



Woden Valley Uniting Church – Curtin, Goodwin Monash and Online

20 July 2025



We Gather as people of God

*If you receive a knock on your door
And find a stranger standing there,
Welcome him in, for he is you
Searching for yourself.*

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: TIS 636 - God Has Spoken to His People

Acknowledgement of First Peoples.

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 and 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**

Call to worship

Holy and loving God, we are called together today to worship you. We come fresh from the world, some of us are harried and anxious, others are lonely and sad. Joy fills some hearts while others are heavy with grief.

Come, Jesus, come and show us the power of your love.

We gather as friends, and not-yet-friends. People drawn here with a common need: to know the affection and comfort of God and each other.

Come, Jesus, come and teach us the power of your love.

We greet one another with loving-kindness, Christ's light glowing in our eyes. We touch each other with the gentleness that comes as we bear the burdens of the other.

Come, Jesus, come and mirror in us the power of your love.

We unite as Christians, born through baptism to be the hands and feet, the heart and soul of Jesus. We see the people sitting with us as Jesus sees them, without judgement or blame.

Come, Jesus, come and lead us with the power of your love.

We recognise and forgive shortcomings of the past and embrace the possibilities of the future. Each person here has a place among us. All of us belong to the family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Come, Jesus, come and fill us with the power of your love.

Song: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Cantor intro:

*Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I pray*

Refrain

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
[Refrain]

2. The River Jordan, chilly and cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back.

Well ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray-ay-ay
well ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray!

Welcome and introduction

Passing 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: *Let Us Build a House*

1. Let us build a house where love can
dwell
And all can safely live
A place where Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end
divisions

All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

2. Let us build a house where prophets
speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus

All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

3. Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees
us

All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Words for Our Time

First reading: Genesis 18:1-15

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰ Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Gospel reading: Luke 10: 38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

A Reflection: ‘*Two for One and some laughs for free*’

Music for Reflection: *All You Need Is Love* (Beatles)

We Respond to the Word

Song: *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3 times).
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3 times).
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Winds of time won't blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3 times).
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine my light across the world, yes, I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3 times).
Let it shine all the time, let it shine. (Repeat line)

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 by our congregation and to the wider community in the busyness of every week. As usual, the collection plate is at the door. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People *The care candle is lit*

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

To our God:
We humbly ask for Your blessings upon our homes, that they may be sanctuaries of love and service.

May our doors be open to those in need, and our hearts be filled with compassion.
Guide us to use our spaces to uplift others, fostering community kindness and justice. Let our homes reflect your grace and generosity.

May our hearts be open to those in need, and may our tables be a place of warmth and welcome.

May we be slow to judge, considering situations from multiple angles.
And may we consider and cast aside rules not founded in love.

Help us to recognize the blessings we have, help us share them freely, reflecting your love and kindness in every act of giving.

We bring these prayers, asking: **Come, Jesus, come and fill us with the power of your love. Amen.**

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**

Song: TIS 720 - Halle Halle Halle (x3)

We Go out into the World

Blessing

As we go from here seeking and finding God in the ordinariness of serving others:
Grant us the courage to uplift those in need, the wisdom to understand their struggles,
and the compassion to act with love.
May our hands be instruments of holy grace, and our hearts filled with holy light,
making a difference, with love, in the lives we touch.
Amen.

Song: TIS 183 - The Lord's Goodness

The Candles are extinguished

Postlude Let It Be (Beatles)

'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices

Church News, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events

Fellowship

Morning tea.. Let's join in this time of fellowship.

References/Acknowledgements:

Cover Poem 'A Return' by Jimmy Baca at <https://poemverse.org/poems-about-welcoming-guests/>
Call to Worship from <https://maryblashill.com/category/uncategorized/prayer-of-hospitality/>; Blessing adapted from <https://godsblessing.org/hospitality-prayer/>; Prayers of the People adapted from <https://godsblessing.org/hospitality-prayer/>; Reflection adapted from <https://pastordawn.com/tag/progressive-sermon-genesis-181-15/>; Funk, Robert, Hoover, Roy and the Jesus Seminar, *The Five Gospels: the search for the authentic words of Jesus*, 1993, Polebridge Press.