

Ormond Uniting Church



Sleeping Elijah by He Qi

Easter 5,
May 25, 2025

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang 张骥
Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend
Music: Peter Hurley

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to Worship

Acknowledgement of the Country

1 Hymn 143 Immortal invisible God only wise

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.

Your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere him.

2nd Scripture Reading: Revelation 启示录 21:10, 22-22:5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the

Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

3rd Scripture Reading: John 约翰福音14:23-29

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Address

2 Hymn: 526 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

Sermon: The River of Life

Video Music: Ku Berbahagia (Blessed Assurance)

Offering

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the Intercession (with focus on Gaza and global justice)

"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.

Our prayers today are taken and adapted from the those written by the President of the Uniting Church, the Rev Charissa Suli in a Liturgy of Lament for Gaza 16/5/2025.

God of Resurrection, in the joy of Easter we do not forget the cross. We remember

Gaza. We remember every place where people cry out for liberation (Ukraine, Kashmir, Myanmar).

Risen Christ, walk with the wounded.

We pray for those who mourn, for those whose hope is buried under rubble; for the children who have lost homes, and the parents who have lost children.

Risen Christ, breathe your peace.

We pray for leaders—political and spiritual—that they may act with courage, truth, and compassion.

Risen Christ, stir hearts to justice.

And we pray for ourselves, your Church: that we may not look away, but lean in; that we may not grow weary, but rise with you in love and action.

Risen Christ, make us your resurrection people.

Loving God,
Thank you that Jesus is alive!
Thank you that Easter means love is stronger than hate,
and that peace is stronger than fighting.
We pray for the children in Gaza,
who are hurting and scared.
Please help them feel safe,
help them find food and medicine,
and help them feel your love.

Help us to be kind,
to share what we have,
and to speak up when things are not fair.
Show us how to be like Jesus—
loving, brave, and full of peace.

God of justice and mercy,
Sometimes the world feels too big, and the problems feel too heavy.
But we believe you are near—especially to those who suffer.
This Easter, we remember that Jesus didn't avoid pain—he entered it.
He was hurt, he was killed, and he rose again with love in his hands.
We pray for the people of Gaza—
for children who don't have homes,
for families who have lost everything,
and for those who are afraid that the world has forgotten them.
Help us not to turn away.
Help us to be people of peace—
not just in our words, but in our actions.
Give us courage to care,
strength to speak,
and hope that won't give up.

Loving God, we pray for our newly renovated church, that we, your

people may find new and meaningful ways to connect with those in our wider community in need. May all of us grow in faith, hope and loving actions that make a difference to others lives near and far.

Bless the ministry of our new arrived Minister Rev Dr Ji Zhang, that he may be inspired, encouraged and equipped for the challenges of congregational life by your gracious spirit. God be with our families and friends as a never failing source of peace and encouragement in all the joys and trials of life.

Remind us that: –

To love is to risk, not being loved in return,

To live is to risk dying,

To hope is to risk despair,

To try is to risk failure.

Give us courage to risk and to care, strength to speak, and hope that won't give up, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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

Response: Ways to Take Action as a Church

- Write to your MP calling for a permanent ceasefire and UN investigations
- Join or organise a peace vigil or prayer walk
- Donate to humanitarian organisations working in Gaza

- Host an interfaith event or forum for peace
- Display a banner or visual sign of solidarity at your church

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: 153 God is love let Heaven Adore Him

Benediction

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

