



WESLEY UNITING CHURCH, FORREST, ACT

26 October 2025: 9am

Pentecost 20C

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Preparing Ourselves: Meditation with Music

Greeting

Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Call to Worship

Leader: In spinning a robe of your own righteousness, before the sun goes down you will find it all unravelled.

Curtis Hutson

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord, with all our hearts;

People: On the day we called, you answered us; our strength you increased.

Leader: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

People: Though we walk in the midst of trouble; you preserve our lives.

All: Let us worship the Lord, who saves us by the strength of his hand.

Scott B. Bullock

Affirmation of First Nation's People and Celebration of Mutual Acceptance

Welcome to Wesley

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.

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.

Announcements

Lighting of the Paschal and Community Candle

Recognising the extended community of worshipers that we're joining today!

This includes those joining us on line and we appreciate their support.

Our Confession and Reconciliation

We pray the words of the tax collector:

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

We have sinned, again and again, by what we have done and by what we have not done. We ask that you redeem us and assist us in turning from our sin and walking in the path of your Son. We ask that you help us to restore those relationships we have broken and allow us to undo the hurts we have caused to others. We repent of trying to look good while pleasing ourselves with sin.

We have no excuse. We have no hope but in your grace.

We ask for your mercy for the sake of your son, Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon

Blessing and honour and glory and might belong to Christ—the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He has turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy. Know that you are forgiven, and sing praises to the Lord, giving thanks to his holy name.

Darren Pollock

People: Thanks be to God

Welcome Song

In My Father's House

Paul Somerville © 2012

1. Rainbow of colours, a complex of creeds;
age-old perspectives meet fresh ways to see.
Everyone welcome, fling open the doors-
you'll learn of my path and I'll learn from yours.

Chorus:

*In my Father's house, there are many rooms
but no walls to divide.*

*In my Father's house, there are many rooms-
the gates are open wide.*

2. Some greet a stranger, some serve the poor;
some shake the system right to its core.
Some have found true faith, others still search
'cause it takes all kinds to make up a church.

Chorus

3. A voice for the voiceless, justice for all,
and for the listless, a clarion call.

A church of inclusion we're bringing to birth.
Just like in heaven, it can be on earth.

Chorus

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Time with children: Geoff

Children's Song

J.A.M. Chris Jaensch © 1992

1. You can spread it on toast (spread it on toast)
or spread it on bread (spread it on bread)
a sandwich if you like (a sandwich if you like)
or a muffin instead (or a muffin instead)
But that's not the jam I'm talking about
It's something else instead.

The JAM I'm talking's when I keep on walking
with Jesus in my heart and my head.

Chorus:

Jesus and me: JAM!

Good company, JAM!

*He died and he rose again to set me free
to be the me that he wants me to be.*

2. There's strawberry jam (strawberry jam)
a traffic jam (a traffic jam)
getting in a jam (getting in a jam)
or jamming with the band (or jamming with the band)
But that's not the jam I'm talking about
It's something else instead.

The JAM I'm talking's when I keep on walking
with Jesus in my heart and my head.

Chorus

Entering the Story

Prayer for Understanding As the potter shapes the clay, mould our wills to respond to your word.

Readings: Joel 2: 23-32 (page 741-742 in the pew Bibles)
2 Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18 (page 968 in the pew Bibles)
Lk 18: 9-14 (page 853 in the pew Bibles)

In this is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Preaching (Geoff) Discussion and feedback on sermon

Offering Song The Colossian Hymn Malcolm Gordon, arr. Fiona Chua

1. We look to Jesus, seeing God who can't be seen We look to Jesus, seeing life as it should be. We look to Jesus, in whom everything began. For in this Jesus, we all find a place to stand.	2. We look to Jesus, seeing God in purest grace. We look to Jesus, where we find our truest place. We look to Jesus, leading us beyond the grave. For in this Jesus, all creation can be saved.
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Chorus

Chorus:
Life began in you, Lord of all you hold us true
All the world is home in your hands.
Life is found in you, all that's broken will be new
Heaven's heart lies open to us now.

You are reconciling, making peace through your blood
You're the new beginning for this world.
Heaven and earth are brimming with the life that you bring
You're the morning star that lights the way.
Chorus (x2)

Offering Prayer Geoff to collect offering and pray.

Prayers for others

In the ecumenical prayer cycle we pray for

Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saba, St Barts, St. Eustatia, Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, US Virgin Islands.

Intercessions

We are thankful for:

- the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive cultural practices of these islands
- how churches have responded to disasters and served all in need
- how liberation from colonialism and oppression has been pursued through music, words and actions
- the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have come from this region.

We pray for:

- those devastated by disasters, that their lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt
- the strengthening of all who faithfully witness through word and deed to the gospel
- all those affected by crime and addictions
- good governance and smooth transitions between political leaders.

Remember Ukraine, Russia, Israel Palestinians

Lord's Prayer

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 Now As You Leave This Assembly of Lovers

Amanda Udis-Kessler © 2019

1. Now as you leave this assembly of lovers,
carry the gift that your heart has received.
As you've been treated, go out and treat others,
sharing the grace that is endlessly free.

2. Centre your mind on the things that are precious,
all that is sacred and worthy of praise.
Love all the world with a passion so reckless
you will know wonder the rest of your days.

Chorus:

Chorus

*Keep on blessing the world as you do.
Welcome the stranger and offer a feast.
Work to bring justice, strive to show kindness.
Surely the Holy will bless you with peace.*

Blessing

As you leave us today, walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Our service has ended.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ Amen.

Worship Team

Liturgist: Rev Dr Bruce Stevens | **Preacher:** Rev Dr Geoff Dornam

Music Coordinator: Jade McFaul | **Musicians:** Caitlin Launt (vocals) and Zoey Haar (guitar)

Reader: Ann Yan | **Stewards:** Kerri & Robert Henderson | **Duty Elder:** Robert James | **Flowers:** Ann Sutton

With thanks to our musicians, A/V, morning tea and steward teams