lord's Prayer (by Roger Courtney)

**Great divine spirit of love that is at the core of everything
And from whom all life flows,
We acknowledge your healing and transforming power.**

**May the spirit of unconditional love and forgiveness flow through each of us and enable
The realm of love to spread throughout the world.
Like the flowers in the fields, ensure that we have the basics we need to live
And give us the love and commitment to ensure that others have what they need too.**

**Give us the courage to acknowledge when we have done wrong,
to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt
And to forgive those who have hurt us,
So that we may be reconciled.
We acknowledge the power of self-giving love to transform individual hearts and the world.
We recommit ourselves to the unconditional love of others and the work of justice and peace.
Amen**

We Go out into the World

Hymn TIS 473 Community of Christ

Community of Christ

Who make the Cross your own

Live out your creed and risk your life for God alone.

The God who wears your face, To whom all worlds belong,

Whose children are of every race And every song

Community of Christ,

Look past the Church's door and see the refugee the hungry and the poor

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street

Take towel and water, that you wash

Your neighbour's feet

Community of Christ
Through whom the world must sound-
Cry out for justice and for peace
The whole world round:
Disarm the powers that war
And all that can destroy,
Turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy

When menace melts away,
So shall God's will be done,
The climate of the world be peace
And Christ its Son;
Our currency be love
And kindness our law,
Our food and faith be shared as one
For evermore

Words of Mission and Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Community Candle and Care Candle are extinguished

Postlude

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices,

Joys and Concerns

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events, travel

May the work this community does, the joys we celebrate, our concern for others, make a difference.

Amen

Fellowship

Morning tea is now served.

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.