

Ormond Uniting Church



Moses' Blessing, He Qi

Pentecost 3, June 29, 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 Country

1 Hymn: 390 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Ezra 以斯拉记 3: 1, 6-13

Now when the seventh month came, after the Israelites had settled in their cities, the people gathered as one in Jerusalem.

From the first day of the seventh month they reinstated the burnt offering to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid. Then they hired stonecutters and carpenters, and sent food and drink and oil to the Sidonians and Tyrians that they might ship cedar trees from the Lebanon to the port of Joppa, as Cyrus, king of Persia, had authorized. In the year after their coming to the house of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua, son of Jozadak, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and Levites and all who had come from the captivity to Jerusalem, began by appointing the Levites twenty years of age and over to supervise the work on the house of the Lord. Jeshua and his sons and kinsmen, with Kadmiel and Binnui, son of Hodaviah, and their sons and their kindred, the Levites, together undertook to supervise those who were engaged in the work on the house of God. While the builders were laying the foundation of the Lord's temple, the priests in their vestments were stationed with trumpets and the Levites, sons of Asaph, with cymbals to praise the Lord in the manner laid down by David, king of Israel.

They alternated in songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, "for he is good, for

his love for Israel endures forever”; and all the people raised a great shout of joy, praising the Lord because the foundation of the Lord’s house had been laid. Many of the priests, Levites, and heads of ancestral houses, who were old enough to have seen the former house, cried out in sorrow as they watched the foundation of the present house being laid. Many others, however, lifted up their voices in shouts of joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the joyful shouting from the sound of those who were weeping; for the people raised a mighty clamor which was heard far away.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalms 诗篇77: 11-20

I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.

I will meditate on all your work and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?

You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you,
they were afraid; the very deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was through the sea, your path through the mighty waters, yet your
footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

3rd Scripture Reading: Luke 路加福音 9: 56-62

Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have

holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's address:

Video Music: Boney M, Rivers of Babylon (1978)

Sermon: Restoration of Worship

2 Hymn: 658 I the Lord of sea and sky

Offering

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

God, of all creation, you hold the breadth and depth of the earth in your hands, you are closer to us than the air we breathe. Fill our souls with your wonderful love and light. We thank you so much, loving creator for being present with us in the never sleeping theatre of creation. For this exquisite world, and for our ancient Australian landscape. For its distinctive gumtrees and wattles, banksias and wildflowers, For humpback whales along our coasts and red kangaroos of the inland, for the long story of human habitation and the gathering of many races in our country. Grant us courage to take small steps in reducing the effects of climate change in our daily lives, for the saving of the Earth and all its people.

God, we pray for the church throughout the world and for all the challenges it faces. We pray for the Uniting Church, that it may grow in faith, hope and love, and continue to be guided and reformed by your Holy Spirit. May it be a fitting source of love, care, justice and inclusion to all who seek the Lord we serve. Grace us with the fruit of the Spirit that our lives may touch and inspire others to follow Jesus too and know His love and mercy.

God of power, and might, your broken world cries out from the dark places in a world, dominated by the darkness of war, terror, pain, and suffering. We think of the ongoing and deepening conflict between Israel, Palestine and Iran, especially at this time. We share the pain and anguish of those who have lost loved ones and had to flee from their destroyed homes, countries, and livelihoods; who risk their lives, desperate for a new start free from fear and war. May they see your light, feel your strength and power, and know the truth of your promise. We pray that peace may come swiftly in our time.

God of compassion and grace, we share with you our love and concern for people in a dark place today. We have in our hearts the friends and loved ones of the victims of violence and hatred, we pray that they will find your strength in the compassion and love of those around them. We pray for tolerance in our country, we pray for all Muslims suffering from ostracism and misunderstanding and for Jewish people suffering from fear and intolerance. Let your light shine through the darkness of all their pain and their suffering.

Though it may seem to us that evil spreads like a virus, though it may feel naïve to resist it, we choose to believe that your spirit's fruit can satisfy a world that hungers for heal

And so:

Whenever hatred and suspicion, divide people, and fragment communities,
we will pass on love.

Whenever sorrow and cynicism, leave the dark stain of despair,
we will pass on joy.

Whenever violence and abuse shatter lives and destroy the earth,
we will pass on peace.

Whenever expediency and the quest for quick fixes, create confusion and need,
we will pass on patience.

Wherever heartlessness and selfishness can cause, loneliness and exclusion,
we will pass on kindness.

Wherever evil and darkness steal away hope, and integrity,

we will pass on goodness.

Wherever aggression and coercion, remove freedom and playfulness,

we will pass on gentleness.

Wherever self-interest and shallowness undermine relationships and stability,

we will pass on faithfulness.

Wherever lawlessness and carelessness generate chaos and fear,

we will pass on self-control.

Though it may take our best energy and our most enduring commitment, we pray for courage and the faith to answer your call to resist whatever challenges we may face, and to pass on your abundant life.

In Jesus' name. Amen

(Adapted from K Baxter UK & Sacredise)

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.

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: 152 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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