



## WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

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



**Do not doubt but believe!**

**10 a.m. Worship 27 April 2025**

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

# **We Gather as People of God**

**The Gong is sounded 3 times**

**Prelude Music**

**Lighting the Community Candles**

**Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

**Call to Worship**

Here, we gather as brothers and sisters in faith.  
We come with all our various experiences,  
all the things we carry into this room together.  
Just like the disciples long ago,  
Jesus comes today, and stands among us, saying, 'Peace be with you'.  
Jesus greets us in the thick of our human experience—  
our fears, our joys, our anger, our hopes, our doubts — all of it.  
Jesus gathers with us, just as we are,  
with all that we come with.  
Come, let us meet with the Risen Christ!

Come, Breath of God, come.  
**Enter into us now,  
fill us with your peace,  
animate us with your indwelling love.**  
Come, Breath of God, come.  
**Amen**

**Song – Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son – TiS380**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**Welcome & Introduction**

**Prayer of Approach**

**Passing the Peace**

**Call to Reconciliation**

When we keep our faults and failings locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace.

Please join me as we pray together, saying,

God of the empty tomb  
when we hesitate to speak of your hope,  
**forgive us, and give us a voice.**  
When we find it difficult to love one another,  
**forgive us, and give us fresh compassion.**  
When we want to stand with the high and mighty,  
**forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.**  
When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,  
**forgive us, and send us out to share you grace.**  
When we cannot believe your Word of new life,  
**forgive us, and fill us with your joy.**

*Silence*

The Risen Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives bringing the light of Easter.  
Christ comes into the locked rooms of our fears and gifts us with grace and hope.

**Christ comes to fill us with peace, so we may proclaim the good news of mercy to all.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Song – Give thanks with a grateful heart – TiS 717**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

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

### **Readings from the Bible and the World Around Us**

#### **Psalm 150 – Sing Praise to the Lord! - TiS 96**

#### **John 20:19-31(NRSV UE)**

##### **Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

##### **Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless

I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

### **The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the word of God among us, For the word of God within us

**Thanks be to God**

## **Reflection**

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

#### **Song – Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord – TiS 390**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

#### **Offering Prayer**

#### **Light the Care Candle**

#### **Prayers of the People**

Leader: Lord, show us the way

Response: **That we may be your hands and feet**

#### **Holy Communion**

Jesus invites us to this table.

The meal is open to all who hunger.

It is a place for peace making, and nourishment by God’s love.

Through these elements, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we remember that Jesus was present with his disciples, that he is present with us today and that he will be with us for all eternity with his Father.

May the God of resounding joy be with you!

**And also with you!**

Easter people, may your hearts be filled with joy!  
**May God fill our emptiness with the carols of angels!**  
Children of the resurrection, lift your praises to God!  
**We join with all creation in shouting our praise  
to the One who loves us!**

Be present, risen Lord Jesus, as you were with your disciples,  
And make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread;  
For you live and reign with the Father, and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever  
**Amen.**

According to our saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper  
to which he calls us.

The Lord be with you.	<b>And also with you.</b>
Lift up your hearts.	<b>We lift them to the Lord</b>
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise</b>

Thanks, and praise, glory and honour are rightly yours, our Lord and God, for you alone are  
worthy. In time beyond our dreaming, you brought forth life from darkness, and in the love of  
Christ, your son, you set humanity to join you in caring for your creation.

In the fullness of your mercy, you became one with us in Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us  
on the cross. You make us alive together with him, that we may rejoice in his presence and  
share his peace.

You have called us to be your church in this place, to give voice to every creature under  
heaven. We rejoice with all you have made, as we join with all the company of heaven in their  
eternal song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessing and honour and glory are yours,  
forever and ever, Amen.**

Loving God, accept us, as we offer and present ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy  
and living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all  
honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

And so, we join together in prayer as believers have been doing for centuries:  
**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our home and come on earth.  
Amen**

*(from the New Zealand Prayer Book)*

On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took some bread, and giving thanks, he broke it, saying  
“This is my body which is given for you.  
Take, eat and remember me”  
After the meal, Jesus took the cup, and he said to them,  
“This is the new covenant of my love.  
Take, drink and remember me.”

Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make us one with Jesus, one with each other, and one in ministry in the world, until at last, all  
things are reconciled and renewed.  
**Amen**

**Christ has died.  
Christ has risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Christ is the bread of life, who shares food with all who are hungry.  
Christ is the cup of love, for a broken world.  
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all is ready. *(The elements are distributed)*

Most gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You  
have fed us and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you and ask that our  
daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom. May our love be your love, reaching out into  
the life of the world.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **We Go out into the World**

**Song – To God be the Glory – TiS 147 v 1,3**

**Blessing**

**The Community Candle is extinguished**

**Postlude**

## **UCA Video – Our Vision For A Just Australia**

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

*Notices*

*Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events*

*Travel Candles*

### **Fellowship**

*Morning tea is now served.*

*You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.*

**Order of Service** has congregation responses printed in **bold**

<b>Leader:</b>	Pastor Julie Connah
<b>Reader:</b>	Margaret Cheffers
<b>Prayers:</b>	Libby Coates
<b>Music:</b>	Joan Pratt
<b>Communion servers:</b>	Volunteers on the day