



**Woden Valley Uniting Church – Curtin, Goodwin Monash and Online**

**13 July 2025**



**We Gather as people of God**

**The Gong is struck three times**

*The gong sounds. We listen to the gong in silence, as it calls us to gather in worship.*

**Prelude Music**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

**Lighting the worship community candle**

We light this candle representing all members of our community. As we gather today may we hold them all, here or elsewhere, in our hearts.

*Let us say together:*

**Come light, light of hope and love, give light to creation**

**Enlighten our hearts and show us your truth. Amen**

**Gathering Prayer**

*from John O'Donohue*

**When we come to search for our God,  
Let us first be robed in night,  
Putting on the mind of morning  
To feel the rush of light  
Spread slowly inside,  
The colour and stillness  
Of a found world  
We come to search for our God. Amen**

## Song: Christ be our light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see. **Refrain**
2. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. **Refrain**
3. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. **Refrain**
4. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. **Refrain**
5. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

### Refrain

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

## Welcome



### Ancestral Lines by Jeremy Morgan Worrall.

The 2025 National NAIDOC Week poster is a digital artwork titled *Ancestral Lines*, created by Jeremy Morgan Worrall, a Ngarbal/Gomeroi man from Emmaville and Deepwater in northern NSW. His family lines include the Wrights, Connors and Marlows.

Jeremy's work honours the knowledge, care and cultural strength passed down through generations — from ancestors Lucy, Enoch and Nonie Wright to his Nanna Audrie and his mother Vanessa. The artwork is set beneath the swirling clouds and moonlit skies of Tenterfield, where the next generation gathers around the fire — to listen, to learn and to lead.

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you!  
**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace.

*Please share a sign of the peace in any way that you feel comfortable.*

**Song: Not without Courage**    *Gretta Vosper Tune: TIS 586*

Might justice reign in this, our broken world?  
Might love mend hearts where anger has unfurled?  
Could we bring forth a land where all are free?  
Not without courage, without you and me.

Might we build hope where none has been before?  
Might we prepare for peace and not for war?  
Could we find homes for every refugee?  
Not without courage, without you and me.

Might we speak truth to arrogance and power?  
Might we each child with confidence empower?  
Could we reach deep and end all poverty?  
Not without courage, without you and me.

Might we defend another's right to speak?  
Might we stand up for those who are too weak?  
Could we destroy the roots of misery?  
Not without courage, without you and me.

Might we refuse to see another's race?  
Might we find beauty in each other's face?  
Could we not recognise we're family?  
Not without courage, without you and me.

### **We Reflect on the Word for our time**

#### **Psalm 82**



- 1 God take a stand in the council of heaven;  
and gives judgement in the midst of the gods:
- 2 'How long will you judge unjustly and show favour to the wicked?
- 3 Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy
- 4 Rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

**Refrain: God hears the cry of the poor; blessed be our God.**

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 I say, 'You are gods, all of you children of the Most High;  
7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'

**Refrain: God hears the cry of the poor; blessed be our God.**

8 Rise up, O God, and rule the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

**Refrain: God hears the cry of the poor; blessed be our God.**

## **Bible readings**

**First reading:                      Colossians 1: 1-14**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Gospel reading:                      Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of

robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**A Reflection**                      Who is my neighbour?

### **Music for reflection**

#### **We Respond to the Word**

**Song: When I needed a neighbour**                      (*TIS 629*)

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|--|--|
| <p>1. When I needed a neighbour<br/> Were you there, were you there?<br/> When I needed a neighbour<br/> Were you there?<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> Were you there?</p> | <p>2. When I needed a shelter<br/> Were you there, were you there?<br/> When I needed a shelter<br/> Were you there?<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> Were you there?</p> |
| <p>3. I was hungry and thirsty<br/> Were you there, were you there?<br/> I was hungry and thirsty<br/> Were you there?<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> Were you there?</p>   | <p>4. When I needed a healer<br/> Were you there, were you there?<br/> When I needed a healer<br/> Were you there?<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> Were you there?</p>   |
| <p>5. I was cold, I was naked<br/> Were you there, were you there?<br/> I was cold, I was naked<br/> Were you there?<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> Were you there?</p>     | <p>6. Wherever you travel<br/> I'll be there, I'll be there.<br/> Wherever you travel<br/> I'll be there.<br/> And the creed and the colour<br/> And the name won't matter<br/> I'll be there.</p>             |

## Offering and Prayer

We give thanks for the gifts of faith and trust, hope and patience, which we bring with our offering today and our offerings of so many kinds that are given to our congregation and wider community during the rest of the week. Today, the collection plate is at the door. **Amen.**

### The Care Candle Song - *Aaron Harper* *(please remain seated)*

We take a match,  
And light a spark,  
To show the want within our hearts,  
To share each joy,  
To bear each pain,  
We take a spark,  
And light a flame.

We take a flame,  
And light a fire,  
To represent our heart's desire,  
To share our hopes,  
To bear our shames,  
We take a spark and light a flame,  
We light a flame.

### Prayers of the People<sup>1</sup> *(The care candle is lit)*

Dear Lord, as we reflect on the parable of the Good Samaritan, we ask for your guidance in helping us to be a good neighbour to those around us. **Help us to see those who are in need and to have the compassion and courage to reach out and help them.**

May we be willing to go out of our way to show kindness and love to those who are hurting or in distress. **Give us the wisdom to discern how we can best serve others and the strength to follow through with action.**

We thank you for the example of the Good Samaritan, the life of Jesus, and for the reminder to love our neighbours as ourselves. In a world marked by intolerance, we pray for a spirit of acceptance and respect for diversity. May the whole of humanity celebrate the differences that make each individual unique and valuable. **We cherish the richness that comes from embracing all members of the human family.**

And in a world filled with hope, we offer our prayers with gratitude and optimism. May the spirit of hope shine brightly in our hearts, inspiring us to strive for a brighter future. Grant us the courage to work towards a world where dreams are realized, and aspirations are fulfilled. Let hope be the driving force behind our actions. **We treasure the gift of hope, which sustains us as we pray for a better world. Amen**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from two sources: <https://strengthenprayer.com/prayers-for-peace-in-the-world/> and <https://prayerz.org/praying-from-luke-1520-themes-forgiveness-redemption-love/>.

## The Lord's Prayer

*(by the Iona Community)*

God in heaven,  
your name is to be honoured.  
May your new community of hope  
be realised on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the essentials of life.  
Release us from our wrongdoing  
as we also release those who wrong us.  
Do not test us beyond our enduring;  
save us from all that is evil.  
For you embrace justice, love and peace,  
now and to the end of time. **Amen**

## We Go out into the World

**Song: Touch the earth lightly** *(TIS 668)*

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|---|---|
| 1. Touch the earth lightly,<br>use the earth gently,<br>nourish the life of the world in our care:<br>gift of great wonder,<br>ours to surrender,<br>trust for the children tomorrow will bear. | 2. Let there be greening,<br>birth from the burning,<br>water that blesses and air that is sweet,<br>health in God's garden,<br>hope in God's children,<br>regeneration that peace will complete. |
| 3. We who endanger,<br>who create hunger,<br>agents of death for all creatures that live,<br>we who would foster<br>clouds of disaster--<br>God of our planet, forestall and forgive!           | 4. God of all living,<br>God of all loving,<br>God of the seedling, the snow and the<br>sun,<br>teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,<br>using us gently and making us one.                  |

## Words of Blessing

On the highways and byways  
**we will seek the fallen.**  
On the roadways and pavements  
**we will seek the lost.**  
In the nooks and the crannies  
**we will seek the broken.**  
And as we travel through the whole of life  
**we will cross over the road to be with the fallen,  
the lost and the broken.**  
Let us go in Peace. **Amen**

*The Candles are extinguished*

**Postlude** (*a time for quiet reflection – please remain seated*)

**Notices: Church News, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events**

## **Fellowship**

John O'Donohue *To Bless the Space Between Us*, CCLI Licence 546647; Blessing from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com.au>; Call to Worship adapted from <https://www.pilgrim.org.au>; Prayers of the People adapted from two sources: <https://strengthenprayer.com/prayers-for-peace-in-the-world/> and <https://prayerz.org/praying-from-luke-1520-themes-forgiveness-redemption-love/>; NAIDOC artwork, *Ancestral Lines* by Jeremy Morgan Worrall, Accessed at [https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/f18a183a28d9decea26afc9d55bd04a2.\(text](https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/f18a183a28d9decea26afc9d55bd04a2.(text) slightly edited to fit).