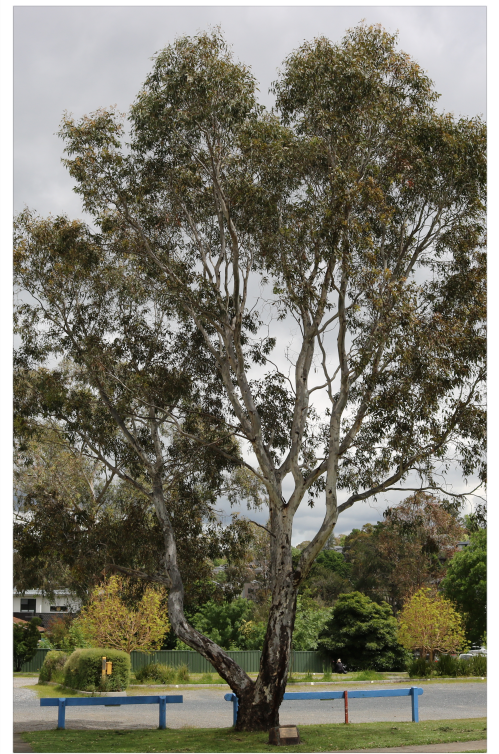


St. Margaret's Mooroolbark Uniting Church

20th September 2026 Sunday Service

+17th Pentecost & Season of Creation

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 52 Let us sing to the God



WELCOME

May the joy of Jesus be with you all!

And also with you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of One
who listens faithfully for those who cry out
and offers both comfort and challenge.

Let us call on God together.

We gather in the name of One
who waits patiently for those who are searching
and meets them on the way.

Let us seek out God together.

We gather in the name of One
who reaches out to those in need
and who fills them with good things.
Let us open our hearts together.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & CONFESSION

Generous God,
you come to us again and again,
no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives.
Calling to us, gathering us in,
you give us your good work to do,
daily bread, and boundless grace.
Increase in us a generous spirit so that
we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love.

We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives,
but also in the lives of other people,
even those we had not imagined would be included
in the kingdom you are bringing.
Align our hearts with your generous ways.

For we confess that our hearts can be small
when your mercy is wide.
We care deeply for what is close to us,
yet too easily overlook
people beyond our circle
and the life of your creation around us.

Forgive us when we draw the boundaries of your love,
when we are slow to show mercy,
and when we fail to care for the life you cherish.

Open our hearts again to your generous love,
for our neighbours, for strangers,
and for all your creation.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abundant in steadfast love.
In Christ, we are forgiven and renewed,
and invited to begin again
with open hearts and generous lives.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN P&W 40 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning,
new every morning,
great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord.
great is Thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

■

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Gracious God, as we hear your Word,
open our ears to listen and our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen.*

Jonah 3:10- 4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard **번역드**. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

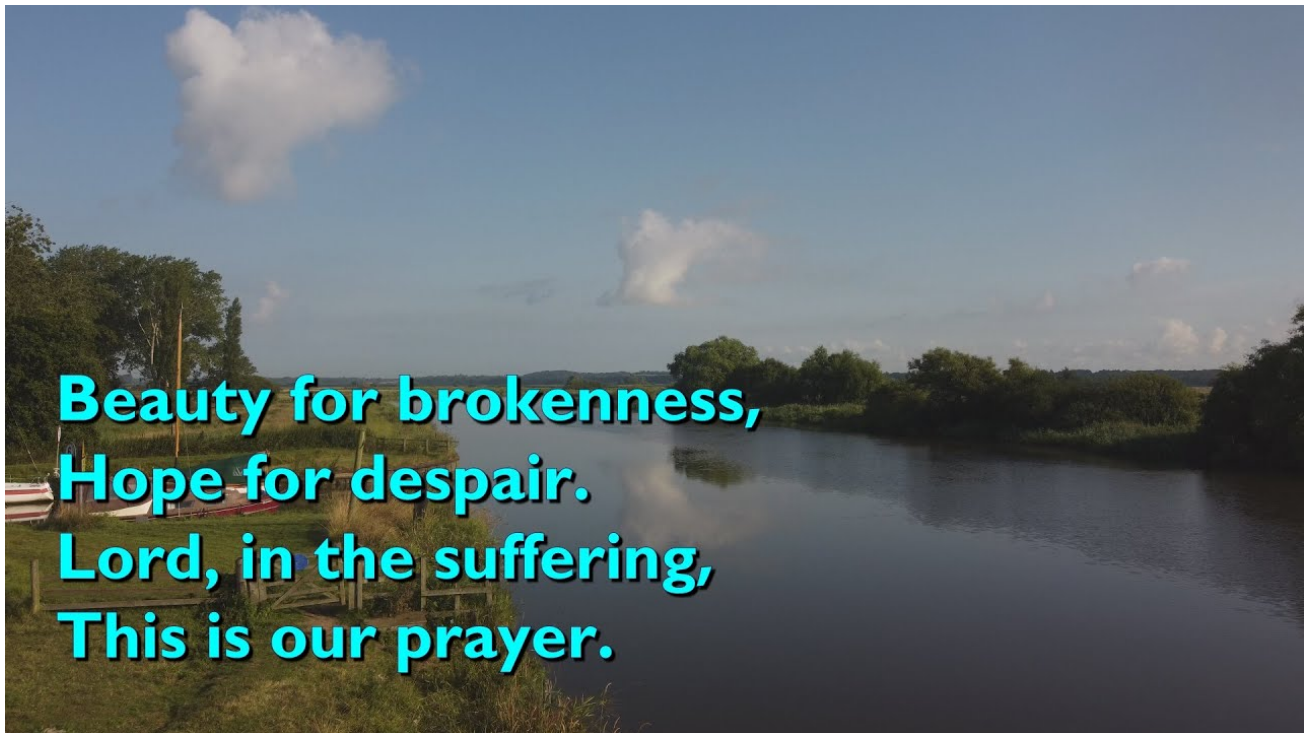
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness



■

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING PRAYER

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be counted among those whom you have called, graced to have been given your work to do, blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.

Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings, and do what you choose with what already belongs to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

NOTICES AND SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of unending mercy and steadfast love,
we are grateful that you are slow to anger,
for there is much in this world that is wrong and set against your purposes.
Overcome our many injustices with your justice;
overtake our lust for revenge with your great mercy.

We pray for nations locked in enmity to be set free from old patterns
and to embrace a new way of relating.

We pray for people who wield economic power -to take notice of those

whom you notice and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable.
We pray for day laborers and the unemployed and the homeless.

Inspire us who have enough to share what we have,
not in measured and resentful amounts, but gladly, abundantly,
so basic needs do not go unattended.

Gather up the first and the last,
the least and the greatest, in the common work of your kingdom,
until there is no more first or last at all,
for all are one in your name.

Help us all to see not only your grace at work in the world,
but also your humour at work among us,
the holy laughter that heals us and helps us see ourselves rightly.

We thank you for the privilege of believing in Christ,
of living in Christ, and of living for Christ.
In all things, at all times, we give thanks to you,
who never lets us go; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.**

SHARING CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

HYMN "What a mighty God we serve"



■

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

BENEDICTION

Go from here with open hearts,
ready to receive God's grace
and to share that grace with others.
May the generous grace of Christ attend you,
the abundant love of God surround you,
and the Holy Spirit guide you,
everywhere and always. Amen.

HYMN "What a mighty God we serve"