

Ormond Uniting Church



John Lu Hung-nien, *Jesus Calming the Sea*, a rework of the 19th century Chinese art

Lent 1

February 22, 2026

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Music: Peter Hurley

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 154 Great is your faithfulness

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Genesis 创世纪 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’

But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also

gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent,
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

3rd Scripture Reading: Matthew 马太福音 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” ’

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: 598 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

Sermon: The Temptation of Jesus

3 Hymn: 745 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

I'd like to acknowledge that our prayer today is partly based on a poem by a young American poet called Whitney Hanson

Let us pray

Lord may we follow you on the pilgrim way of lent
may we journey with you into the wilderness
willing to move beyond the ordinary
so that we may discover
your unexpected sacred places

Lord may we wash our hands and purify our hearts
Learning to thirst after righteousness and hunger after justice
may we humble ourselves before you
expecting to see you revealed in a new light

Lord may we walk with you no matter how challenging the path
learning to be patient with darkness and with growth
willing to live with not knowing
until your mustard seeds take root
and sprout into life

During our Lenten journey we give thanks for our families, for our spouses our partners and our lovers

They say that sometimes love starts with a spark

And that might be true
But if I were to wish you a love I wouldn't wish fire for you

You see fire is powerful it burns bright and then it's gone
It's beautiful and warm but doesn't last long

So instead of wishing you a love that burns
I wish you love like a river that twists and turns

It changes and flows its peaceful and free
but it consistently finds its way back to the sea

And so like the water I hope your love is peaceful and free
And may you find one another like a river finds the sea
Amen

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

4 Hymn: 276 There's a light upon the mountains

Benediction

POSTLUDE

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

Music and Words reproduced with permission under CCLI licenses

Presider: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Music: Peter Hurley

Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-1.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

Phone: 0411 958 127

office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Website: www.ormondunitingchurch.org

NEWS & NOTICES