

UnitingWorld Sunday

June 28 2026



Woden Valley Uniting Church

This suggested UnitingWorld Sunday liturgy was prepared by the UnitingWorld Church Engagement Team.

The Gong is struck

Prelude

Acknowledgment of Country

As we look upon the hills and valleys, we see the love poured out upon this Land by those who have cared for this Land since time beyond measure.

We honour those who have gone before and those who are yet to come.

May we be mindful of the calling God places on humanity to care for Creation.

May we take the lead from the Ngunnawal and Ngambiri Peoples whose stories are entwined with the stewarding of this place. May we learn from them and walk with them.

From the [Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Guidelines for Acknowledgment of Country](#)

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Lighting of the Christ Candle was written by UnitingWorld Ambassadors, Don and Sylvia Wright.

We light the Christ Candle to remind us that Christ came that we might have life and live it abundantly.

In our emptiness, we come to worship our God of Wonders and to celebrate the overflowing grace that fills our empty places.

God calls us out of scarcity and into a flourishing life of peace, purpose and radical love.

We bring our whole selves to be renewed by the Spirit.

Let us worship the Lord of abundant life! Amen

Song

TIS 474 "Gather Us In

Introduction

Call to Worship

We gather today as people who know the Shepherd's voice.

We come to listen, to follow, to be led.

We gather with family across Asia, the Pacific and Africa. One flock, one Shepherd.

We come as part of a family larger than we can imagine.

Jesus said, I came that you might have life, life in all its fullness.

We come hungry for that life and ready to share it.

Let us worship the Good Shepherd, who calls us each by name.

Come, let us follow where He leads.

Amen

Song

“**One in Christ**”, written by Roxanne McLeod with help from musicians in Sydney for UnitingWorld ([on Google drive](#))

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Good Shepherd, we come to you now, hungry for life in abundance.

You have called us together across every border and tongue, one flock, gathered in your name, dreaming with you of a world made whole.

We bring before you our partners across Asia, the Pacific and Africa, those longing for hope, dignity, and a future made new. Meet them in their need, as only you can.

Open our ears to hear your voice above all others. Open our eyes to see your abundance at work in the world. Fill our hands to join your work of healing and making whole.

Lead us into your wide and generous pastures, where there is more than enough for all.
Plant in us a hope that will not shrink until every person, in every place, knows the abundant life you came to give.

Together in Christ, may we lead others home.

Amen

Bible Readings

Psalm 13, How long?

By Steve Bell

How long (**how long?**)
have you forgotten me O Lord (**how long?**)
How long (**how long?**)
will you hide your face from me (**how long?**)
Look on me, answer my call.
O Lord my God I need some light before I fall.
O Lord, how long? **O Lord, how long?**

How long (**how long?**)
must I wrestle with my thoughts (**how long?**)

How long (**how long?**)
must I have sorrow in my heart (**how long?**)
Look on me, answer my call.
I cry ev'ry night but you don't seem to hear at all.
O Lord, how long? **O Lord, how long?**

Yet I'll trust your love, yes your unfailing love
and I will sing out my days,
You've been good to me,
yes you've been good to me!

O Lord, how long? **O Lord, how long?**
(softly:) **O Lord, how long?**

John 10:1-19.

Sermon

[UnitingWorld's National Director Dr Sureka Goringe reflects on God's promise of abundant life in John 10:10.](#)

Song

10,000 Reasons, Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before
me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
(forevermore)

Chorus

Yes, I will worship Your holy name
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Jesus, I will worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

Prayers of Intercession

The Care Candle is lit

This prayer was inspired by reflections from the Pacific Conference of Churches, Church Leaders' Meeting in Fiji, April 2026.

Remember us, Lord, in your mercy and hide not your face from us.

Free our minds from distraction,
Transform hearts of sorrow to joy.

Lord Hear our prayer

In the household of God,
Help us to thwart the powers of destruction,
Walking with those who suffer,
Witnessing to your truth.

Lord hear our prayer

Defeat the works of those who steal from the poor,
Creating scarcity with violence,
Misusing the beauty of your creation.

Lord hear our prayer

Where there is poverty, help us to share your abundance of life.
Where there is isolation, help us to weave communities of hope.
Where there is greed, fill us to overflowing with your generous Spirit.

Lord hear our prayer

Help us to see your land, sea and all living things, held in sacred relationship,

By the breath of your life-giving Spirit,

Help us to sing in harmony, glory to you. Guide us, Good Shepherd,

Through the narrow gate,

That leads to abundance of joy in relationship with you.

Lord hear us.

Lord hear our prayer

Amen

Offering

God of mercy and grace,

You came that we may have life.

And that we may have it in all its fullness.

We trust in your unfailing love and thank you for life in abundance.

We offer our gifts to you in grateful thanks

And pray that they will be used

To draw people into your kingdom.

Good Shepherd, lead us and guide us as we serve you. ***Amen***

As today is UnitingWorld Sunday, you are invited to make a donation to UnitingWorld using the link at the end of the service. Sally

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.**

We pray that you are present with us, risen Lord Jesus, as you were with your disciples and that you will make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine.

For you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

Friends, let us gather as God's guests at this table.

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

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.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who have sinned against us

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

AMEN

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

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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

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

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all that we are.

Our hands were empty and you filled them. AMEN

Song

TIS 650 "Brother, sister, let me serve you"

A Sending Blessing

Go from this place embracing Christ's vision of abundance.
An abundance where bellies are full and thirst is quenched.
An abundance where children laugh and creativity is celebrated.
An abundance where the forests sing and the earth is renewed.
May the blessing of God; Creator, Christ, and Spirit
be with you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen**

Song TIS 779 "May the feet of God walk with you"

WVUC Notices, Birthdays

Thanks to:

Leader: Kate McLoughlin

Communion: Joan Pratt

Music : Brendan O'Loughlin

Reader: Sally Phillips

Sermon: Dr Sureka Goringe (via video streaming)

Dr Sureka Goringe has been National Director of UnitingWorld since 2017. Sureka is a passionate, energetic and deeply faithful leader. An active Uniting Church member based in Sydney, Sureka truly believes that Jesus makes a real difference in the world. On the international stage, she leads with courage and vision and contributes to the wider social justice sector, including as a Director on the Wesley Mission (Sydney) Board. An Australian since the nineties, Sureka comes via Cambridge University in England, and a childhood in Botswana, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. She has a PhD in Materials Science, is married to a Uniting Church minister, and is the mother of two young adults.

Donations to UnitingWorld

www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday. If a tax receipt is required, they need to include their contact details with their individual donation (credit card, online or bank transfer).



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