

# Ormond Uniting Church



Orthodox Icon of the Prophet Jeremiah

Pentecost 16  
September 28, 2025

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang 张骥  
Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend  
Music: Dr Karen Roberts

## **THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜**

### **Call to worship**

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

**1 Hymn:** 156 Morning has broken

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告**

## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 耶利米书 32:1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours."

Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my

cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Psalm 诗篇 91:1-6, 14-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD,

*"My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."*

For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;

*he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.*

You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

*Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.*

When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
*I will rescue them and honor them.*  
*With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Luke 路加福音 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

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

**2 Hymn:** 137 For the beauty of the earth (Verses 1-2, 4-5)

**Sermon:** Jeremiah buying the land

**Video Music:** Londonderry Air by André Rieu

**Offering**

**Announcements and concerns of the church**

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Sometimes fortuity can play a major role in our lives. Fortuity can also be known as luck or good fortune that happens by chance. This can guide us in mysterious ways. Sometimes fortuity can be considered as the guiding hand of the Lord.

An example is the little free pantry.

About five years ago one of our group read an article in The Age which described a little free pantry at a church in Ascot Vale. We spoke to the minister at this church and then said "we should do this at Ormond". Fortuity

Dennis was buying bread at a shop in Bentleigh when a thought occurred to him. "What do you do with all your left over bread"? He asked. They replied "we throw it away". Dennis said "I've got a better idea". And so for two years we got bread donated from the Baker's Patisserie to the pantry. Fortuity

About a year ago I was at the pantry when a lady and her daughter came and donated a large amount of bread. At that stage our bread supply had stopped. Where did you get all that bread I asked. "We're from Foodfilled" she replied "we rescue food from supermarkets and donate it".

So we contacted Foodfilled and as a result we now have a large regular supply of food donated twice a week. Fortuity

What If we hadn't read the article in The Age? What if Dennis hadn't been in the bread shop? What if I hadn't been at the pantry when the woman donated the bread.? What if? Well the pantry may not exist at all or we would be struggling to find a regular food supply. Fortuity or the guiding hand of the Lord?

Let us pray

Lord we pray  
Hear our prayer today  
As we pray for others  
And for ourselves

This is our prayer for new beginnings in our new church. We have some

ideas. Some ideas that will allow us to reach out to the Ormond community. The ideas are bold and there is a chance that they may fail.

We ask for the gift of fortuity; we ask for the gift of your guiding hand.

As we stand on the threshold of this new beginning we come before you with a heart filled with gratitude. Thank you for the gift of fresh starts and the chance to begin anew. In this moment we ask for your guidance and wisdom as we step into uncharted territory with new ideas for the future.

Thank you, Lord, for your unwavering goodness that we have enjoyed all through our lives and in all aspects of our lives. May your light shine upon our path and lead us towards the purpose you have set for us.

Grant us the strength to let go of the past and embrace the future with hope and enthusiasm.

Good Hand of God, open doors of opportunities, favour and success, for us this day, this week, and this year.

In the season of transition, we humbly seek your presence and guidance. Grant us renewed purpose and a clear vision as we embrace this new beginning. Help us to see the opportunities that may be hidden within the challenges we face. Let your light illuminate our path, showing us the way forward.

With your loving embrace we will find the courage to face the unknown with resilience and determination. We believe that this new beginning holds endless possibilities under your care.

Grant us fortuity through your guiding hand.  
Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done

on earth as it is 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:**

**3 Hymn:** 273 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

### **Benediction**

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

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