

Ormond Uniting Church



Chen Yuanzhi, *Jesus Washed the Disciples' feet*, Modern rework of the 19th century Chinese painting

Epiphany 4

February 1, 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: 474 Here in this place, new light is streaming

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

INDUCTION OF SAFE CHURCH COORDINATOR

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 15

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

2nd Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 哥林多前书 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

3rd Scripture Reading: Matthew 马太福音 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: 448 Blest are the pure in heart

Sermon: Blessed are the pure in heart

3 Hymn: 256 From Heaven you came helpless babe

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

Today begins the World Interfaith Harmony Week which aims to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence - focusing on harmony between all people regardless of their faith. This was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010 and was quickly adopted by the UN General Assembly. The core theme for this year is

Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour.

Let us Pray

Loving God, Creator of all, we pray for the leaders of all faith traditions. During this World Interfaith Harmony Week, strengthen their commitment to dialogue, that they may foster deep respect, understanding, and collaboration across religious barriers.

Creator God, you have called us to be one human family. We pray that as believers, we may work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fellowship in our communities, turning our shared values into action.

We pray for all who are suffering, marginalized, or oppressed. May the collective efforts of people of faith bring about healing, dignity and justice for the vulnerable, following the spirit of "**love of the good**".

After another week of catastrophic bushfires around Victoria our prayers go out to all who have been affected and especially to those who have lost homes, animals and personal possessions. We give thanks for the wonderful work of

firefighters and those who work in associated roles and also for the thousands of volunteers who have been working tirelessly to assist those in need.

Caring God we ask that you bring comfort and peace to the sick, sad, lonely and all who are grieving and we pause to privately think of those known to us.....

We pray for our church community, that it may be a place where all people, regardless of their faith, feel welcomed, respected and safe.

Gracious God, you have gifted us with the beauty of diversity. As we navigate the complexities of 2026, help us to be advocates of your peace through kindness and service.

AMEN

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 圣餐

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: 147 To God be the glory great things he has done

Benediction

POSTLUDE

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.
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Presider: Rev Dr Ji Zhang
Music: Peter Hurley

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NEWS & NOTICES