



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

18 October 2026

Pentecost 21 A

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.

Prelude for a time of quiet preparation

Lighting the Community Candle

As light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us and brighten our way. May the word of Christ bring light 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 Country

Woden Valley Uniting Church acknowledges that Ngunnawal and Ngambiri people have a continuous and deep connection to their country.

We honour the custodians of sacred stories, of dreaming and the connections with the mountains and valleys, fauna and flora of this beautiful land.

We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship

We are called to be the children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbour, self, and all creation.

We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

Hymn of worship TiS 132 Holy, holy, holy

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we meet with you in this community today. We are sorry for the times when we have tried to go it alone and ignored the people on the way who have needed a friend, for not standing in solidarity with our neighbours, for ignoring your will for our lives and theirs.

Lord forgive us and heal us, help us to put things right. Give us what we need this day and always so that we can share your love with others and show them the way to your peace and glory.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your divine wisdom. When the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus, he answered with perfect grace and truth.

Lord, today, be in our hearts and our thinking and as Jesus pointed out Caesar's image on the coin, may we recognise that your image is stamped upon our very souls.

May we meet people every day and pass on that love and reassurance to others.

Help us find ways of living faithfully in this world, but never at the expense of our love for you.

May our ultimate devotion always be to you, Jesus our Lord and Saviours.
Amen

Word of Assurance

Beloved children of God,
receive this good news:
God loves us, chooses us,
Forgives us, and renews us
to live in love and service of God and neighbour.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

Hymn of Praise TiS 153 God is love, let heaven' adore him

WE RECEIVE THE WORD FOR OUR TIME

Prayer of Illumination

Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, we may hear your word with joy.

Exodus 33:12-23

¹²Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' ¹³Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." ¹⁷The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by

I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

Psalm 99

Dm C6 F9 B $\flat$ A7 $\flat$ 9 Dm7 C7 B $\flat$ A $\flat$ 6 G $\emptyset$ C7 $\flat$ 9 F Δ



Ps 99:4 Omighty God lover of jus - tice, you it was yes, it was you who cre - a - ted e - qui - ty, e - qui - ty.

**O mighty God, lover of justice, you it was,
yes it was you who created equity, equity.**

God reigns enthroned, cherubim singing
let nations tremble, let the earth shake, God is
over nations, high above us all.

Lover of justice all should be equal
On Earth proclaim how great your love, worship
at the footstool of the holy one.

Refrain

God spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they
kept all the laws God had decreed; then God
answered them with full forgiving love.

Praise God on Earth for justice and mercy
worship God on the holy hill, for
awesome is our God, the Holy One.

Refrain

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

L: The Wisdom of God

P: God's word made new.

Reflection ' Whose images is on us?'

Hymn of Reflection TiS 554 If we will trust in God to guide us

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Offering

Gracious God, you choose ordinary people and weave them into a community that shines with your love. We thank you for the gift of belonging—for the call to live our faith in ways that ripple outward into the lives of others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to be witnesses to your grace. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen your church as a living example of hope. May our shared life together always point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

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 'Whose image is on us ?'

Here today we pray that everywhere on earth the Church may speak out, without fear, for peace and the rights and dignity of the human person; that justice, love and responsible freedom may become the basis of the social order in the world and in our country, so that all may live in peace and security.

We pray that all humanity may share equitably in the world's material and spiritual goods, and that state and civic organizations may help and protect the weak and the victims of calamities, so that all citizens have a strong sense of civic responsibility and actively participate toward our shared welfare.

May our doors always be open to those in need, and our hearts be filled with compassion.

Guide us to use our spaces and talents to uplift others, fostering community kindness and justice. Let our hearts, homes and our church reflect your grace and generosity.

May our hearts be open to those in need, and may our tables be a place of warmth and welcome.

Help us to recognize the blessings we have and to share them freely, reflecting your love and kindness in every act of our giving.

We bring these prayers, asking:

**Come, Jesus, come and fill us with the power of your love
Guide us to serve in your image.**

Very freely adapted from *Liturgies Alive: Models of Celebrations* and other places.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/intercessory-prayer-matthew-22-15-22.html>

A Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit,
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 the people 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 times of temptation and test, **Strengthen us.**

From trials too sharp 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 for ever. Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Word of Mission in Song

'We are one in the Spirit' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-W5HEVPJT8>

Blessing

God of peace, you keep us in perfect peace when our minds stay on you. When we trust in you.

You give us all the strength and resilience we need like a tree planted by water we need not fear when the heat comes.

We need not be anxious about anything.

So may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds, and bless us this day and always.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Extinguishing the candles

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

Postlude

This week at Woden Valley Uniting Church

Notices; celebrations;

Morning tea and coffee

