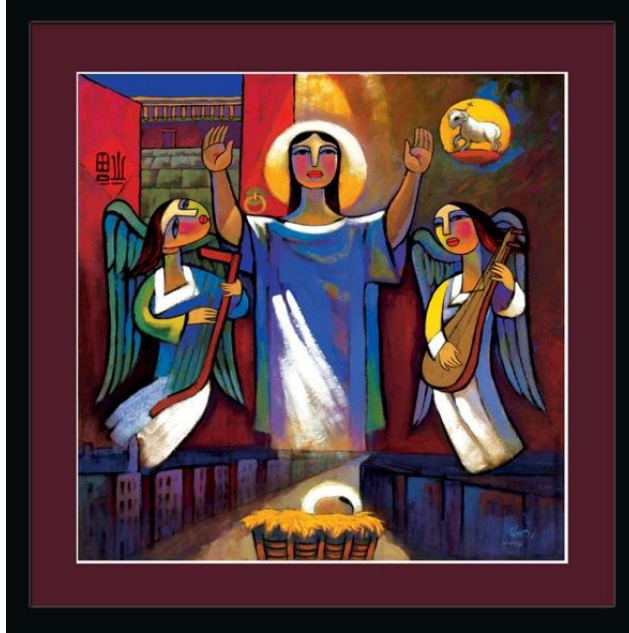


# ORDER OF SERVICE



*The Messiah* by He Qi

Easter 4,

May 18, 2025

Ormond Uniting Church

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**HYMN:** 156 Morning has broken

## PRAYER OF PRAISE & CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

Read by Warwick Barry

Your Word, Oh Lord, is a lamp to our feet;  
A light to our path

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading:** Psalm 诗篇 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

***Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!***

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

***Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!***

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

***He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.***

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

***Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!***

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

***Young men and women alike, old and young together!***

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Revelation 启示录 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading:** John 约翰福音 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Children's Address**

**Video Music:** A New Commandment (TIS 699)

**SERMON** I saw a new heaven and a new earth

**HYMN:** 655 O let the Son of God enfold you

**Offering**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORDS PRAYER** (Prepared by Marg Davis)

"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.*

Dear Lord, this afternoon – the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter - we bring our prayers to you for your world and its people.

**Let us pray**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace all that exists with your compassion, tenderness and love.

We pray today for a world so often in turmoil, caught up in fear, war and injustice and we ask that you guide those in positions of influence, and power, to act wisely,

Hear our prayers for the world-wide church, particularly in places where it is persecuted or ignored. We pray for church leaders and for all who minister and serve in your name

We give thanks for our new Minister, Ji Zhang, who will journey with us as we return to our home church.

Our prayers go out to the vulnerable, the lost and the broken, who often feel neglected and unloved. Bring them peace and help them to accept your love and compassion. In these cold nights, and mornings, with Winter approaching, we think of all who are sleeping rough and those who are cold, hungry and frightened, particularly children

We pray for the sick and their families, and friends, the caregivers and the grieving.

We ask your blessing on our families, friends and ourselves.

With National Volunteers Week commencing tomorrow, we pray for all those who give so generously of their time to assist others

Help us to love and care for one another as you have loved us.

Loving God, be with us and give us courage to respond to your call

Never let us take the gift of life for granted and each day help us to give thanks for our many blessings.

God of glory, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** – please pray in your heart language.

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.**

**HYMN:** 362 Jesus Christ is risen today

**BENEDICTION**

**WORD OF MISSION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

## 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 张骥

Music: Dr Karen Roberts

Church Office

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## NEWS & NOTICES