

Mooroolbark (St. Margaret's) Uniting Church

11th October 2026 SUNDAY SERVICE

20th 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 47 *Our God, our help in ages past*

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can tell all God has done? Who can say it all?

We can't. But we can come.

So bring your joy. Bring your delight.

And if joy feels far away?

Silence

Bring that too. There is room here for all of it.

Let us worship God, who gathers us together.

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

We might not all come with praise.

Joy might be furthest from our hearts.

Anger, sadness, and anxiety might mingle here too.

O God, you make space for it all.

Bring us together today to experience
the fullness of your steadfast love.
May we find your grace holding us close, now and always.

God of Moses, when the waiting gets long,
we reach for what we know.
We build small gods we can hold.
Gods that ask nothing of us.
Gods that never argue back.

When life breaks our hearts,
we go quiet. We swallow our anger.
We hide our fear. We forget you can hold it all.

And sometimes our anger runs loose. It cuts in harsh words.
It closes our fists.

Forgive us. Turn toward us again,
as you turned toward your people long ago. *Silence*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

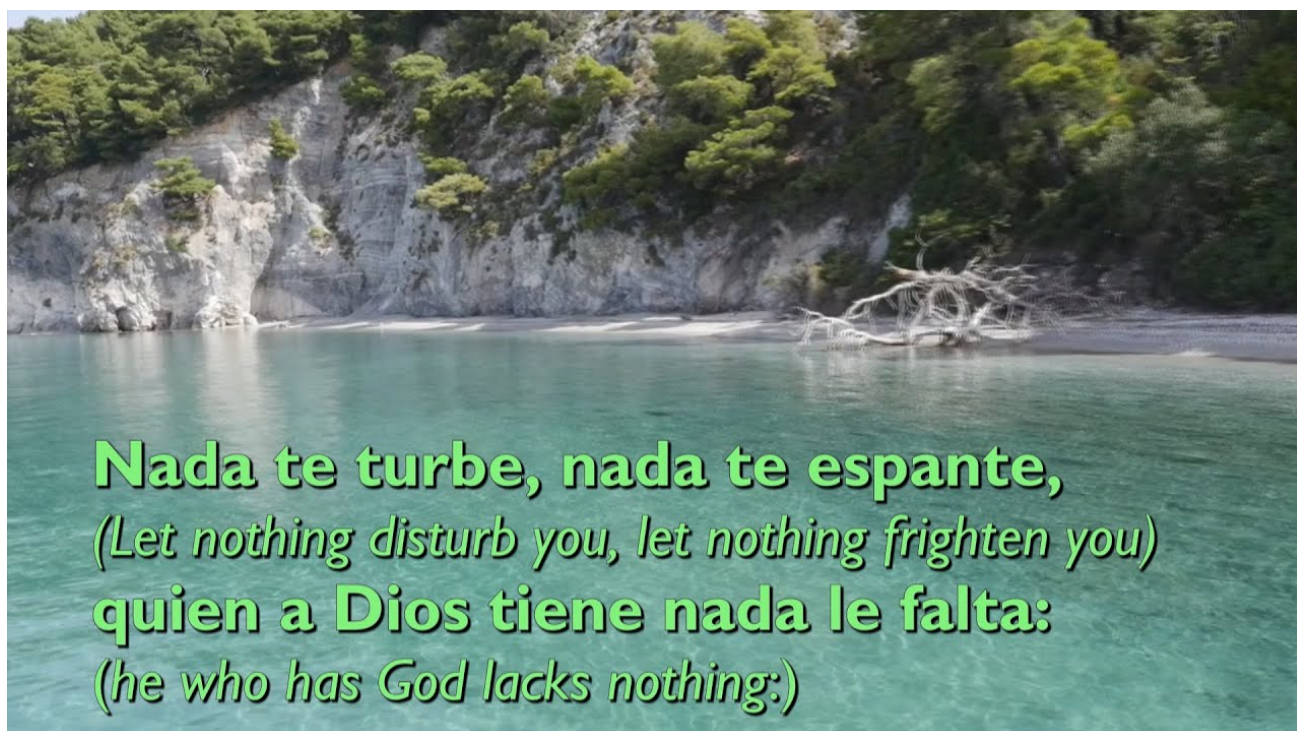
Moses stood in the breach.
He pleaded, and God listened.
God turned, and remembered love.

Hear the good news.
God has not stopped listening.
God has not stopped loving.
In Christ, the breach is mended.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Do not be afraid. God is here. Let us sing.

HYMN TIS 739 Nothing can trouble



SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

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THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God of Moses, God who listens, speak to us now.

We bring our ears and our hearts. We are listening.

The Book of Exodus 32:1–14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

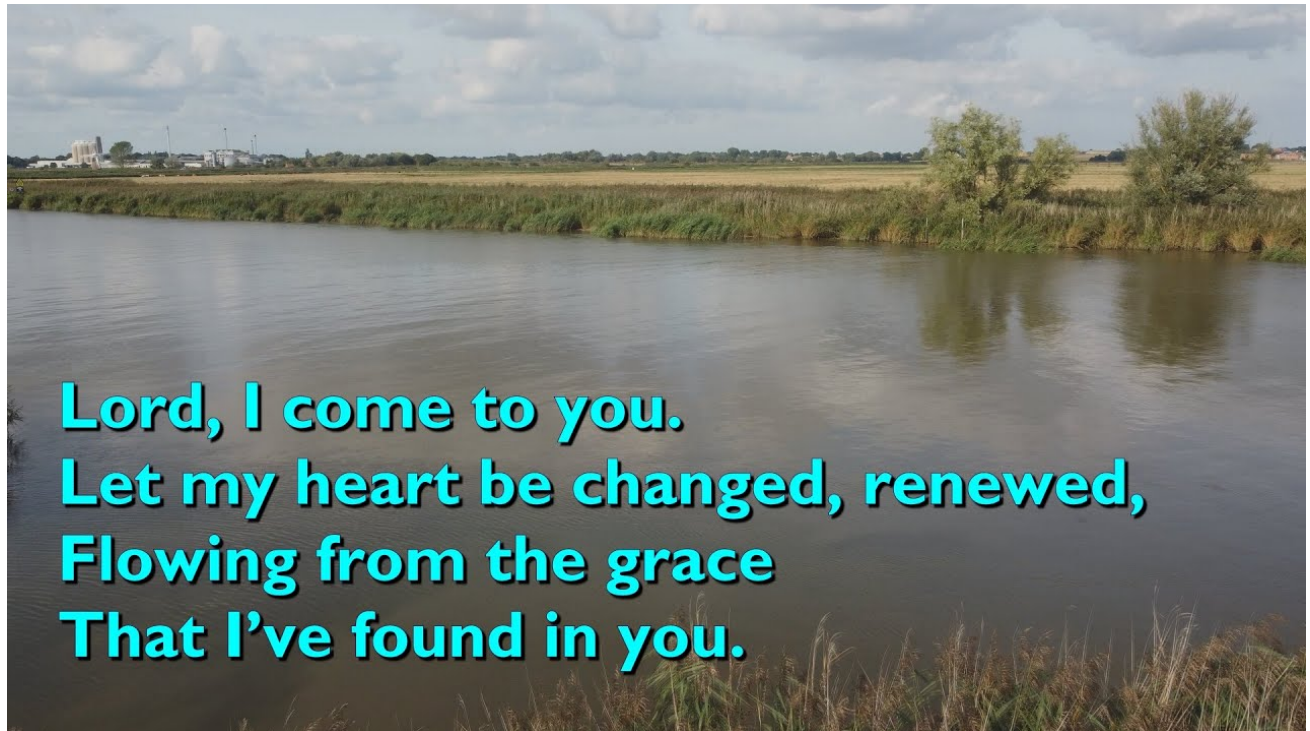
Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN TIS 685 Lord I come to you



OFFERING

Thank you, Holy One, for the fire in our bellies and the hope in our hearts.
It is with every emotion that we share these gifts with your people.
May they conspire with the work of your steadfast love. Amen.

NOTICES & SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy One,
you are with us in every part of the journey.
No one is beyond your gaze.
No one is forgotten.
You hear us when we sing,
and when we argue.
You hear us when we have no words at all.
God who holds us, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world.
For places torn by war and violence.
For people who have lost their homes,
and for all who are hungry, afraid or alone.
Give wisdom to those who lead.
Give courage to those who stand in the gaps.
Those who speak up, ask hard questions, and work for peace,
as Moses did.

God who holds us, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the children and young people of our church.
May they learn faith from those who have walked before them.
May the old and the young keep walking this road together.

God who holds us, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation.
For those who are sick,
for those who are grieving,
and for those who carry burdens we do not know.
Some things we cannot understand.
Some things break our hearts.
Come into our pain and sorrow, Holy One.
We need your comfort and grace.

Look at the water.
Our sorrow does not disappear.
It is held, in God's tears and in God's love.
Not one stone is lost.
Not one prayer is forgotten.

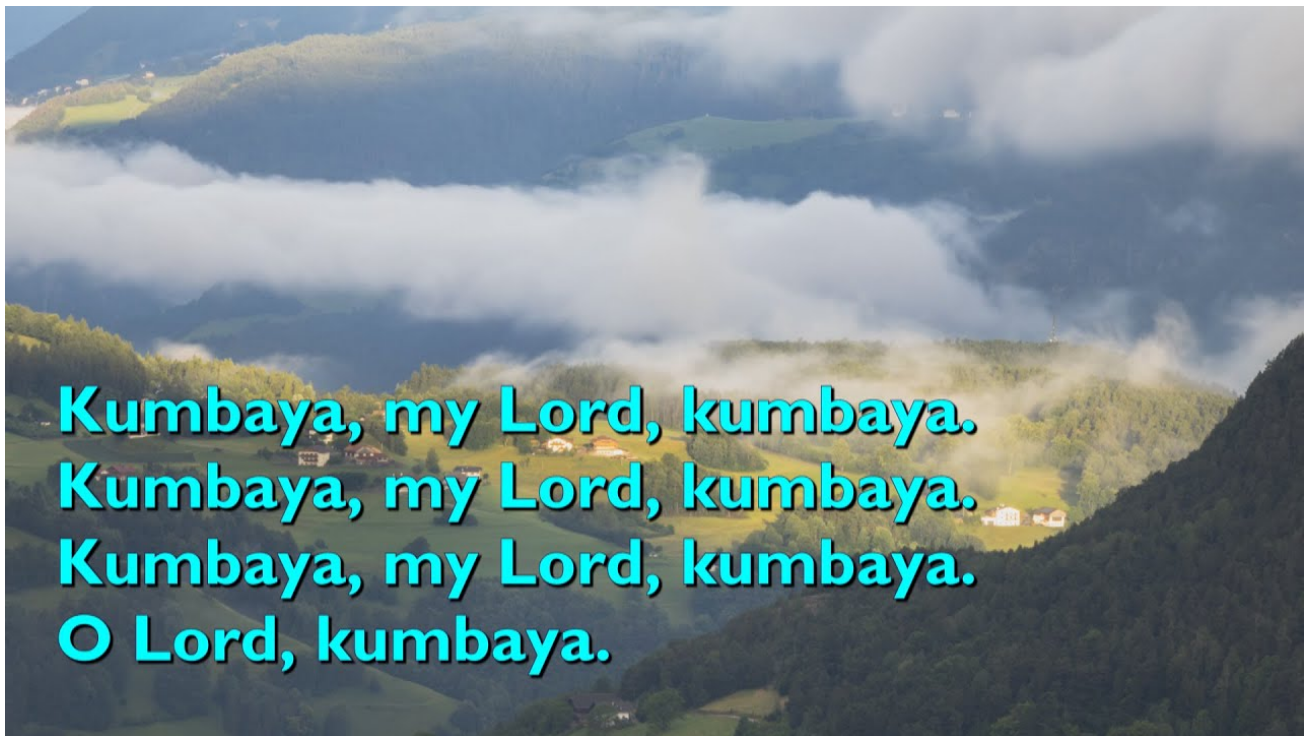
God who holds us, **hear our prayer.**

We gather all our prayers together,
spoken and unspoken,
as Jesus 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 forever. Amen**

CHILDRREN'S ACTIVITY

SONG "Kum Ba Yah"



THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

BLESSING & SENDING

Remember, dear one,
every emotion that you have felt this morning.
God does mighty works in this heart.
Remember these things.
Rejoice in these things as you go
into the world to help others find the truth in their hearts.
Go and love in the faith
that God's steadfastness endures and surprises.
God's love and peace will be with you always. Amen.

HYMN TIS 782 Go now in peace



Go Now In Peace

