

# Ormond Uniting Church



*Losing Paradise, He Qi*

## Pentecost 13

### September 7, 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:** 155 How great thou art

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 耶利米书18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus

says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Psalm 诗篇1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
***but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.***

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
***In all that they do, they prosper.***

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
***Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,***  
For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
***but the way of the wicked will perish.***

**3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading:** Luke 路加福音14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

This is the Word of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon:** In the Potter's Hands

**2 Hymn:** 511 Let us break bread together with the Lord

**Offering**

**Announcements and concerns of the church**

**Prayer of the People**

As we are now in the Season of Creation, let us bring our prayers to the Lord God - the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Let us pray

**Creator God**, help us to care for the treasures of the earth, so that its riches and beauty may be preserved for future generations.

We pray for those who receive too little of the earth's resources and we ask that you guide world leaders to enable a greater fairness in the sharing of all that you provide.

**God of all Creation**, we thank you for the diversity of our country and its people.

Help us to learn from the first Australians, who know, love and respect this continent.

We think of our indigenous brothers and sisters and pray with hopefulness that together we can build a more cohesive society based on respect, understanding and compassion

**Giver of every perfect gift** - as we come before you, we pray for the church worldwide and the many faith leaders. Inspire all Christians to be true to the example given to us by **your son, Jesus Christ**. Help us all to show kindness and concern for each other.

**Dear Lord** we pray for all in positions of power - for our Prime Minister, Premier, politicians, councillors, and business leaders. May they seek justice and care for the vulnerable and may they be granted wisdom and courage as they make difficult decisions on behalf of others.

**Compassionate God**, we pray for those caught in war zones throughout the world and for everyone affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan, earlier in the week. We pray for those seeking to help the afflicted - for rescuers and aid workers, and reporters risking their lives to ensure that victims are not forgotten

**Loving Father.** Today- being Father's Day -we give thanks for fathers and father figures who have cared, guided and supported us

**Caring God**, we give you thanks for your guidance, your love and your goodness. Help us to recognise your presence within and around us.

We pray for all who are suffering- those experiencing physical or mental pain and those who are terminally ill. Surround them with your love and support and sustain all the people who work to bring healing and health in our world. For doctors, nurses, paramedics, mental health workers and other health professionals, carers and volunteers.

We pray for all who have recently died and for those who are mourning loved ones

We pray for each other and for ourselves and ask that you help us all to serve you faithfully in all that you entrust to us.

**Wonderful Creator**, thank-you for the gift of life. May we find your life in all that we experience, through Jesus Christ.

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:**            351 Lift high the cross

## **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

Tuesdays, 9.30am-2.30pm

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## **NEWS & NOTICES**