

ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



8 SEPTEMBER 2024

PENTECOST 16



WORSHIP AT HOME

This time is an opportunity to be still, seeking to be aware of the presence of God within.

Set aside a time for this practice; prepare yourself, as you might for a usual Sunday morning and remember that there are others from the congregation gathering at the same time as you. There are also many from the church around the globe who are gathering to seek the presence of God as we are. We join with them all.

Go to your prepared place OR prepare a space in the house; a comfortable chair, a lit candle, turn off distracting noises and close the door if that will help you to be still. This is something that does not need to be hurried.

“The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”

“And also with you”

HYMN TIS 768

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below,
praise God above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken
1637-1711 alt.

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of COUNTRY

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this Land by those who have cared for this Land since time beyond measure.

We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come.

May we be mindful of the calling God places on humanity to care for Creation.

May we take the lead from the Boonwurrung people, whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them.

Let us Worship God (Please join in our gathering prayer)

Gathering Prayer (Proverbs 22)

Gracious God,
creator and giver of life to all, both rich and poor;
we worship you, LORD God.

Your name is beyond great riches,
By your generosity we are blessed;
we worship you, LORD God.

With manna you sustained your people in the wilderness
and with the bread of life you feed us
in the midst of the adversity and injustice of this world.

Your spirit of compassion is beyond silver and gold;
we worship you, LORD God.

You plead the cause of the poor and oppressed,
**give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf,
and a song of joy to the speechless. Amen**

Call to Worship

Luke 24: 46-47

‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[a] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’

HYMN TIS 668 Touch the Earth Lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God’s garden,
hope in God’s children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Erena Murray
1931-

PRAYERS OF Adoration, Forgiveness & Pardon

God of all the Earth, God of Every Creature,
God, above all through Jesus Christ,
our Father, our brother and friend.
All that has breath gives you praise
All that has being proclaims your power, your love,
and indeed, your Mystery.
– for all of which we give thanks.

God, who from the beginning, in might and wisdom
chose to share your life-giving creativity:
as the moon to rule the night
and the sun to rule the day

You ask us to give light and life
to the flesh and the foliage;
to manage and care for, and work with
the entirety of this world you love so much
that your Word is flesh,
that your Son, your very self is given,
that you, though almighty, choose vulnerability
to reach out to our species.
– for all of which we give thanks.

Give us wonder
to go beyond the limits of our love.
Save us from being overawed,
as if Christ never lived, died rose,
or sent down the Spirit
into the midst of grassroots life.
And in that wonder
so we give thanks and praise!

On your holy road, Heart of grace and justice, those convinced of their ways will learn to change their minds; those whose hearts are barren deserts will bloom with bouquets of laughter; those who have buried faith under a mound of words will see it resurrected in compassion for others.

We long to journey on your holy road, Triune God with hearts united by your Spirit. Amen

(Adapted from Church of Scotland Resources)

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We say that we are good listeners, God of holy ways, but we turn stopped up ears to the vulnerable around us. We say that we live as your people, but too often, put ourselves ahead of the people we love. We say that we are people of faith, but then try to overwhelm people with words, rather than acts of service.

We say so much, God of compassion, that we cannot hear you calling us to faithful living. Have mercy on us and send us out to offer kindness and love, to all we encounter on our life journeys.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Whisper it. Say it. Shout it. Sing it! Our God comes with justice, not judgment; with hope, not a heavy hand; with grace, not grudges. This is the good news for us.

We will not be scared to tell anyone, and everyone, of our God who overflows with mercy, who sets us free, who watches over us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

(Adapted from Rev Thom Schumann)

Sharing the Peace

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

And also with you. (Let us share the peace)

HYMN TIS 474 Here in this place...

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken:
gather us in, the blind and the lame:
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery:
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and trach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen 1950-

SERVICE OF THE WORD – Marg Davis

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet;

A light to our path

New Testamant: Luke 24:36-49

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Message Cross Cultural Mission (+Video url)

HYMN TIS 608 Where cross the crowded ways of
life...

V1-3, 5&6

(The offering is received during this hymn.)

Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed
we catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress
your heart has never known recoil.

O Master, from the mountain side
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
and tread the city's streets again:

till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

Frank Mason North
1850-1935 *alt.*

Offering

O God, may our gifts not be the crumbs of our lives, but justice for those overlooked by the world; be healing for those broken by pain and grief; be grace for those who long to be listened to and welcomed, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — Prepared by Warwick Barry

"As we prepare for our prayers for others, we light this candle to remember all those who are part of our church community but who are not at worship with us today."

Light the candle.

Loving God,
May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his son
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love.

We pray for our communities -
that snapshot of humanity
with all ages, backgrounds,
education, employment status,
politics and religious viewpoint
who are our neighbours
in the streets where we live.
We pray for all of them;
not only those we know by name
and chat to through the day,
but also less familiar faces
about whom we know so little

and pass by with just a smile.
Bless their homes and families,
and let your love and peace
shine within our communities.

When oppression
cruelty and fear
are all that is known
and suffering the daily experience.

When famine
hunger and thirst
greet every morning
denying basic sustenance
How easy to say
there is no God,
to turn aside
and label you an irrelevance
You who are
living water
bread of life
the one who offers deliverance
Who suffered
died and rose
bringing hope
that there is more to life than this
Bless all those
who in despair
and dark places
look to you for reassurance
Bring comfort
peace and where
there is neither
bring to them abundance.

To the powerful bring humility
To the rich bring generosity
To the influential bring opportunity
To the oppressor bring understanding
To the hard-hearted bring compassion
To the suffering bring perseverance
To the hungry bring sustenance
To the grieving bring comfort
To the sick bring wholeness
To those in cross cultural mission bring hope, faith, sustenance, grace and fruitfulness.

This is your world
These are your people
and we leave them in your loving hands.

Breathe love into lives ruled by fear
Soften hearts that are hardened by pride
Whisper gently to those bound by chains
Sow peace where conflict divides

Bring healing, renewal and sustainable life to all your creation,
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour. Amen

(Faith & Worship 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.

HYMN TIS 665 Jesus Christ is Waiting

Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
Where good conquers evil
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey?

I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

John L. Bell
1949-

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

Lord God,
we rejoice in your greatness and power,
your gentleness and love,
your mercy and justice.
Enable us by your Spirit
to honour you in our thoughts,
and words and actions,
and to serve you in every aspect of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Saint John Chrysostom's Blessing 407 ACE)

SUNG BLESSING HYMN 782 Go now in peace...

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere,
everywhere, you may go. (x2)

Natalie Sleeth
1930-92

POSTLUDE

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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