

Ormond Uniting Church

Dedication Service



The wise men from the East, He Qi

Led by the Uniting Church President

Rev Charissa Suli

February 8, 2026

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Opening Music: The Ave Verum Corpus of W.A Mozart

(The Service will start after the music)

WELCOME TO COUNTRY SMOKING CEREMONY 祭典土地

(Uncle Mark Brown & James Brown from Bunurong Land Council)

(The Congregation will be gathered on the lawn and the carpark.

Chairs are available for people with mobility issues.

The VIPs will go through the smoke and move to the carpark entrance.)

DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH 献堂典礼

Ribbon Presentation at the Church Entrance

(President Rev Suli)

Wisdom cries out in the streets,
in the squares she raises her voice:
‘God gives wisdom;
from God’s mouth comes knowledge and understanding’.

We pray and evoke the wisdom of God,
Come, breath of God, come.
Now, let us walk into this church
and worship the living God.

Cutting the Red Ribbon

(President of Uniting Church: Rev Charissa Suli,
Chair of the Port Philip East Presbytery: David Higham,
Mayor of Glen Eira Council: Cr Simone Zmood,
General Manager of Simbilt: Simon Buultjens
Chair of Ormond Uniting Church Council: Dr Mardie Townsend
Minister of Ormond Uniting Church: Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

Unveiling Acknowledge of Country Plaque

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

From river to ocean,
from campfire to hearth,
may the First People of this area,
the Bunurong people, who have cared for this Land
be blessed.

(Dr Mardie Townsend)

From breath to song,
from step to dance,
may those who follow your Songlines
guide us on the journey of living honourably in this place.

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

From greeting to Amen,
from silence to chorus,
may our worship join with
the voices of the First Peoples of this Land.

Unveiling Dedication of the Building Plaque

(President Rev Suli)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or even before you had formed the earth and the world,
you are God, from everlasting to everlasting.

Now we dedicate this building to the worship of the living God.

1 Hymn: 132 Holy Holy Holy Lord God almighty

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning to you our praise shall be;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore you,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before you,
God everlasting through eternity.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide you,
though the sinful human eye your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, there is none beside you,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Carry in the Bible, Bread, Wine, and Water

(After the 3rd verse the liturgical elements are carried into the Church

Hans Tilstra: the Bible, Mardie Townsend: the Bread

Jan Davenport: the Wine, Lisa Saffin: the Water)

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,
all your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Safety Procedure

(Lisa Saffin)

Presentation of the Church Building

(Symbols presented by the Chair of Congregation, Hans Tilstra)

Jesus said:

‘Come to me all that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

My name is Hans Tilstra, chairperson of the Congregation.

The rebuilding of this Church has been a 17-year journey.
Here on behalf of Ormond Congregation, I want to acknowledge a generation of
people who walked before us. We give thanks to God for their vision and their
capacity to dream dreams.

We give thanks to God for the support of Glen Eira City Council
for the approval of the building permit and regulatory oversight.

I also want to acknowledge the presence of the oldest living person in Victoria: Rev Bill Morgan, 110 years of age.

Here I want to acknowledge many people who are part of the building process. We present to them these symbols of service.

Synod Project Manager: Blake Kempthorne
a box of physical keys to the Church

The Project Control Group representative: Neville Parker
a folder of documentations

The Owner of Simbilt: Simon Buultjens
a symbol of tools (a power drill)

The Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang
a list of post-build improvements

SHORT SPEECHES 贵宾发言

(3 minutes each person)

The Synod project manager: Blake Kempthorne

The Builder: Simon Buultjens

The Presbytery Chairperson: David Higham

The PCG leader: Dr Mardie Townsend

Video Presentation: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

BLESSING OF THE CHURCH 献堂祝福

(President Rev Suli)

Blessed are you, O God,
for you framed the universe as the dwelling place of creation
and your Word pitched a tent in humanity's midst.

Grant the grace of your presence in this Church.
May you dwell within this house of God,
like the saints of the past,
**and may those who enter here,
and those who worship here,
find shelter in your loving presence.**

On behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia,
I bless Ormond Uniting Church,
Let us love God and love our neighbours,
through worship, witness and service.

Prayer of Confession

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

Eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth,
we praise you for your greatness.
Your wisdom is seen in all your works.
Your grace and truth are revealed
in Jesus Christ your Son.
Your presence and power are given to us
through the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, blessed Trinity,
we worship and adore you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Come to us, God of unity.
Come with your forgiveness and your healing grace.
Come, that we may witness to reconciliation in a divided world;
that we may gather around Christ's table as one people;
that we may affirm one Church, one faith, one Lord.
Come to us, God of unity.

In penitence and faith,
let us confess our sins to almighty God.

We have failed to love you with all our heart
and to be good stewards of your creation.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to take up the cross of discipleship
and to be good stewards of your gospel.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have failed to be members of your Church
and to be good stewards of your spiritual gifts.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Thanks be to God.

Offertory: Offering the Building for Mission

(The Presbytery chairperson David Higham)

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in God.
How shall we repay the Lord
for all the good things he has done for us?

**We will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

On behalf of the Presbytery of Port Philip East,
I bless the Ormond Congregation,
Let this building witness Christ through local mission.

Congregation's Response: NICENE CREED

(The people stand)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MISSION 会长差遣

(President Rev Suli)

Let us carry the threads of Christ's love with us,
weaving them into the fabric of our daily lives.

May we embrace our calling to cross cultures and boundaries, creating a tapestry of
unity, compassion, and hope.

Go out into the world with hearts open wide,
ready to share the boundless love of Christ with everyone you meet.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you now and always, guiding you in love and peace.

**We bless the mission of this Congregation
to worship the living God
to love God
and love and serve our neighbours in this community.**

The Peace

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share this peace with one another.

2 Hymn: 432 Christ is made the sure foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen by the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the Three in One adoring,
praising him eternally.

3 Here among us, where we call you
come, O Lord our God, today;
with your gentle lovingkindness
hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction
pour upon us here today.

4 Here bestow on all your people
what we ask of you to gain,
what we gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

5 Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
one in might and one in glory
while eternal ages run.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 以赛亚书 58:1-12

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang, read in Chinese)

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your

bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

2nd Scripture reading: Matthew 马太福音 5:13-20

(Evie Ellett)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Repairers of the breach, bearers of the light
(President Rev Suli)

3 Hymn: 217a. Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Offering

(Rev Dr Ji Zhang)

Announcements and Lunch Arrangements

(Robyn Mulder)

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

4 Hymn: 380 Yours be the glory risen conquering Son

1 Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

2 See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord is living, death has lost its sting.
*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

3 No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

Benediction

(President Rev Suli)

Closing Music: The Trumpet Voluntary of Jeremiah Clarke

(During the music, the Bible will be carried by the Chair of Congregation Hans Tilstra, walking before the President and the Minister; the clergies will follow.

The VIPs will gather in the Minister's Office.)

POSTLUDE

The congregation of Ormond Uniting Church express our gratitude for all who have come to this Dedication Service.

You are invited for lunch after the service.

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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Presider: President Rev Charissa Suli & Dr Rev Ji Zhang

Music: Peter Hurley

Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-1.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

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