



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

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

Signs of Hope

Parable of the Mustard Seed



Painted window at the YMCA training center for German leadership in Kassel

10 a.m. Worship
26th July 2026

Leader: Andrew Steele
Music: Helen Swan

Reader: Libby Coates
Welcomer: Sally Phillips

Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.

We Gather as People of God

The Gong is struck 3 times

The gong sounds. We hold silence.

We listen to the gong, calling us to gather, calling us to be present at this time.

Prelude Music

Lighting the Community Candle

(Throughout the liturgy the responses are in bold)

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 to us as we gather in worship today,
awaiting the coming to make all things new.

Amen

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge that we are worshipping on the lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people. They made their land sacred, as we have made this place sacred. We honour their elders – past, present and emerging - for their life, wisdom and resilience. We acknowledge that sovereignty of these lands was never ceded and we continue to work for reconciliation and justice for all.

Call to worship

We gather to give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

We gather to glory in his holy name;
to let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

We gather to remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
to the offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, and all his chosen ones!

Hymn TIS 430 - *Your words to me are life and health.*

(People stand as they are able)

(To the tune of "Amazing Grace", TIS 129)

Welcome & Introduction

A warm welcome is extended to all.

Personally, it's an honour to be invited back and see many familiar faces again.

An especially warm welcome to those who are worshipping at Woden Valley Uniting Church for the first time, or like myself, who have returned after an absence.

Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

We also welcome those at Goodwin and those at home joining us on Zoom.

Prayer for Living Attentively

God of mystery, God of life,
we imagine that we are capable judges
of power and wisdom and goodness.

We trust our own standards;
we separate and categorize;
we mark the performance of others.

We fail to trust your power,
hidden in all things.

We fail to watch for you,
working out your purposes.

Gracious God, hidden and manifest,
transform our withered imaginations
until we yield the judgments we trust
to a love we cannot control.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do,
is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.

Because the peace of God is here... to stay

Thanks be to God.

Hymn TIS 683 – *God when human bonds are broken*

(To the tune of "Brother, Sister let me serve you", TIS 650)

We Reflect on the Word for our time

Readings from the Bible and the World Around Us

Mark 6:1-13

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Response

For the word of God in Scripture, For the word of God among us, For the word of God within us....
Thanks be to God

Reflection

Silence for Personal Reflection OR Music for Reflection

We Respond to the Word

Hymn TIS 689 – *Sorrowing Song*

Offering

Our offerings for the celebration of life in this place and beyond, will now be received.

Prayers of the People

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.

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

Distribution of the Elements

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

Prayer after Communion

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.
Accept our thanks for all that we are.
Our hands were empty and you filled them.
Amen

Hymn TIS 531 – *Sent forth by God's blessing*

We Go out into the World

Words of Mission

Go, as seed and yeast,
willing to lose your life in the larger purposes of God.
Go, as fisherfolk and treasure seekers,
pouring out your days in search of hidden grace.

Blessing

May God, who searches the heart,
Jesus, whose love overcomes all division,
and the Spirit, which helps us in our weakness,
continue to lead you into life
that you may serve with abandon and joy.
Amen

The Community Candle is extinguished

Postlude

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'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church

A time of community to share notices, sharing, comments, significant birthdays, anniversaries.

Fellowship

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

References for Order of Service: CCLI licence#546647;

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Prayers adopted from Feasting on the Word.