

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH, FORREST, ACT
Pentecost 15
Sunday 1st September: 9am



<https://www.freepik.com>

“Learning to Walk in the Darkness”

Greeting: May the peace of the Holy One, Holy Three be with you all.
And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country:

*Let us acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples,
The first inhabitants of this place,
Part of God’s good creation.
We honour them for their custodianship of the land
On which we gather today.*

*You set humanity at the heart of your creation, O God,
Charging us with your stewardship of all you have made.
We give thanks for those who have heeded your call.*

Safe Place Statement

*The Uniting Church in Australia believes that all people are made in the image of God,
and so we accept every individual regardless of race, age, creed, sexuality and gender.*

Let’s light the Community Candle from the Christ Candle

Remembering all those live-streaming with us today, and our extended communities!

Welcome and News

Call to Worship

Lord, in Your mercy, open our hearts.

Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

We pray for those who are spiritually empty -

who are troubled, but don't know where to turn;

who long for purpose and meaning, but don't know where to look;

who need You, but do not yet know You.

Lord, in Your mercy, open our hearts.

Welcoming Song: The Spring Has Come

Colin Gibson, words by Shirley Murray

1. The spring has come, let all the Church be part of it
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the Church be part of it

2. The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the gospel word in it!
New leaf, new thrust,
new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

3. The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot,
new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Confession ...

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

All-Age Story: (Bruce)

Children's Song: I Am the Way

Michael Mangan © 1999

*Chorus: I am the Way, I am the Truth.
If you want to know God,
come with me, I am the Life, I am the Way.
I am the Truth.
I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life.*

1. Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God and trust in me.
I have prepared a place for you,
a place where you can always live with me.

Chorus

OT Reading: Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 (Page 544 in the pew Bible)

(Springtime Rhapsody)

Gospel Reading: Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Page 818 in the pew Bible)

(The Tradition of the Elders)

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Preaching: Rev. Bruce: "Learning to Walk in the darkness"

Offering Song: Gather Me

Pat Mayberry, arr. David Kai © 2019

1. I listened for the word of God in fire and wind and rain.
I leaned into the edge of dawn to find the truth again.
I breathed into each moment, I wakened every dream.
Holy Spirit, come and gather me.

*Chorus: Gather me, into light and into love
Gather me, let the songs of life be sung.
Come, Holy Spirit, and gather me.*

2. I called out for the love of God to save me from my pain.
I sheltered in the darkest nights to bring me hope again.
I climbed up every mountain, I battled storm and sea.
Holy Spirit, come and gather me.

Chorus

3. I walked upon the fertile soil, I looked up to the sky.
I followed ev'ry sacred star, each sign that passed me by.
I reached my hands to heaven, that love might gentle be.
Holy Spirit, come and gather me.

Chorus

Offering Prayer ...

Prayers of the People

This week, the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle directs us to Benin, Ivory Coast and Togo.
And of course, we are still acutely focussed on Israel, Palestine and Ukraine ...

Let's join in offering 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.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING OUT

Sending Song: As You Go On Your Way

Amanda Udis-Kessler © 2020

And now as you go on your way
take care, take care.
The love, all the love that you seek
is there, it's there.
Love flows through our words and deeds.
Love knows all the things we need.
Love grows as our hearts are freed
from hatred, fear, and pain.
Take care, as you go on your way,
until we meet again.

Blessing

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.
May we live and serve this week in remembrance of Christ's love.
Our service has ended.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

... and morning tea/coffee – our fellowship is also part of our worship!



Worship Team:

Preacher: Rev Dr Bruce Stevens, **Liturgist:** Robert James

Music Co-ordinator: Jade McFaul

Reader: Sonia Di Mezza

Video: Merryn Fraser, **Sound:** Sam Launt

Duty Elder: Robert James, **Stewards:** Tarlie & John Alcock

Morning Tea: Nancy & Brad Opdyke, Jeanne James.

Copyright Licenses: CCLi 302070 copyright ; CCLi 381840 reproduction;
CCLi 2389913 streaming; OneLicense A-741044