

Ormond Uniting Church



Crossing the Red Sea, Chinese painting by He Qi

Pentecost 12

August 31, 2025

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

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 125 The God of Abraham praise

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 耶利米书 2:4-13

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look; send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the

fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

"But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.
*O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!*

Then I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.
Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.

I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

3rd Scripture Reading: Luke 路加福音 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves

will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's address

2 Hymn: 655 O Let the Son of God enfold you

Sermon: Where is the LORD?

Video Music: *Ku Berbahagia* (Blessed Assurance)

Offering

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

This is a responsive prayer:

to the bidding

‘In your mercy God of grace’

please reply:

‘**hear the prayers we offer**’

Let us pray

Most merciful God, we give you thanks that you hold in the highest esteem those who are of small account in the eyes of the world.

We pray for your people who are used and abused:

for those whose labours or bodies are exploited to make others rich.

for those whose lands are stolen or pillaged by the greedy.
for those who desire reasonable affordable housing but must contend with
systemic and outrageous profiteering
Champion of the 'small' people, open our minds, our hearts and our pockets to the
plight of those of little account

In your mercy God of grace
hear the prayers we offer

Most merciful God, we give you thanks that you welcome us all to the membership
of your church, inviting us to eat at your banquet.

We pray for the people whom the church does not value:

for those whose voices are not listened to;
for those whose gifts and vocations are not recognised.
for those considered by church and society as undeserving

Champion of the voiceless and 'unseen', open our minds, our hearts and our voices
to the plight of those excluded

In your mercy God of grace
hear the prayers we offer

Most merciful God, we give you thanks that you meet us in the ordinariness of
daily life, that we find you in those with whom we live and work.

We pray for your people whom we neglect or reject:

for the disabled, the aged, the mentally ill and those we lock away;
for those who are odd or 'different';
for those whose contributions to society are unnoticed or undervalued.

Champion of the outsiders and rejected, open our minds, our hearts and our wilful
ignorance to those excluded.

In your mercy God of grace,
hear the prayers we offer

Most merciful God, we give you thanks that you care for the desolate, the poor, the
friendless and those in prison.

We pray for people who are suffering hardship:

for those imprisoned in unresponsive bodies or disturbed minds;
for those whose lives are filled with despair;
for the sick and the dying and for those who mourn.

Champion of the imprisoned, restricted and avoided, open our minds, our hearts
and our attention to the plight of the hard-doneby.

In your mercy God of grace
hear the prayers we offer

Most merciful God, we give you thanks that you promise us eternal life:
We remember your faithful people of every generation, especially those whom we
have loved.

Champion of community and oneness in your Son, open our minds, our hearts and
our love to include all on earth as it is in heaven

In your mercy, lead us in your ways, that with your people of every age we may be
welcomed to the heavenly Jerusalem as guests at your eternal banquet.

In your mercy God of grace,
here the prayers we offer.

Amen

Adapted from 'Let us pray' by Janet Nelson

Will you join me now in praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

**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:

3 Hymn: 154 Great is your faithfulness

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