



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

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



Blackheath-Mount Victoria Rural Fire Service Brigade

WORSHIP 2 NOVEMBER 2025 – ALL SAINTS' DAY
A Celebration of Everyday Saints

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

WE GATHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gong is sounded three times. We hold silence. We listen to the gong calling us to gather, calling us to be present in this time of worship.

Prelude

Lighting of the Community Candle

We light our Community Candle. As this flame shines in our gathering, so may God's word of hope and love shine in our lives

Guided by God's light, we centre ourselves for worship, open to the creative Spirit of kindness and compassion.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Prayer of Awareness

We gather now in this sacred place
as a Community of Faith
**to rest from our labours,
to greet our neighbours,
and to open our being to insight and intuition
of that greater reality of which we are a part.**

In this sacred place,
may we find in our time together inspiration and renewal.
**May we touch the holy in each other
and be touched by the graciousness of life.
May we find here a calm peacefulness
that will carry us through the days ahead.**

We are the sisters and brothers of all that is,
cherishing the earth, embracing its life.

Song: TiS 106(i) 'Now thank we all our God'.

Call to Worship

In all our weaknesses and strength
with our youth-filled spirits and ageing bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.

Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.

Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.
Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.
May we truly become your people today. Amen.
from 'All Saints Day posted on Seasons Online.

Welcome and Introduction to our Worship Theme

Prayer of Assurance

Jesus, our friend, leads us through life, renewing our hope, refreshing our courage and lifting our spirits with stories of what it means to be fully human. God accepts us as we are. Our failings are forgiven and our strengths affirmed. Jesus calls us to 'follow him'. **Thanks be to God.**

The Peace

This is the home of our Community of Faith. A place of peace. A place where we befriend and bless one another.

May the Spirit of the Living God dwell in you now and always.

And also with you.

(we give a Sign of Peace to those around us).

Offering: Loving God, we acknowledge with gratitude those who give money through electronic or other means and who also give their time, energy, and practical contributions to the life of our congregation, the work of your church and the wider community. Help us to be your faithful servant people. Amen

Song: O God you search me and you know me

O, God, you search me, and you know me
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze
When I walk or lie down, you are before me
'Ever the maker and keeper of my days

You know my resting and my rising
You discern my purpose from afar
And with love everlasting, you besiege me
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord
You have known its meaning through and through
You are with me beyond my understanding
God of my present, my past and future, too

Although your Spirit is upon me
Still I search for shelter from your light
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me
Gave me life within my mother's womb *(over page)*

For the wonder of who I am, I praise you
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Bernadette Mary Farrell © Oregon Catholic Press Music

WE RECEIVE A WORD FOR OUR TIME

Secular reading. Blessing – John O'Donohue

There is a quiet light that shines in every heart. It draws no attention to itself, though it is always secretly there. It is what illuminates our minds to see beauty, our desire to seek possibility, and our hearts to love life. Without this subtle quickening our days would be empty and wearisome, and no horizon would ever awaken our longing. Our passion for life is quietly sustained from somewhere in us that is wedded to the energy and excitement of life. This shy inner light is what enables us to recognize and receive our very presence here as blessing. We enter the world as strangers who all at once become heirs to a harvest of memory, spirit, and dream that has long preceded us and will now enfold, nourish, and sustain us. The gift of the world is our first blessing. It would be infinitely lonely to live in a world without blessing. The word 'blessing' evokes a sense of warmth and protection; it suggests that no life is alone or unreachable.

The Gift of Love - 1 Corinthians 12: 31, 13:-1-4. New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.

³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Reflection - Everyday saints are everywhere



Picture - Wayside Chapel Sydney

Musid for reflection

The Royal Melbourne Hospital scrubs choir sing 'Stand by Me'

<https://www.facebook.com/3awbreakfast/videos/338035774013506>

A short time of silence and quiet reflection

Song: For all the saints who've shown your love.

Tune: TiS 654. O Waly Waly

For all the saints who've shown your love,
in how they live and where they move.
For mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame.
Who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,
and showed the kingdom coming still.
Through selfless protest, prayer and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise. *(over page)*

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Words: John Bell

Remembering Everyday Saints

We come to a time of prayer and remembrance for everyday saints

Let us pray

For all the saints who went before us who have spoken to our hearts and
touched us with your fire, **we praise you, O God.**

For all the saints who live beside us, whose weaknesses and strengths
are woven with our own, **we praise you, O God.**

For all the saints who live beyond us who challenge us to change the
world with them, **we praise you, O God.**

(We light a candle for everyday saints)

We light a candle for the many thousands of everyday saints in our
community.

They are ordinary people in many occupations, professions, trades,
volunteers and ordinary citizens who work tirelessly to support and
enrich the cultural, caring, economic, educational, medical and sporting
life of our city and nearby rural communities.

We give grateful thanks

Loving God, thank you
for those often quiet saints
who do not argue their theology loudly
or engage in lengthy debates
over complex doctrinal issues
but simply get on with doing
the business

visiting the sick, the aged

and the lonely

a shoulder to cry on

a listening ear

and the reassurance of one who cares

Thank you, God
for all those quiet saints
who live their faith through their lives
in a world that often forgets
that you were never too busy to listen
never too busy to minister to needs
never too engrossed in work
to bring hope and wholeness into lives.
**Thank you, loving God,
for your quiet saints.**

We light a candle for people who through love, compassion, practical help or in many other ways have been saints to us *(we light a candle)*

I invite you to come forward if you wish and silently light a candle for a person or people, past or present, who are special in your life - who have been an everyday saint to you.
Please light the tealight candle in the middle first and work to the edges.

Prayer: For Those Who Walked With Us

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.

For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.

An Abba Prayer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. — Parker J. Palmer**

Song: We sing for all the unsung saints : Tune Kingsfold (TiS 585)

We sing for all the unsung saints,
that countless, nameless throng,
who kept the faith and passed it on,
with hope steadfast and strong,
through all the daily griefs and joys
no chronicles record,
forgetful of their lack of fame,
but mindful of the Lord.

Though uninscribed with date or place,
with title, rank, or name,
as living stones their stories join
to form a hallowed frame
around the mystery in their midst:
the Lamb once sacrificed,
the Love that wrested life from death,
the wounded, risen Christ.

So we take heart from unknown saints
bereft of earthly fame,
those faithful ones who have received
a more enduring name:

for they reveal true blessing comes
when we our pride efface
and offer back our lives to be
the vessels of God's grace.
(Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1994 Hope Publishing Co)

WE GO OUT TO THE WORLD

Benediction *(please be seated)*

May the God of new beginnings,
start with you and me,
May the God of continuing story,
speak through you and me
May the God of infinite wisdom,
shine through you and me,
may the God of safe home comings
welcome you and me.)over page)

May the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life
be with us now and always. Amen.

(Please stay seated)

Postlude: Song: I sing a song of the Saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green;
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right for Jesus' sake
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too. *(over page)*

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
in church, by the sea, in the house next door;
they are saints of God, whether rich or poor,
and I mean to be one too.

Words: Lesbia Scott, 1929, Music: John Hopkins, 1940

This week at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Thank you to everyone who helped with today's service. Readers, Music, Technical Support, Set up, Welcomers, Morning Tea, and everyone who is here or Zooming with us

Worship Leaders Keith and Helen Fairbrother, Music Helen Swan

Notices: *Church news, significant birthdays, anniversaries or events.*

Morning tea

For those who walked with us <https://paintedprayerbook.com/2013/10/29/for-those-who-walked-with-us/#.UnEzihZD1UM> The painted Prayer book Jan Richardson
Version 3