



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

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

Jesus Still Prays for His People



May 17 2026, Easter 7, 10 am

Leader: Shukry and Helen Sahhar

Reader: Willa Mauldon

Music: Brendan O’Loughlin

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

We Gather as People of God

Sound the gong (three times) to settle us quietly & prepare us for worship.

Prelude music

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Canberra is Ngunnawal and Ngambri country and we honour Ngambri and Ngunnawal elders - past and present. We acknowledge the songlines, stories, and knowledge that for many centuries have protected the ‘spirit’ of this Country, with its mountains, limestone plains, and waterways.

Lighting the Community candle

Call to Worship

1. The leaves are falling around us
through days growing ever clearer and more barren.
Surrounded by little deaths,
the turning of the leaves
and shrivelling of the flowers,
**we gather our lives in
like the harvest.**

2. Our friendships,
our experiences
our achievements
we wrap around ourselves,
against the coldness which is to come.
For in this time,

Song *People stand as they are able*) **All Creatures of the Earth and Sky**

Words: Gretta Vosper

Tune: Lasst uns Erfreuen, TIS 100

Verse 1

All creatures of the Earth and sky,
Come, kindred, lift your voices high,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
Soft shining moon with silver gleam
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
White clouds that sail in heav'n along,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Fair rising morn in praise rejoice,
High stars of evening find a voice:

Welcome & Introduction

Prayer for Living Attentively

Breathe with me
Breathe with me—the breath of life
Inhale, Inspire, Inspiration,

Ruach, Pneuma, Spiritus, the Holy Spirit
the many names for breath.
Breathe with me.

Know that with each breath we take
in molecules of air that were breathed
by every person that ever lived.

our lives will be lived within.

3. Like the grapes that are harvested in happy
sunlight,
turning to wine in dark cellars,
our thoughts will transform and grow richer.
**Come, Spirit of all mysteries,
into the centre of our containment,
grow treasure from within us.
This we pray.**

*Juliet Greentree, 2004, in Sanctuary by Trish Watts &
Gabrielle Lord, 2005*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse 3

Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for all life to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright,
And bless us with your warmth and light:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse 4

Embracing Earth, you, day by day,
Bring for your blessings on our way,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
All herbs and fruits that richly grow,
Let them the glory also show;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
The people sit.

Breathe with me,
and breathe the breath of Jesus,
of Moses, of Mohammed, of the Buddha.

Breathe with me,
and know that we are all interdependent,
that the spirit of life flows through us all.

Breathe with me,
as we come together to do the holy work
of interconnection and relationship,

that our work here may be blessed. (Matt

Alspaugh/uua-ww)

Passing the Peace

The Peace of God be with You.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

Song (People stand as they are able)

TiS 526 Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer Native American prayer

We Reflect on the Word for our time

First Reading from the Bible

Acts 1: 6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

WVUC responsorial psalm chant. *Congregation sings lines 2 and 4.*



As smoke is ' driven away

So drive ' them away

As wax melts be'fore the fire

Let the wicked perish ' before God.

But let the right'eous be joyful;

Let them exult ' before God.

Sing, O sing praises ' to God's name;

Sing to one who rides on the clouds, re'joice in God.

Father of orphans and protec'tor of widows

So is God in a holy ' habitation.

God gives the deso'late a home

And leads out the prisoners ' to prosperity.

O God, when you went out be'fore your people,

you marched ' through the wilderness

the earth quaked, the heavens ' poured down rain

at the ' presence of God.

You showered rain ' in abundance

You restored your ' failing heritage

Your flock found a ' dwelling place

In your goodness you provided ' for the needy.

O kingdoms of the earth, praise God in the ' ancient heavens;
Listen to the ' Spirit's strong voice.
Power ' is to God,
Whose majesty is ' over Israel.

Awesome is God in the sanctuary,
And in the ' skies above.
The God of Israel gives strength to the people.
Bles'sed be God!

Second Reading from the Bible

John 17, 1-11

Reflection

[Easter 7- John 17:1-11- Jesus Still Prays for His People - Saltbush Community](#)

Music for Reflection

We Respond to the Word

Song (*People stand as they are able*)

TiS 693 Come as you are

Offering

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

Response

**We come with offerings –
Of our time, our money, our strength,
our pleasure in one another's company.
Please make these gifts your instrument
to bring harmony to others and add to the concert of a greater good.
Amen.**
Jean Shannon

Prayers of the People

Loving God, in this autumn season, as the leaves turn to gold and brilliant colours, may our hearts turn to the concerns of our changing world.

For those who are experiencing unemployment, the loss of a loved one, illness, or exile from family or home, we pray.

Compassionate God hear us.

For those who are facing the autumn years of their lives, aware of the magnificence and fragility of human life, we pray.

Compassionate God hear us

For those who are thinking ahead, planning and consolidating with untiring love, we pray.

Compassionate God, hear us.

Loving God, as the daylight fades and we need more protection and warmth, we thank you for your unconditional love.

Amen

The Abba Prayer

Let us pray together:

Holy Being, whom we call by many different names,

Blessed are you. Blessed are we in you.

May we create with you a realm of mercy, peace and justice.

May love be done in the here and now as it is in the infinite.

May we share life in bread and hope.

For our failures to love, we need forgiveness.

May we find the paths of reconciliation.

From the powers that bind our spirits and our structures, may we find liberation.

In the power that is love, we seek to live and move and have our being.

May it be so, now and forever. Amen.

Nancy L Steeves, adapted

We Go out into the World

Words of Mission

Lord Jesus, you are the way, truth and life.

Open our eyes to see the love that you have for each of us.

Give us the courage to let that love transform us.

As we do our best to walk the way you have laid out for us, help us when we struggle to love those around us.

May we encounter the truth and life that service brings as we both serve and let ourselves be served and loved.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Charlene Delos Santos

Song (*People stand as they are able*)

TiS 681 Lord Let me see

Blessing

The presence of God reaches beyond this place...

May all that is not love fall away
May all that is not truth fall away
May all that is not fullness fall away
May all that is not richness fall away
May this autumn season's soft release
Bring us closer to your all-embracing love.
Amen.

Postlude *remind congregation to stay seated*

The Community Candle is extinguished

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events (eg: decade birthdays)

Fellowship

Morning tea is now served.

You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.

Liturgy from Woden Valley Uniting Church May 6 2023 (Kate McLoughlin)