Ormond Uniting Church

Pentecost 14

August 30, 2026

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Chair of Council: Lisa Saffin

Music: Dr Karen Roberts

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 265 O come, O come, Immanuel

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 出埃及记 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
Praise the LORD!

3rd Scripture Reading: Matthew 马太福音 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to

rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: Be Still, For the presence of the Lord

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
   The holy One, is here;
   Come bow before him now
   With reverence and fear
   In him no sin is found
   We stand on holy ground.
   Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
   The holy One, is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord
   Is shining all around;
   He burns with holy fire,
   With splendour he is crowned:
   How awesome is the sight
   Our radiant king of light!
   Be still, for the glory of the Lord
   Is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord
   Is moving in this place:
   He comes to cleanse and heal,
   To minister his grace -
   No work too hard for him.
   In faith receive from him.
   Be still, for the power of the Lord
   Is moving in this place.

Sermon: The bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed

Music Video: Be Still My Soul - William Joseph & Zack Clark

Offering:

Doxology: 768(i) Praise God

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; (two hands up)
Praise God, all creatures here below; (two hands down)
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; (one arm up)
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. (other arm up)
Amen. (Hands to heart.)

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

Lead in:

What does God's call like Moses, Jesus & Paul experienced mean for us today? As we give ourselves in small practical acts of love for one another and for those who are hurting, marginalised, and different from us, we help to bring equality, connectedness, and peace to our world.

Prayer

When the truth-twisting accusations were spat in Your face, Jesus,
when the crowds chanted their execution-call,
when the nails forced their way through Your flesh,
Things could have been very different,
if not for Your embrace of death.

But, You knew that love would lead to the cross,
it always does,
to laying down life for the beloved.
and you embraced Your death willingly
inviting us to follow.

So, if not for Your embrace of death,
we could never know what it is
to love those who don't deserve it;
we could never find the anger
to resist the injustice that steals dignity;

we could never have our hearts broken
at the grief and need of strangers;
we could never risk ourselves
to challenge violence, corruption and abuse.

But, in answer to Your call, we follow You
into the embrace of death,
laying down our lives in small acts of prayer,
service and justice,
allowing the suffering of others into our hearts.

And we ask that in some small way,
our expressions of love and sacrifice,
may bring greater wholeness into our world.
Loving Friend, prayerfully we bring our patchy love for a few people, and link it with your seamless love for all people.

FOR THOSE ON WHOSE WORK WE DEPEND.

We pray for those who each day do monotonous jobs for us. Supermarket workers, mail sorters, men who fill potholes, women who do the laundry, those who deliver newspapers or who weed public gardens, cleaners in offices and hospitals, factory workers, cooks and waiters and parking attendants. May they find joy in their service to others.

We pray for those who do exacting work, where every detail is important. Nurses, bus drivers, tool makers and pharmacists, pilots and pathology technicians, cabinet makers, psychiatrists, tailors, and lawyers, accountants and opticians. May their work make a difference to the quality of others lives.

We pray for those whose work is always under critical observation. Councillors and politicians, doctors and social workers, teachers and school principals, students and police officers, secretaries and shop assistants, bricklayers and all who cook family meals. Give them grace and compassion for those in their care.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE TODAY IN A CRISIS

We pray, loving God, for those who for whom life has become unexpectedly difficult. The victims of road accidents and their stunned loved ones. People who discover that they have contracted a serious illness, or whose loved one is dying or has died. May they find hope, love that upholds and a way forward.

We pray for once-loving relationships that are falling apart, and for parents who are distressed for their runaway children; for single parents and parentless children, and the victims of domestic abuse whose cries for help have gone unnoticed by family or friends. May they find renewed love, peace and security despite their loss.

We pray for any who have just lost their jobs, or have been long unemployed; those who continue on in most stressful work situations; those who suffer racist or sexual discrimination, and the many whose desperate need for employment has been exploited by ruthless greed. May they find justice, hope and inner peace.

FOR THE CHURCH

We pray, loving God for the church in its many denominations, and with its numerous centres in city and country.

Bless those faithful and active members who are the backbone of each congregation, those lay leaders who carry uneven loads, the elderly members who regret that they can no longer serve the church as they once did, and the young folk who are keen for some responsibility. May their life be renewed by your gracious spirit.

Give your love to all ministers and priests. Renew within them the gifts of enthusiasm and patience. Help them to recognise their deficiencies and to exercise their particular gifts with grateful joy. Remind them often that they are servants of the servants of God. May your love and peace remain with them.

Give wisdom and humility to governing bodies, and those elected to high office in the church.
Enable them to be willing students in the school of Christ, and to know that those under their care have much to teach them of your ways. May you give them discernment and creativity in the matters they must decide.

God of all things seen and unseen, friend of all people, please receive our prayers and set them to work for the greater glory of all followers of Christ Jesus in whose name we pray as you have taught us…

(Sacredise & Rev Bruce Prewer - adapted)

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

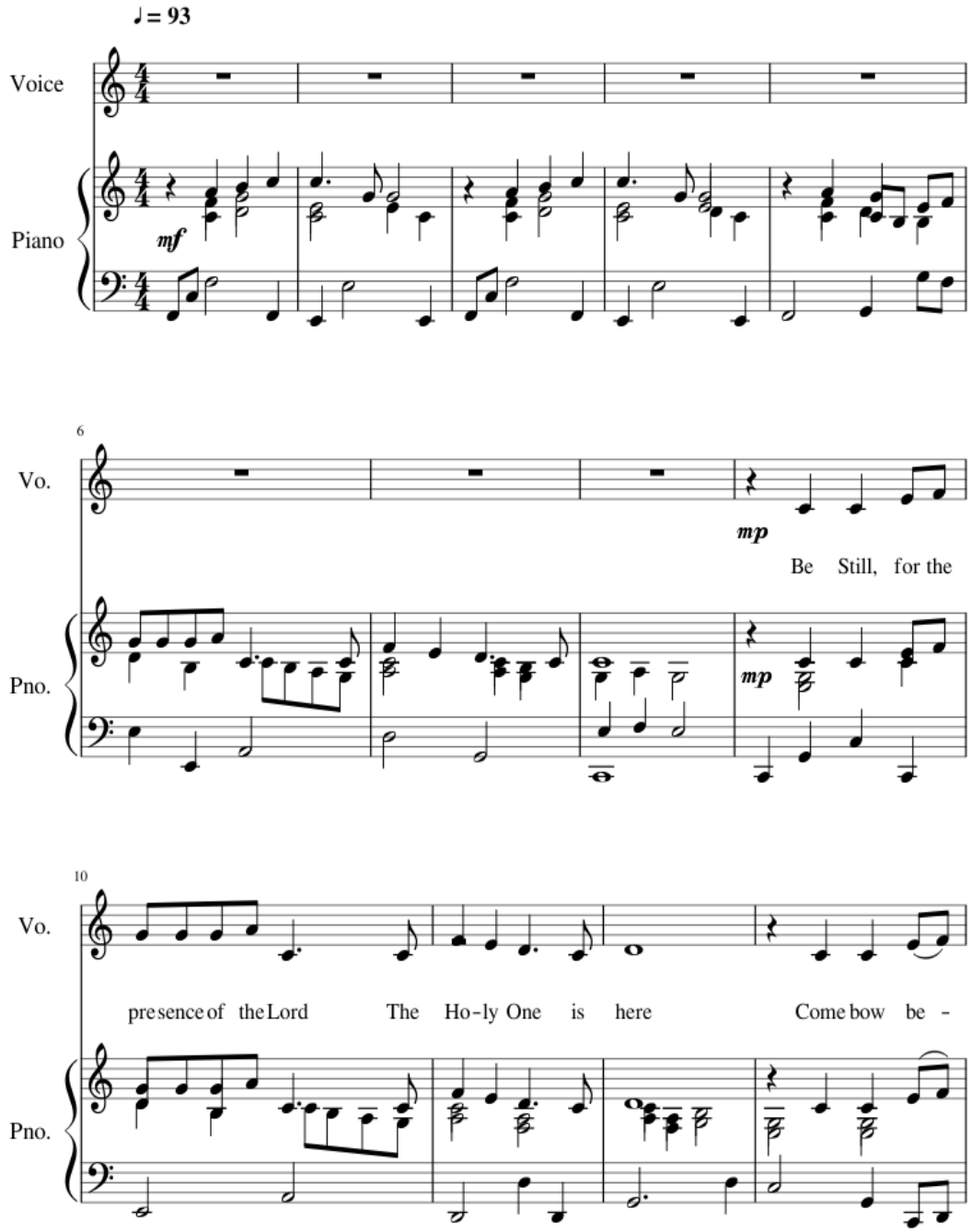
The Peace

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

3 Hymn: 143 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Benediction

Be Still, For The Presence Of The Lord



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

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Music: Karen Roberts

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NEWS & NOTICES