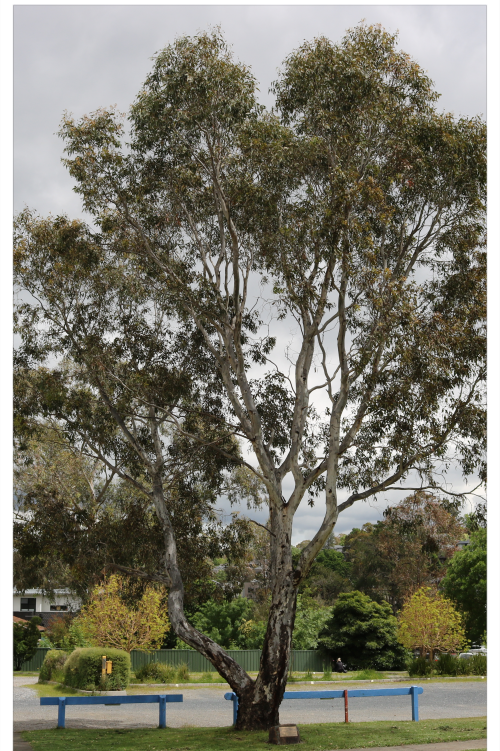


# **St. Margaret's Mooroolbark Uniting Church**

## **13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Sunday Service**

### **Season of Creation**

**Rev. Jinseon Park**



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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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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.

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### **SAFE CHURCH STATEMENT**

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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 132 Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty

**Holy holy holy  
All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea**

### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, bless the Lord,

**bless God's holy name.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

#### A DIRECTION PRAYER AND REPENTANCE Direction

Let us turn our hearts to the West!

From there the Thunders bring us cleansing rain,

**Creator God, heal us and our relatives.**

Let us turn our hearts to the South!

Winter comes to us from there and calls us to rest,

**Creator God, restore our strength.**

Let us turn our hearts to the East!

The morning Sun begins each day there,

**Creator God awaken us and help us to walk with a renewed life.**

Let us turn our hearts to the North!

Where the warm winds come from to give us comfort and joy,

**Creator God soothe our aching souls.**

Let us turn our hearts to the Sky!

From there our Creator sees all around us,

**Creator God help us to trust you to lead us.**

Let us turn our hearts to the Earth!

From there quiet wisdom comes to teach us,

**Creator God hear us as we pray.**

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God,**

**forgive us where we have failed to support one  
another and to be what we claim to be.**

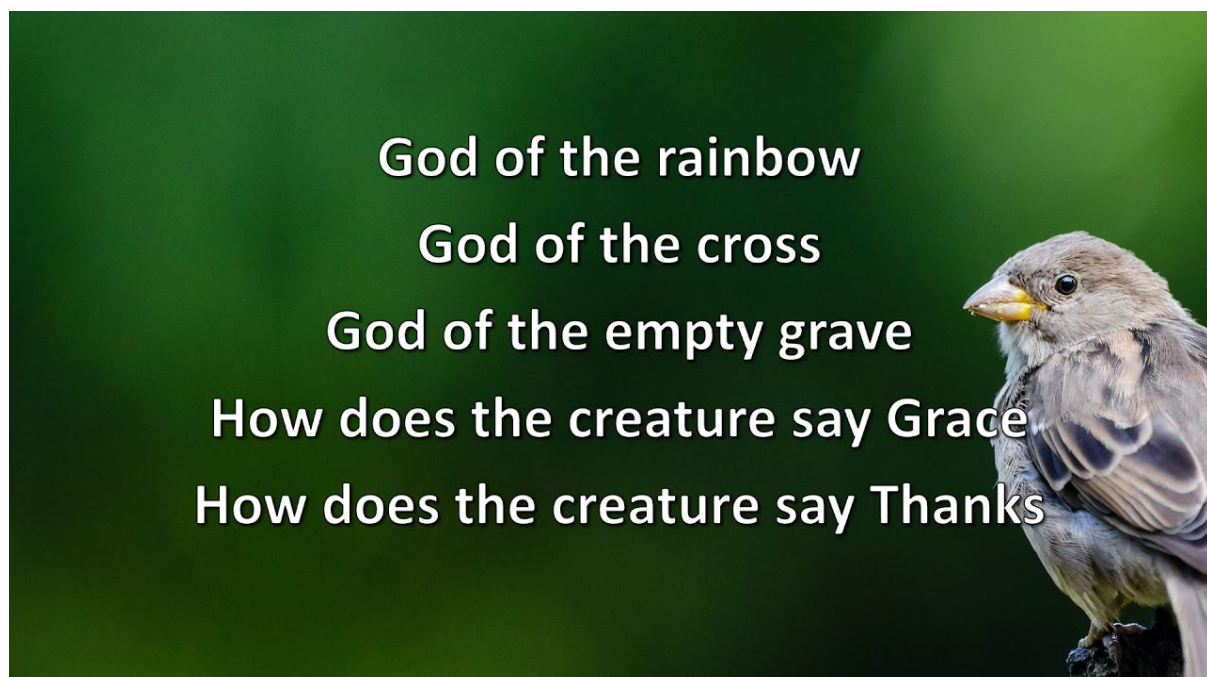
**Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;  
and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to  
yours we ask your pardon.**

God forgives us; be at peace. *[Silence]*

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,  
reconciliation for all the human race

And for the whole of creation. **Amen.**

**HYMN “God of the Sparrow”**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Exodus 14:19-31

*By the power of your Spirit, O Lord, make your Word become a joy to us and the delight of our hearts. Amen.*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

#### Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.'

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the



debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

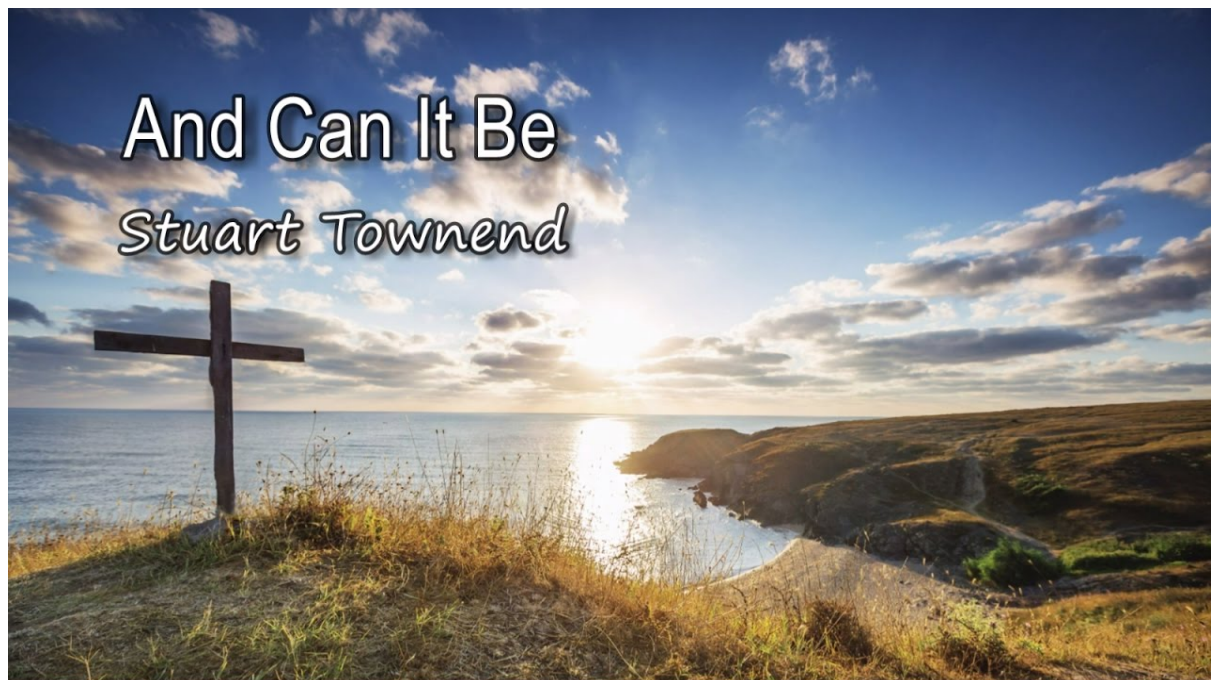
*Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

***Thanks be to God.***

## PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

## SERMON

HYMN TIS 209 And can it be



■

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## OFFERING PRAYER

O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. we thank and praise you. Amen.

## NOTICES AND SHARING

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Let us pray with the Lord's Prayer that Jesus has taught us.

**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 for ever. Amen.**

### HYMN TIS 648 Help us accept each other



## SHARING OF PEACE

Brothers and sisters,

Christ calls us to live in unity with each other and with the whole of Creation.

**We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.**

The peace of God be with you all.

**In God's justice is our peace.**

### SHARING CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

## ■ THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

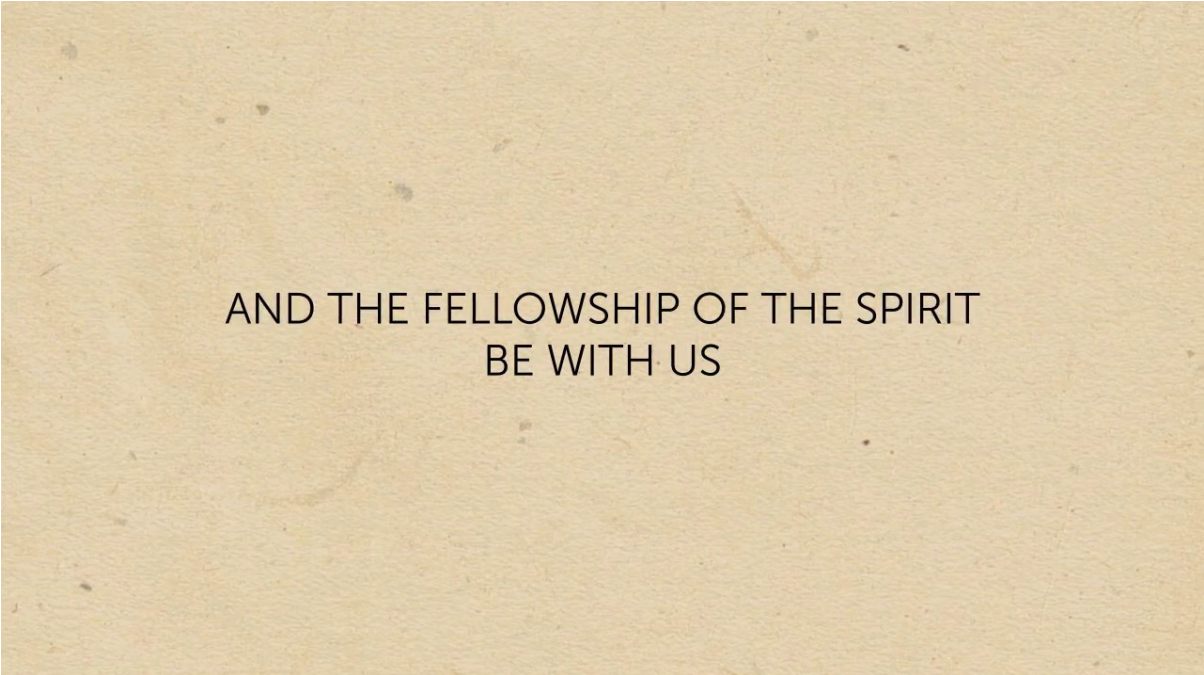
### BENEDICTION

Jesus said, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink;  
rivers of living water will flow from within them.'

May the grace you received today not stay pooled within you,  
but overflow wherever there is thirst.

Go now in the grace and peace of God our Creator,  
Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### HYMN "May the grace of Jesus Christ"



AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT  
BE WITH US

