

Mooroolbark (St. Margaret's) Uniting Church

16th August 2026 SUNDAY SERVICE

12th after Pentecost

Rev. Jinseon Park



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. We give thanks for their deep spiritual connection to creation, for their care of earth, sky, and waterways through countless generations. As we worship in this Season of Creation, may we walk gently on this land, honour the wisdom of the First Peoples, and join together in protecting the gift of God's creation.

SAFE CHURCH STATEMENT

The Uniting Church in Australia believes that all people are made in the image of God, and as such we accept every individual regardless of race, age, creed, sexuality and gender. As a Christian Community we believe that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance and that our relationships with each other should express love and respect and not be abused.



THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

INTROIT HYMN TIS 103 A Mighty Fortress is our God



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Though we come from different circumstances
The Lord will make us one in worship.

Though we have travelled different paths of struggles and successes
The Lord will make us one in healing.

Though each one of us has struggles and strife, as well as joy
The Lord will make us one in hope.

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Loving God,
You have shown us your great mercy and compassion,
and we gather today in faith and worship.

We are all different people and have come from different places,
yet through the gift of your Holy Spirit, we are all known as yours.

We confess that we have not always been as generous
with our love and grace as you call us to be.
We have judged others too quickly,
held on to old hurts,
and placed limits on our compassion.
We have sometimes found it difficult
to see one another as you see us.

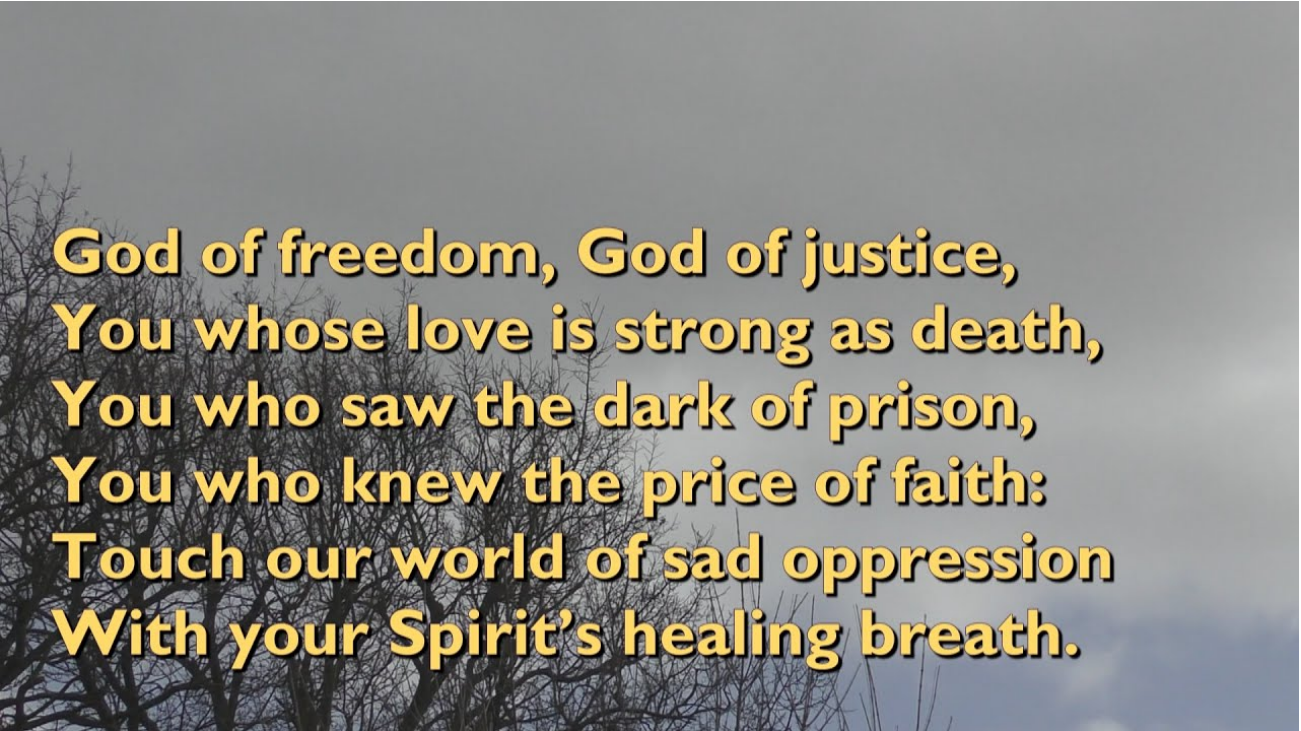
Forgive us, loving God.
Through this service today,
may we hear your voice more clearly.
Open our hearts to your grace,
help us to see one another with compassion,
and lead us in the ways of mercy and reconciliation.

May the gifts and graces you have given us
be used to share your love with those around us,
and may our lives offer a glimpse of your grace
to those who need it most. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, the gifts and the calling of God are unchangeable.
Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN TIS 657 God of Freedom, God of Justice



**God of freedom, God of justice,
You whose love is strong as death,
You who saw the dark of prison,
You who knew the price of faith:
Touch our world of sad oppression
With your Spirit's healing breath.**

SHARING THE PEACE

May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours

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THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

BIBLE READING

By the power of your Spirit,
open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love,
mercy, healing and blessing,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay.

You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

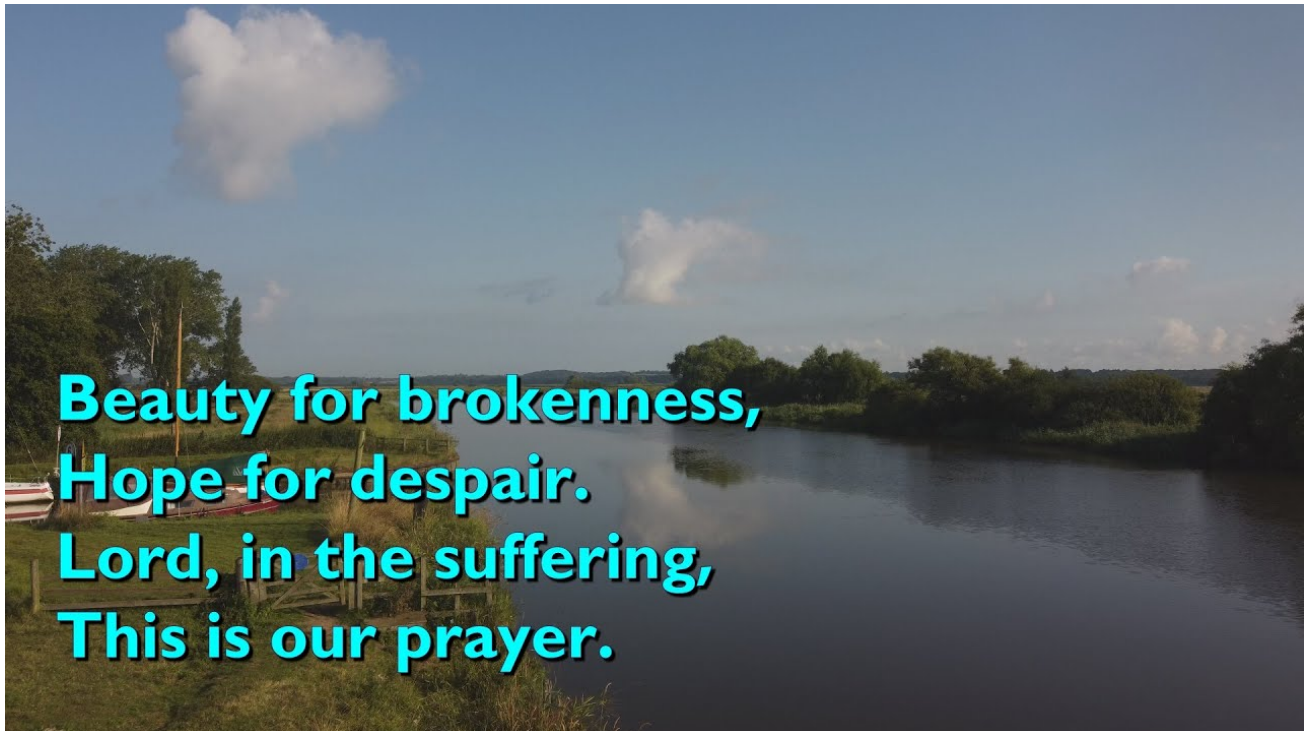
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness



■ THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

OFFERING

Loving God,
All that we have and hold in this life is a gift from You,
a sign of Your remarkable generosity to us.
May what we bring to You, our gifts of money, time, and talent,
be a sign of our generosity of spirit
and may You bless all we bring to You
and use it to further Your mission and ministry in this world.

NOTICES AND SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Make your church into a house of prayer for all the peoples of the earth,
that women and men in every place may love your name
and joyfully offer their lives in obedient service.
For our pastors, teachers, and ministers,
Loving God, **hear our prayer....**

Strengthen the leaders of your church
Help them to welcome the stranger and the outcast and to resist social divisions
that honour the rich and forsake the poor.
For the world and for its leaders, Loving God, **hear our prayer....**

Uphold the leaders of governments for the work of peace
especially our ...
provoke their hearts to justice tempered with mercy,
and lead them to do what is right in upholding the common good.
For those who farm the land, Loving God, **hear our prayer....**

Help farmers to live in harmony with your creation.
Bless their labours,
and teach them to be good stewards of our earth
and wise managers of the earth's produce. For children,
Loving God, **hear our prayer....**

Defend our children from danger, fill their lives with loving care,
and help us to rear them in holiness.
For the sick and those in distress,
Loving God, **hear our prayer....**

Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit,
and enable those who are able to support them in their need.
These prayers we offer through Christ by the power of your Holy Spirit.
In Jesus' name, we pray as he taught us to pray saying,

**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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen**

THE CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME



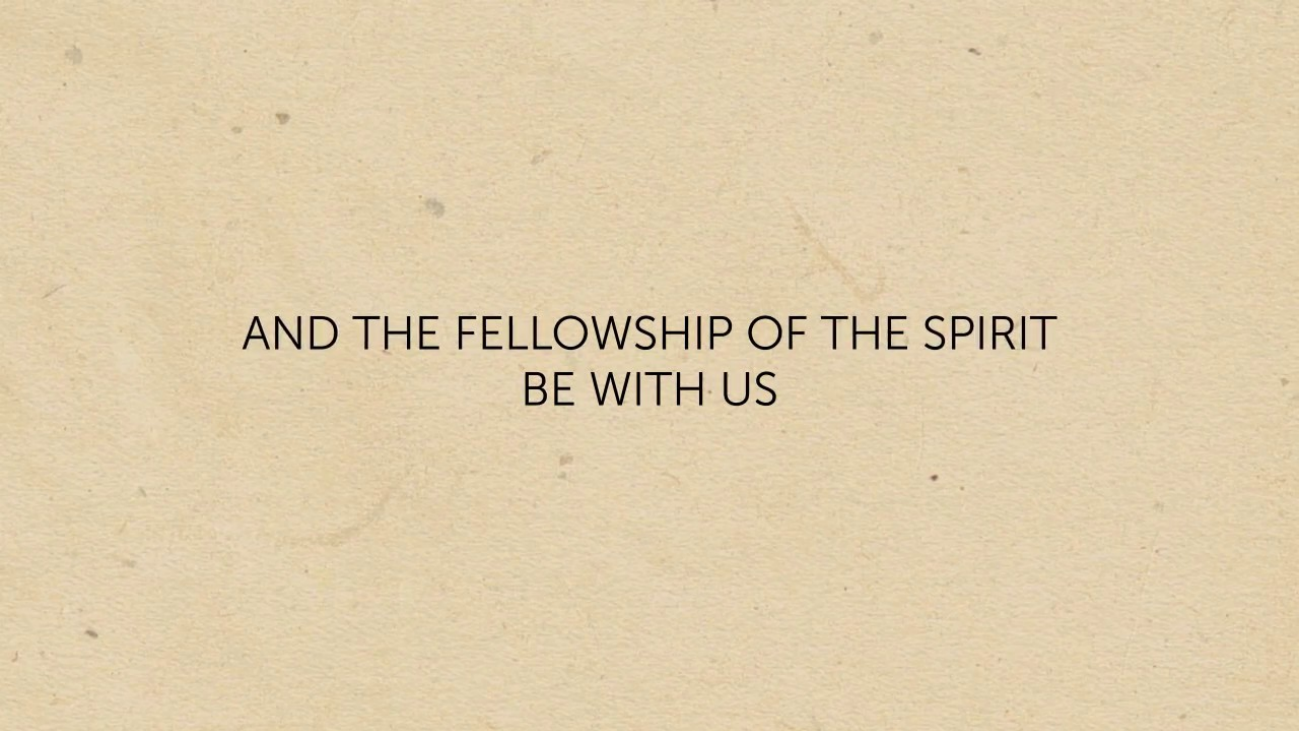
THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
go forth to serve your neighbour,
to love your enemy,
and to embody God's mercy in the name of Jesus Christ.

The blessing of God, source of life,
power of life, redeemer of life,
be with you now and always.
Amen.

HYMN "May the grace of Jesus Christ"



AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT
BE WITH US