

# Ormond Uniting Church



*Sleeping Elijah, He Qi*

Pentecost 4

July 6, 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**      111 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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

## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading:** 2 Kings 列王记下5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Luke 路加福音10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

This is the Word of God.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Children's address**

**Sermon:** Go, wash in the Jordan seven times

**2 Hymn:** 586 Abide with me

## **Offering**

## **Announcements and concerns of the church**

## **Prayer of the People**

Lord hear our prayer as we pray for others and for ourselves.

Let us pray

This is our prayer of gratitude as we move into a new stage of life for the Ormond congregation.

Lord, as we prepare to move into our new church, we feel both excited and unsettled.

The new building is both familiar and unfamiliar. It will give us the space to try new things. A new building, a new minister, and new ideas that will emerge, wake and stretch from our dusty minds.

A chance to try new engagements with the Ormond community.

The new Unity coffee shop, still just an idea in the minds of a few, which will, with your guidance emerge and bloom.

The Little Free Pantry, nearly six years old has at times struggled to keep up the food supply to our customers in need. But we are now probably entering into a new

stage where we think there will be a more abundant and regular food supply provided by our partner the Food Filled food rescue charity.

New ideas may emerge that may challenge our traditional Christian thinking. All this at a time when with our ageing congregation with bones that are creaking and memory fading, but with new wisdom emerging,

Help us to keep the youthful enthusiasm that still lies at the central core of our being, the jewelled pivot around which our faith revolves

There's still so much unknown, so many changes happening. But we know you are not just staying behind us, you are walking ahead of us.

Provide new challenges, new friendships, new rhythms, and new joy. We trust that wherever we go, your presence will meet us there. Make this move more than just a change of address make it a new beginning with You.

Remove fear and fill us with curiosity, gratitude, and confidence. Let this move draw us closer to You and stretch our faith in ways we didn't expect. Thank You for going before us.

Amen.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 圣餐**

## **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:** 603 O Perfect Love, all human thought transcending

### **Benediction**

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

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## NEWS & NOTICES