
**PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH
WESTMEAD
Sunday 25th June 2023**



WELCOME

Good morning and welcome on this winter's morning. Today we gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship and to share with one another. May this be a time of encouragement and renewal as we respond to the calling to be God's people in this place.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Each Sunday we light the Christ candle - for Jesus is the Light of the World.

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gather and we worship today on Darug land where the Burramattagal people have lived since time immemorial.

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We acknowledge these First Nations people as the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We give thanks to God for their love and care of this land, and we acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING

Grace and peace to you from God our Father,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
that comes from heaven:

who knew you and chose you before the world began;
who loves you so much that he calls you his own children;

who has brought you from darkness into light
and filled you with his glorious power;

who has prepared an inheritance for you
that will never spoil or fade; (I Pet 1)

who encourages and strengthens you
in every good deed and word;

who comforts you in your troubles
so that you can comfort others.

This is our God,
the ultimate source of all things,
and the One for whom we live.

Let's worship God together!

(~ Christine Longhurst - [re:Worship: Thanksgiving \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](http://re-worship.blogspot.com))

SONG: "From all who dwell below skies" (TIS 72)

(YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku5alvFGQPQ>)

From all who dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise;
Hallelujah!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung

(3)

Trough every land, by every tongue,
Hallelujah!

Eternal are your mercies, Lord,
eternal truth attends your word:
Hallelujah!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Hallelujah!

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said,
Come to me, all you who are tired, who are worn out from carrying heavy
burdens. Put down the heavy load that you are carrying, and you will find rest
for your souls.

God, we confess that we don't always understand our own actions.
We clearly know what is right—what you expect of us—
but we don't always do it.
We also clearly know what is wrong—
the thoughts and actions that hurt others and offend you—
but we do these things anyway.
Forgive us!
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
set us free from the sin that controls us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

People of God, know this:
Our God is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.
When we stumble, God is there to catch us;
when we are weighed down, God is there to lift us up.
So be at peace: your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

(re:Worship: Act of Confession: Proper 9A (re-worship.blogspot.com))

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SONG: “As the deer pants for the water” (TIS 703)

two verses

(You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peZudXt9faU>)

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE READING

BIBLE READING: Romans 6:1-11

⁶What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

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⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of Life:

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: “Life in Christ”

SONG: “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine” (MHB 422)

(YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLnYH7a7_ZQ)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

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*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

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OFFERING

You are a generous, gracious God and out of your great mercy you have given us so much. We bring these offerings today in gratitude for all that you have done for us. With these offerings we worship you and we give ourselves to you. Receive them and use them for your kingdom and your glory.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God, we come into your presence
with praise and thanksgiving for your faithful love.
Your love never fails—not even we turn away from you:
when we ignore your invitation,
or desert you for gods of our own making.
Even then you do not abandon us,
but reach out—again and again—
inviting us back into relationship once more.

As you welcome us, so you welcome our prayers.
We bring them to you with confidence,
knowing that you will hear and answer.

We pray for the world you created, and the people who share it with us:
- for countries caught up in war or violent conflict,
- for regions of the world struggling with poverty and disease,
- for those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disasters;

For these and all the other areas in our world
where there is need and despair,
Lord, hear our prayer.

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We pray for our country and for its people:

- for our government leaders, federal, state and local,
- for our judicial system, police forces and military,
- for our cities, towns, and rural communities,
- for employers and employees, for young and old,

For all who are part of this country,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community—the people of this city,

- for those who are unemployed,
- for those in prison,
- for those who are hungry,
- for those who are alone and afraid,

For all our neighbours, both known and unknown to us,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation—our brothers and sisters in Christ,

- for those who are ill. or whose loved ones are ill,
- for those who are anxious about the future,
- for those struggling with their faith,
- for those who minister among us,

For all your people in this place,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Pour out Your Spirit on us!

Fix our hearts and minds on what is true and honourable and right.

Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing your will.

Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord,

extending your loving invitation to the world around us.

As we say together the Lord's Prayer:

(~ Christine Longhurst, re-worship blogspot.com)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

(8)

**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 for ever. Amen**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - 46th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

PRAYER

We are blessed by you God
for you call us into the blessing of unity,
that communion of hope that we call the Church.

**We are blessed, God,
for you call us into your mission.**

We are blessed, God,
for you came to us as the Christ,
and shook up our living,
by reminding us of your way,
which brings out the light in us,
which transforms the world.

**We are blessed, God,
for you are with us, as Spirit,
leading us into each moment,
rich with possibility.**

We are blessed, God,
by your invitation into the discomfort
of your way of the cross,
which takes us from
that which is old and dying
into resurrected life.

**We are blessed, God,
as we are uniting in prayer,
calling on you to bless us with a future
which is full of promise,
the blessed journey we take together
and with you.**

SONG: “Jesus put this song into our hearts” (TIS 670)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCYdLA8qR5c>

Jesus put this song into our hearts,
Jesus put this song into our hearts,
It's a song of joy no one can take away:
Jesus put this song into our hearts.

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony,
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony;
different faces different races, he made us one:
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

Jesus taught us how to be a family,
Jesus taught us how to be a family,
loving one another with the love that He gives:
Jesus taught us how to be a family

Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy:
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance.

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WORD OF MISSION

Beloved people of God,
we who belong to the family of the Uniting Church,
go from here with the promise that in Christ,
we indeed have hope and a future.

Give thanks for those who have walked this path before us.
Rejoice in the richness of our Church, enlivened with faith.

(11)

Proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
and the promise of new life for the whole creation.

And may the God who called us into being,
the Christ who is our foundation,
and the Spirit whose breath of life animates us today and every day,
Be with us now and forever.

Amen

(UNITING IN PRAYER: SERVICE OF WORSHIP 2023)
