

WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH



‘Dare to question and to act!’

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

Pentecost 8, 19th July, 2026

6



WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The gong sounds to settle us for worship

Prelude

Lighting the community candle

As light comes from this candle, may the light of Jesus Christ come to us and brighten our way. May the word of Christ bring life into the darkness of this world, and also to us as we gather in worship today and await his coming to make all things new. **Amen**

Acknowledgement of first peoples

For this land in which we live, we give thanks! For the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, who first cared for this site upon which we worship, we give thanks! For the plants, soils, waterways and animal life they have nurtured, we give thanks! We honour their sacred stories, and pledge ourselves to work together for the restoration of the land and for reconciliation among all her peoples.

Call to worship

Holy God, you come among us.

You are present here and we worship you.

You are present in the beauty of the world.

You are present in our relationships with others.

As we celebrate in worship today grant us your peace,

and through our worship help us to light up the faces of others, both near and far away. Amen

Welcome and introduction

Hymn: We plough the fields and scatter, TiS 130, (Matthias Claudius)

A centring prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for bringing us together today and surrounding us in the fellowship of song, prayer and reflection on your word. Where there is anxiety,

grant us your calm.

Where there is doubt,

grant us your assurance.

Where there is worry,

grant us your peace.

Remove the shackles so that we may hear you, follow you, and go out into the world rejoicing, knowing that you are always with us and will travel with us through all the difficulties and joys of life. **Amen**

We respond to with the passing of the peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you;

and also with you.

WE RECEIVE THE WORD FOR OUR TIME

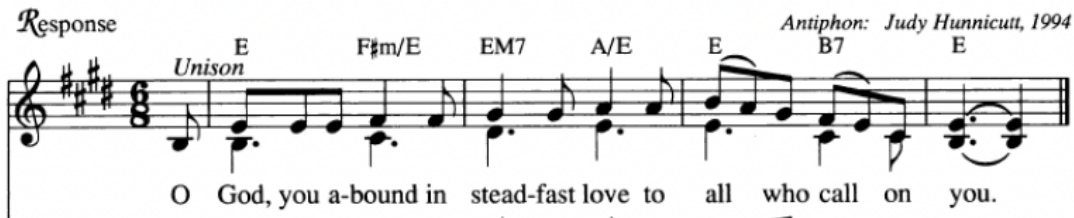
Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 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. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Refrain by Judy Hunnicutt, *New Century Hymnal*



Refrain: **O God you abound in steadfast love to all who call on you.**

Incline your ear and answer me, for needy and poor am I.
 Preserve your servant for I follow you, and save me for I trust in you.
 O give to your servant a joyful heart, as I lift my soul up to you,
 for you are forgiving with steadfast love to all those who call upon you.
 So unto my prayer incline your ear, O listen to my plea for mercy.

Refrain

Among the gods there is none like you, nor wonderful works like yours.
 All nations will bow to you, O God, in worship and praise to your name.
 Turn to me with grace, give strength to us all,
 and save the child of your handmaid.
 Show sign of your favour, confuse those who hate;
 God helped me and comforts us all.

Refrain

Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

The parable of weeds among the wheat

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the

weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Jesus explains the parable of the weeds

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Reflection on the reading

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: Now the green blade rises, TiS 382, (John Crum)

Offering

In the offering of our gifts, as well as the living of our days, may we not grow weary of doing what is right, but commit to speaking up for the voiceless, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, caring for the environment and all those mercies which lie within your heart and the hopes of all your children. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen**

(Thom Shuman)

Lighting the care candle

As we light this candle, we ask God to set our hearts on fire with love for our neighbours and the world, so that all may experience the wonder of God’s care. **Amen**

Prayers of the people, followed by the traditional Lord’s Prayer

Loving God, we thank you:

for your steadfast love;
for your patience with us;
for growth we do not always see; and
for hope that carries us through waiting.

We confess that:

we are frequently impatient with you and with others;
we rush to conclusions; and
we judge before understanding, even as we try to do your work for you.

We pray for all who wait:

for those waiting for healing, for justice, for peace;
for communities divided by judgement and fear; and
for creation itself, groaning for renewal.

We pray that you will grant us the gifts of trust, hope and faith in your in your enduring love. **Amen**

(Drawn from the Church of Scotland's Weekly Worship website)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

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

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Song: Sun, soil and seeds (Chris Shelton), words with melody on the back page

Closing prayer

May the patient love of God
Steady our hearts,
Guide our steps,
And give us hope as we grow in grace.

And let us go out with joy, for we know that we walk with Jesus.
Let us travel with our Lord Jesus lightly, graciously offering and receiving hospitality.
And let us be messengers of peace, knowing that the kingdom of God is near. **Amen**

Extinguishing the candles

As we extinguish our candles, we know that the light of the risen Christ continues to shine through the living of our lives.

Postlude

Notices; celebrations; tea and coffee

Today's service

Leaders: Roger and Willa Mauldon

Reader: Alyson Robinson

Music: Brendan O'Loghlin

Technical: Curtin – John Schmidt

Monash – Edis Elgueta and Trevor Rowe

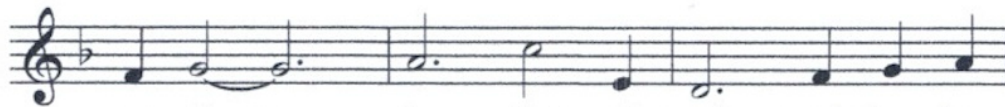
SUN, SOIL, AND SEEDS

Chris Shelton

YEAST
Chris Shelton



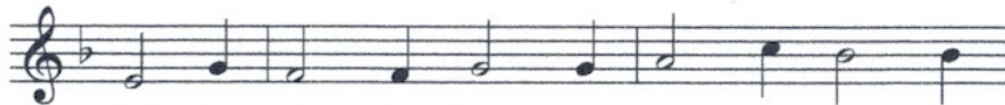
1. Sun, soil, and seeds, tend - ed with grace, skill, and
2. Flour, oil, and yeast, sim - plest of things, stirred to -
3. Heav - en is here, grow - ing like fruits in the



pa - tience; sim - plest of needs, noth - ing but
geth - er; that which seems least, qui - et - ly
gar - den; heav - en is here, form - ing and



wa - ter, light, and time. Un - seen, the
chang - ing all that is. For there, with -
ris - ing like the dough. For still the



shell gives way be - low, as roots and leaves be -
in the mix - ing bowl, once - sep - 'rate parts be -
Spir - it prunes and weeds; and tends and wa - ters;



gin to grow. New life pro - ceeds, dar - ing to
come a whole. Come to the feast, taste of the
blends and kneads. Heav - en is here, loved in - to



break new ground and rise.
bread that makes us one.
be - ing by God's hand.

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