



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

10.00 a.m. Worship 26 April 2026



Leader: Joan Pratt

Music: Brendan O'Loughlin

Morning Tea: Carolyn Curnow and Pat Cresswell

Reader:

Technical:

Kate McLaughlin

John Schmidt, Stephen Brand and

Edis Elgueta

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The gong sounds, calling us to attention

The Prelude

Light the Community Candle

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples. They have made this land sacred as we seek to make our lives sacred. We honour their elders – past, present and emerging – and commit to working for understanding, respect and justice for all.

Gathering Prayer

Loving and Almighty God, we come together in your presence this morning to be with you our Lord, to be with Jesus our saviour and brother, to be with your Holy Spirit and to be connected with each other and with your people in all the world.

You have made us for this, to enjoy and praise your holy name.

Jesus you have opened the door to heaven so that all of us may enter the fullness of life that is found in you.

Holy Spirit, help us as we pray so that we may recognise our leader's voice, follow him and take into ourselves the meaning of God's word for us today. **AMEN**

Hymn - TiS 148 All things praise you, Lord most high vv 1,2 and 4

Welcome and Introduction

Passing the Peace

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the Son of peace to you *(From the Iona Community)*

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

And also with you.

HYMN - TiS 444 Dear Shepherd of your people, hear,

WE REFLECT ON THE WORD FOR OUR TIME

John 10:1-10 Contemporary English version

Jesus said "I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep won't follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice and they run away."

Jesus told the people this story but they didn't understand what he was talking about.

So Jesus said "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber and the sheep didn't listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. A thief comes only to rob, kill and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

ACTS 2:42-47 Contemporary English version

Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

Psalms 23 (modern version by Rev Nathan Nettleton)

You, Lord, are my guide in the wilderness;
there is nothing more I could need.

You set up camp in places of beauty and shelter;
You lead the way on secluded tracks
beside creeks of cool clean water.

I feel my spirit breathing freely again;
Your reputation puts me at ease.;
I leave the navigating to you, and follow.

Even if we hike through a perilous valley,
Where crows keep a menacing watch,
Fear will still not get the better of me.

You cook up a feast for me,
As those who wanted to feed on me watch, frustrated.
You pamper me like an honoured guest
And constantly top up my glass.

My life feels charmed, each and every day.
Love, mercy and all good things
Keep falling into my lap.

I'm with you for life, Lord,
Where you go, I'll go;
Where you live, I'll live.

For the word of God in Scripture **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Reflection

Music for personal reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn - Will you now follow? By Rev Dr David Manton sung to TiS 739

Go forward with God,
Jesus has called you.
Where ever he leads
he will be with you.

Jesus is calling.
His world is hurting.
Will you now
follow?

This is the new time!
This is His new day!
Hope is his message,
promise of new day.
Jesus is calling.
His world is waiting.
Will you now
follow?

Yes, Lord, we'll follow
where'er you lead us.
Risking your new way
in love you've called us.
We will be daring.
Our world is seeking.
We will now
follow!

Our Offering for the work of God

Prayers of the People

We pray O Lord for your whole creation: we pray for life in all its fullness
May all things work together for good, until, by your design,
Your children inherit the earth and order it wisely.

Let the whole creation praise you, Lord our God.

We pray for peace in the world.
Disarm weapons, silence guns,
And put out the ancient hates that smoulder still, and the flames of sudden conflict.
Create goodwill between every race and nation.

Bring peace on earth, O God.

We pray for all people – those who are comfortable and happy
as well as those who are lost and sad.

Let us all learn to turn to you in praise and supplication

Believing in your love and leadership for all.

And Lord, we make time to bring you those matters which are on our hearts at the moment. Let us
take a time of silence to name in our hearts our concerns for

- The world and all that is happening
- Our family and friends and those dear to us

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

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 and that we may follow him all the days of our lives.

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 who leads us into the future. **Praise to the God who loves us.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN - TiS 687 God gives us a future

Let us go now and rejoice in the fullness of the life that the Lord God has given us. Do not be afraid or worried about anything, but in everything trust God, follow him and pray with hope.

Let us be grateful for the good times, courageous when times are tough, sharing what we have, valuing justice and being gentle and generous with all. And may God rejoice over us with gladness. May Christ lead and renew us with his love. And may the Holy Spirit give us peace beyond understanding as we follow them into the fullness of our lives.

**We go in peace with love, joy and hope.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN**

Postlude *Extinguish the candles*

References

CCLI licence #546647;

www.churchofscotland.org.uk; <https://laughingbird.net/occasion/a35/2026-04-26/>;
<https://southyarrabaptist.church/sermons/fullness-of-life/>

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices and announcements

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship

Morning tea will now be served.

You are invited to share in a time of fellowship and discussion