



## WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

<http://www.wodenvalley.unitingchurch.org.au/>



### **Pentecost Sunday – 24 May 2026**

Jesus practised radial inclusion! All are welcome here

**Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation**

**Leaders:** Keith Fairbrother  
**Reader:** Sally Phillips  
**Music:** Helen Swan  
**Singing the Psalm:** Brendan O’Loughlin  
**Communion:** Joan Pratt

Cover artwork =- Stushie Art <https://stushieart.com/2020/01/11/peace-art-peace-prayer>

## **We gather as people of God**

**Sound the gong three times to settle us quietly and prepare us for worship**

**Prelude** (*a time for quiet preparation – please be seated*)

### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

We acknowledge that we are worshipping on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people. They made their land sacred, as we have made this place sacred. We honour their elders - past and present - and continue to work for reconciliation and justice for all.

### **Lighting of the Worship Candle**

As this flame shines in our gathering, so may God's word of hope and love shine in our lives

**Guided by God's light, we centre ourselves for worship open to the creative Spirit of love, kindness and compassion.**

### **Prayer of Awareness**

Let us gather now,  
friends of the Spirit – travellers in time -  
to hear the story  
of Love's evolving narrative

In this sacred space,  
we release into the present,  
laying aside all worries, plans and complaints,  
entering into the now  
of Mystery's eternal temple.

In this sacred space,  
we consent to the allurements  
of an unrehearsed future,  
from where the living Word  
woos each one of us toward  
our unique expression -  
that is Spirit's dream.

## **Call to Worship**

May the exuberant Spirit of God, bursting with the brightness of flame into the coldness of our lives warm us with a passion for justice and beauty.

**Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation**

May the exuberant Spirit of God, sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy breathe vitality into our struggles for change.

**Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation**

May the exuberant Spirit of God, speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust convey messages of truth and new understanding.

**Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation**

May the exuberant Spirit of God, flame, wind, speech; burn, breathe, speak in us; filling our world with justice and joy.

**Come Holy Spirit, Renew your whole creation. Amen**

**Hymn TiS 418 'She sits like a bird'** *Please stand as you are able*

## **Welcome**

### **Passing of the Peace**

May the Peace of the Holy Spirit be with You.

**All: And also with you.**

*We share with each other the peace of the Holy Spirit*

**Song:** 'She comes sailing on the wind' *Gordon Light - Please stand as you are able*  
(Refrain):

She comes sailing on the wind,  
her wings flashing in the sun;  
on a journey just begun,  
She flies on.

And in the passage of her flight,  
her song rings out thro' the night,  
full of laughter, full of light,  
She flies on.

1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,  
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth,  
like a mother breathing life into her child.

2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight  
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.  
The deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,  
and then down the ages still She flew on.

(Refrain)

3. To-a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze She came,  
a whisper softly calling in the dark.  
The promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end.  
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

4. Flying to the river, She waited circling high.  
A-bove the child now grown so full of grace.  
As he rose up from the water, She swept down from the sky,  
and She carried him away in her embrace.

(Refrain)

5.(Long) after the deep darkness, that fell upon the world.  
After dawn return'd in flame of rising sun.  
The Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled.  
Bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

(Refrain).

Music: CCLI licence546647

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

**Acts 2:1-21** – ‘The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost’

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

**2** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

### Peter Addresses the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'<sup>[c]</sup>

**Psalm 104 (TiS65)** Response: 'Send forth your spirit O God and renew the face of the earth'

## **1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 Gifts of the Spirit**

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

**Reflection – Pentecost Sunday**

### **Music for reflection**

*(During this music you might like to consider what are gifts of the Spirit that you bring to our congregation – Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe)*

## **We respond to the Word**

### **Affirmation - Together**

**We believe in a Spirit  
that holds together all that exists,  
that is Mind in all things,  
that sustains connectedness and relationships in all things.**

**We believe in a Spirit  
that works in and through what it has to work with,  
in disintegrations and new beginnings,  
constantly creating new possibilities.**

**Jesus embodied this spirit so wonderfully  
that he became like a mirror to us,  
showing us of what we are capable,  
when we allow the same spirit to work freely in our lives. Amen**

*Adapted from Michael Morwood*

**Hymn: TiS 421 'Where the spirit is' *Please stand as you are able***

**Offering:** Loving God, we acknowledge with gratitude those who give money through electronic or other means and who also give their time, energy, and practical contributions to the life of our congregation the work of your church and the wider community. Help us be your faithful servant people.

**Hymn TiS 699 - A New Commandment TiS 699.** (please remain seated)

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Lord, we bless you for this wide, brown land, for its rugged beauty, its changing seasons, its diverse peoples and for all that lives within this fragile earth.

We pray that you are present with us here in Canberra, Holy Spirit of God, as you were with the disciples on the day of Pentecost and that you will make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine.

**AMEN**

You have called us to be the church in this place, to give voice to every creature under heaven. We rejoice with all that you have made, as we join the company of heaven in their song.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Let us remember:

On the night before he died, on the evening of his betrayal,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

In the same way, also the cup after supper saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in memory of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God, by your word and your spirit bless this bread and this wine,  
That they may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. And that he may  
ever live in us and we in him and that we may follow him all the days of our lives.  
Make us one with him, one with each other, and one in ministry in this wide, wide world  
until at last, we feast with him in the kingdom.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. AMEN**

**Let us pray:**

**Life-giver, pain-bearer, love maker,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is Heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by all the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
AMEN**

And now, with thanksgiving, we take this bread and this cup and proclaim Jesus' death and  
resurrection until he comes.

Christ is the bread of life, who shares food with us all

Christ is the cup of life, who offers new life to all

Let us receive what we need; let us become what we receive. **The body of Christ.**

*(We come to collect the elements and wait to eat and drink together.)*

The body and blood of Christ given for us all. **AMEN**

Blessed be God who calls us together. **Praise to God who makes us one people.**  
Blessed be God who leads us into the future. **Praise to God who loves and inspires us.**

**AMEN**

## Prayers of the People

### The Care Candle Song – Aaron Harper *(we light the care candle)*

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.
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## Prayers for Pentecost – Come Holy Spirit

### Come, Holy Spirit

Ever living and ever loving God  
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

### Come, Holy Spirit,

take and transform our societies—  
that broken people find healing;  
that lonely people find love;  
that bitter people find peace;  
that fearful people find hope.

### Come, Holy Spirit,

take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—that  
communication can be open; that relationships between hostile people and  
hostile nations will evaporate;  
that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.

### Come, Holy Spirit,

fill your church—  
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;  
that prayers will change our minds  
    instead of trying to get you to change yours;  
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.

### **Come, Holy Spirit,**

fill our lives with your presence—  
so that more and more every day,  
all that we do and say and hope  
will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,  
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

— from the **Baptist Union of Great Britain** website. <http://www.baptist.org.uk/>

## **We go out into the World**

**Hymn TiS 753 'You are Holy'** *Please stand as they are able*  
*(We sing the hymn twice)*

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near;

blessed are you coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,

let the cosmos praise you Lord!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,

our Lord! *(Please remain standing for the Blessing)*

### **Words of Blessing**

May the divine Wisdom hold us in the palm of her hand

and breath into us gently,

her own life giving Spirit;

may she defend us, cherish us and challenge us,

and draw us to herself in freedom:

May Jesus go with us,

and may we be with him

always and everywhere:

**and may we too embody in this world**

**the redeeming love of God. Amen.** *Blessing by Jennifer Wild*

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

**'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

*Notices, Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events*

**Fellowship** - Morning tea is now served. You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.