



Woden Valley Uniting Church

22 February 2026

Lent 1

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.



WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gong is struck three times. *The gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.*

Prelude *(a time for quiet preparation).*

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Lighting the Community Candle

Come light, light of hope and love, give light to creation

Enlighten our hearts and show us your truth.

May this candle be to us a tangible reminder of the transformative spirit of Lent that is here with us today. **Amen**

A Lenten Call to Worship

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will be opened wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will be opened wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn to each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast. Amen

Song: Come and find the quiet centre

1. Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare.

Welcome and Introduction

Passing the Peace

In love, hope and unity, with vision and service, let us greet each other with a sign of peace. May the peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn For everyone born, a place at the table

Shirley Erena Murray

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

WE REFLECT ON WORDS FOR OUR TIME

Readings

Exodus 25- 23-30 The Table

²³ "Make a table of acacia wood—two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high.²⁴ Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it. ... The rings are to be close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table. ²⁸ Make the poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold and carry the table with them. ²⁹ And make its plates and dishes of pure gold, as well as its pitchers and bowls for the pouring out of offerings. ³⁰ Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times.

Psalm 63

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you,

My whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you

Luke 5, 27-31

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 14 12-14

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous

Reflection

Music for Reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Offerings

We acknowledge that in addition to this collection, many do so elsewhere through direct debit or any other means, and so many of our community contribute in many other ways to our shared mission. We give thanks for the gifts of faith and trust and patience, which we bring with our offering today. **Amen.**

The Care Candle is lit

Prayers of the People

(Please remain seated)

Lord, carry them.

Carry them close to your heart.

Hymn Since the World began TIS 544

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We pray that you are present with us, risen Lord Jesus, as you were with your disciples and that you will make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine.

For you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

Friends, let us gather as God's guests at this table.

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

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.

Let us remember:

On the night before he died, on the evening of his betrayal,

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

In the same way, also the cup after supper saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in memory of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God, by your word and your spirit bless this bread and this wine,

That they may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. And that he may ever live in us and we in him.

Make us one with him, one with each other, and one in ministry in this wide, wide world until at last, we feast with him in the kingdom.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. AMEN

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in Heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who have sinned against us

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

AMEN

And now, with thanksgiving, we take this bread and this cup and proclaim Jesus’ death and resurrection until he comes.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

(We come to collect the elements and wait to eat and drink together.)

The body and blood of Christ given for us all. **AMEN**

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God whose word is proclaimed.

Praise to the God who loves us.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all we shall become.

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.
Accept our thanks for all that we are.
Our hands were empty and you filled them. AMEN

Hymn Now let us from the table rise TIS 530

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Words of Mission

This is the Day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
Go in peace to serve God and his people
We will seek to offer peace and aid to all we meet
In the name of the Father , Son and Holy Spirit
AMEN

Postlude – *(Please remain seated)*

Notices & Sharing

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Shirley Erena Murray