



## **WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH**

<https://woden-valley.uca.org.au/>

**10 am Worship 31 August 2025**

**FRONTIER SERVICES SUNDAY**

**STANDING WITH PEOPLE IN THE BUSH THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE**

*Jesus practised radical inclusion. All are welcome here.*

**The Gong is sounded three times**

**Prelude Music**

We light the Community Candle

**Welcome and Introduction to our theme**

**Most of the remaining liturgy is in your Frontier Services worship booklet**

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all descendants of the Ngunnawal and Ngambiri nations who have cared for this place since creation. We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **Call to Worship**

**Psalm 96: 11-12**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad!

**Let the sea thunder, and all it holds!**

Let the countryside exalt and all that is in it

**Let all the trees of the forest cry out for joy.**

**Hymn: TiS 166 'Sing a new song' Verses 1,2,3 and 5**

### **Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

Gracious and loving God,  
Creator of all things,  
Creator of this vast and beautiful  
country we call Australia.

**For rocky outcrops, plains stretching out to the horizon,  
For the many different, intricate creatures. signs of your delight in creation,  
We praise you, Lord.**

You have created humankind, to live in harmony with the earth,  
delighting in your creation, working to grow, to harvest and to  
distribute the food and resources we need to survive.

**For life in community,  
For the ability to share in the produce of the earth,  
we give you thanks and praise, Lord God. Amen**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lord, when we see the beauty and intricacy of your creation we  
acknowledge humanity's misuse and abuse.

We confess Lord that we have been careless and sometimes  
willful in our actions.

**Forgive us Lord for our carelessness and disregard.**

In this world, filled with creatures and ecosystems that are delicate and vulnerable,

**Forgive us Lord for the times we have plundered and exploited.**

In this world where water can seem so abundant and yet so precious to the survival of all life,

**Forgive us Lord for our wasting and our polluting.**

In this world where there is food and resources enough for all to live with dignity,

**Forgive us Lord for our selfishness and greed.**

In all we do, may we be people of compassion, caring for your creation, for each other and for all people across this country and across your world.

We bring these prayers to you in Jesus name. **Amen**

**Pass the Peace of Christ**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Please pass the peace to the people around you

**Hymn: TiS 188 'Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand'**

**Bible Readings**

**Leviticus 25: 3-5**

Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.

**Romans 8: 22-23**

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

## **Luke 8: 22-25**

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were terrified and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and water and they obey him."

### **Reflection**

*This reflection comes from Rev Dona Spencer who recently concluded her time as a Bush Chaplain serving in the Bottle Tree Remote Area, Queensland*

**Hymn: TiS 650:** 'Brother sister let me serve you'

### **Offering**

Lord God, we bring our offerings to you this day out of gratitude for your blessings to us and for all we have received. We pray that they might be used so that all people, especially those in remote corners of this country, may know your love, your comfort and your peace. Amen

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord God

We pray for our world, and in particular this day, we lift up to you the people who live across rural and remote parts of our country. We pray for First Nations people across this land. May we all walk together, creating meaningful connections and a brighter road ahead.

Lord hear us,

**Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for farmers and those living and working in rural and remote Australia. People working hard to provide the food and resources we need to sustain our lives.

May God grant them comfort and rest through the challenges and hardships that they face.

We pray particularly for people impacted by and recovering from the effects of severe weather events and natural disasters.

Lord hear us,

**Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for children and families living in the bush.  
May they be sustained through the work of Frontier Services and other agencies so that they might feel a sense of connection and hope for their future.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for Frontier Services Bush Chaplains, that they might bring care and compassion to the most vulnerable and isolated people across this vast land.

We pray for Outback Links volunteers, that they might bring much needed friendship and practical support to our brothers and sisters in the bush.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord, hear our prayers**

**Prayers:** *We light the Care Candle*

**The Care Candle Song – Aaron Harper**

1. 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.

2. 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 for our congregation**

**We pray these prayers in the belief that we are bonded with God's spirit with everything that exists. We pray with faith and confidence.**

*We say together the Abba Prayer below*

**O God, you love us like a good parent,  
and are present in every aspect of our existence.  
May your nature become known and respected by all.  
May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice  
be the reality for everyone, as we live by the Jesus Way  
Give us all that we really need to live every day for you,  
and forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.  
Keep us from doing those things which are not of you,  
and cause us always to be centred on your love. (Over Page)**

**For you are the true reality now and in all our future.  
We pray that we may we love one another as you have loved us.  
Amen.**

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**Hymn: TiS 672 (ii) 'Lord of earth and all creation'**

**Words of Mission and Sending out**

Like the sun rises on coastland, mountain areas or inland,  
May the warmth of your love fire up our hearts  
That we may be and bear your blessing to all.

**Blessing**

Take heart. You do not travel through this world alone.  
The timeless God travels with you in all you do, wherever you go,  
Through joys and sorrows.  
Now may the love of God the Father,  
the compassion of Jesus Christ the Son,  
And the guidance of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us, now and always.

**Amen**

**The Community Candle is extinguished**

**Postlude** *(please remain seated quietly for the postlude)*

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the service today – worship, readers, music,  
technical, set up, morning tea and everything else!**

**This week at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

*Notices, significant birthdays, anniversaries or events. Morning Tea*

**Source Document:** Frontier Services - Order of Service 2025 for Frontier Services Sunday

**Photo:** Ikaea-Flinders Ranges National Park. (Keith Fairbrother)

28 August