

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to all who worship, via the use of technology, or via the printed material. Together we come to worship God knowing that even as we are scattered, the Spirit brings us together as one.

Today we celebrate the Uniting Church's birthday- the 22<sup>nd</sup> June every year. It is 43 years since the UCA came into being and today we give thanks to God for our existence.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We place our trust in God..

***who hears even our unspoken cries for help.***

We gather here today knowing of God's goodness and your mercy;

***rejoicing in God's steadfast love which surrounds us.***

God's greatness is evident in creation of which we are a part.

For God is great and does wondrous things.

Let us worship God.

## **SONG      TiS 52 Let us sing to the God of salvation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU3yTLEX6LQ&t=38s> music only

1. Let us sing to the God of salvation  
let us sing to the Lord our rock!  
Let us come to his house with thanksgiving,  
let us come before the Lord and sing.  
*Praise our Maker,  
praise our Saviour,  
praise the Lord our everlasting King.  
Every throne must bow before him,  
God is Lord of everything!*
2. In his hands are the earth's deep places  
and the strength of the hills is his;  
all the sea is the Lord's, for he made it,  
by his hands the dry land was formed.
3. Let us worship the Lord our Maker,  
let us kneel to the Lord our God;  
for we all are the sheep of his pasture,  
he will guide us by his powerful hand.

4. Let today be the time when you hear him!  
May our hearts not be hard or cold,  
lest we stray from the Lord in rebellion,  
as his people did in time of old.

*Words Richard Thomas Bewes/Music Traditional Melody C.C.L.I.No. 237097*

## **PRAYERS**

We praise and adore you, O God, for doing wondrous things in our lives - for loving and forgiving us. Even when we become distracted by the events of our daily existence, we are aware of your divine activity in our lives, prompting us to deepen our trust in you. Your desire for us to live full and abundant lives, has been realised in and through Jesus, your most wondrous gift of all. He, is surely the everlasting sign of your steadfast love towards us, and all people.

He is the assurance that we are known intimately and valued by you in ways beyond our human understanding. May our praise and adoration for such goodness towards us be visible, as we respond to Jesus' appeal to take up our cross and follow him. Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, you warn us today that you have not come to bring peace, but a sword. Forgive us for believing in 'peace at any price', forgetting that the cost of peace for you was a life spent challenging and defeating the power of evil and sin.

Pierce our weakness with your strength and give us courage to confront behaviour which is contrary to all you teach us.

Strip away all that prevents us from exercising faith and courage in the face of injustice. Penetrate the defences we erect around ourselves and help us offer this vulnerability to others.

***Cut through our efforts to protect ourselves at the expense of the wellbeing and peace of mind of others.***

Expose the fearfulness that shapes much of our decision making and replace it with the courage of your convictions.

***Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, give us your strength we pray.***

Empower us with your Spirit to be bearers of love and peace and reconciliation,  
***So that we can follow wherever you lead us. Amen.***

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus died and rose again so that we might experience "newness of life so we can consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ". (*Romans 6: 4b,11*)

The good news therefore is this: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God!***

## STORY

### A Baptism story

Let me tell you about a little 7 year old named Brynn. I became friends with Brynn's family 3 years ago when I first moved to Austin. They're very involved at Gateway and a week ago, Brynn and her mom showed up for the baptism class. Little Brynn had fully given her heart to Jesus a while back and she wanted to give her heart to Jesus. She was very attentive the whole class through and even at the end of the class, she came up and asked me if she did good. Ha! What I didn't know was how well little Brynn had listened during the class. She was like a sponge that absorbed every single word. She went home that Sunday and wouldn't stop talking about everything she learned. She talked her mom through all the content. She talked her dad through all the content. She probably talked her brother and sister's ears off as well. But something happened. I don't know all the details, but Brynn's Dad who had never been baptized heard something he'd never heard before.

Whether it was a clearer explanation of what baptism really was or whether it was the prompting of the Holy Spirit (maybe it was both), but that week Brynn's daddy decided to follow Christ in Baptism as well. Brynn was so excited and eager. She showed up early to get her and her dad registered. She quickly burst out "I'm getting baptized and so is my dad



Okay, last part. Brynn went to School on Monday and asked everyone she saw if she looked any different to them. She explained that she had been baptized. She's putting into action the last thing I told her in the baptism class that once we are baptized, it is our turn to live out our part of the Great Commission... to tell everyone about Jesus. That's simply what she'd doing now.

## READINGS

### Romans 6: 1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has

mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>The same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is God's word,

***Let us give thanks to God***

**SONG      TiS 209 And can it be**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Fyg> words and music

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain –  
for me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:  
who can explore this strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mystery all! Let earth adore,  
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mystery all, immense and free:  
for, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's night:  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray –  
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread:  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Words Charles Wesley/Music Thomas Campbell C.C.L.I.. 237097*

## **Matthew 10: 24-39**

<sup>24</sup>“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

<sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup>Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.<sup>30</sup>even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup>“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— <sup>36</sup>man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

<sup>37</sup>“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

This is God’s word,

***Let us give thanks to God***

**SERMON**                      ***United with Christ***

**SONG**                      **AHB 531 TRUST AND OBEY**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB4KcleYiWM> words and music

1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of his word  
What a glory he sheds on our way!  
Let us do his good will He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.  
*Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey.*

2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil he doth richly repay.  
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross  
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

3. But we never can prove the delights of his love

until all on the altar we lay,  
for the favour he shows and the joy he bestows  
are for those who will trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
or we'll walk by his side on the way;  
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go –  
never fear, only trust and obey.

*John Henry Sammis AHB 531. Copyright C.C.L.I.. 237097*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Compassionate God,  
No one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.  
Watch over those who are separated from their loved ones and homeland;  
those who fear persecution and hope for a better life in our community.

May we reach out in welcome to all those who arrive as refugees,  
embracing one another so that together your hope O God will be our future.

We pray for those who are burdened by the choices they have made in life. We pray for  
those who because of life circumstances have had limited choices. And we pray for  
ourselves that we might make wise choices.

In all that we think, say and do may we be witnesses to your all-embracing love for all  
the people of the world.

Remember, O Lord, the peoples of the world, divided into many nations and tongues.  
Help the leaders of nations work towards justice for all, equality for all and the  
recognition of past injustices which continue to plague people- because of difference  
and prejudice.

Deliver us from every evil that gets in the way of your saving purpose;  
and fulfil the promise of peace to your people on earth;.....

We pray for the Uniting Church in Australia. We give thanks for our President, Dr Deidre  
Palmer, our Moderator Rev Simon Hansford and for the Presbytery Chairperson, Rev  
Geoff Stevenson. We pray for all of the congregations and people who we are called to  
serve. May we truly live up to being a church in reconciliation with the first peoples of  
this land, a truly multicultural church and a church where all are welcome.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

May your blessing, O God, fall upon our many gifts. May you help us to never take them  
for granted but to use what we have for the good of others to further your reign in this  
earth. Amen.

## **PASSING A SIGN OF PEACE**

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all,  
***And also with you***

## **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

...And so, with all the company of heaven and earth  
we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:

***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.***

...At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit came upon him  
declaring him to be your beloved Son.

...And now let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

***Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
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 sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever, Amen.***

## **SONG TIS 161 Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord**

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;

his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-7

## **BENEDICTION**

Go now and walk in newness of life for Christ was raised from the dead.  
Therefore do not be afraid.  
What God speaks to you in the dark, proclaim boldly in the light.  
Take up your cross and follow the Christ.

And may God watch over you and provide for you;  
May Christ Jesus openly declare you to be his own;  
And may the Holy Spirit bring you help and comfort always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

***In the name of Christ. Amen***

©2002 Nathan Nettleton [LaughingBird.net](http://LaughingBird.net)