Mooroolbark (St. Margaret's) Uniting Church

18th October 2026 SUNDAY SERVICE

International Day of Peace

Rev. Jinseon Park





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

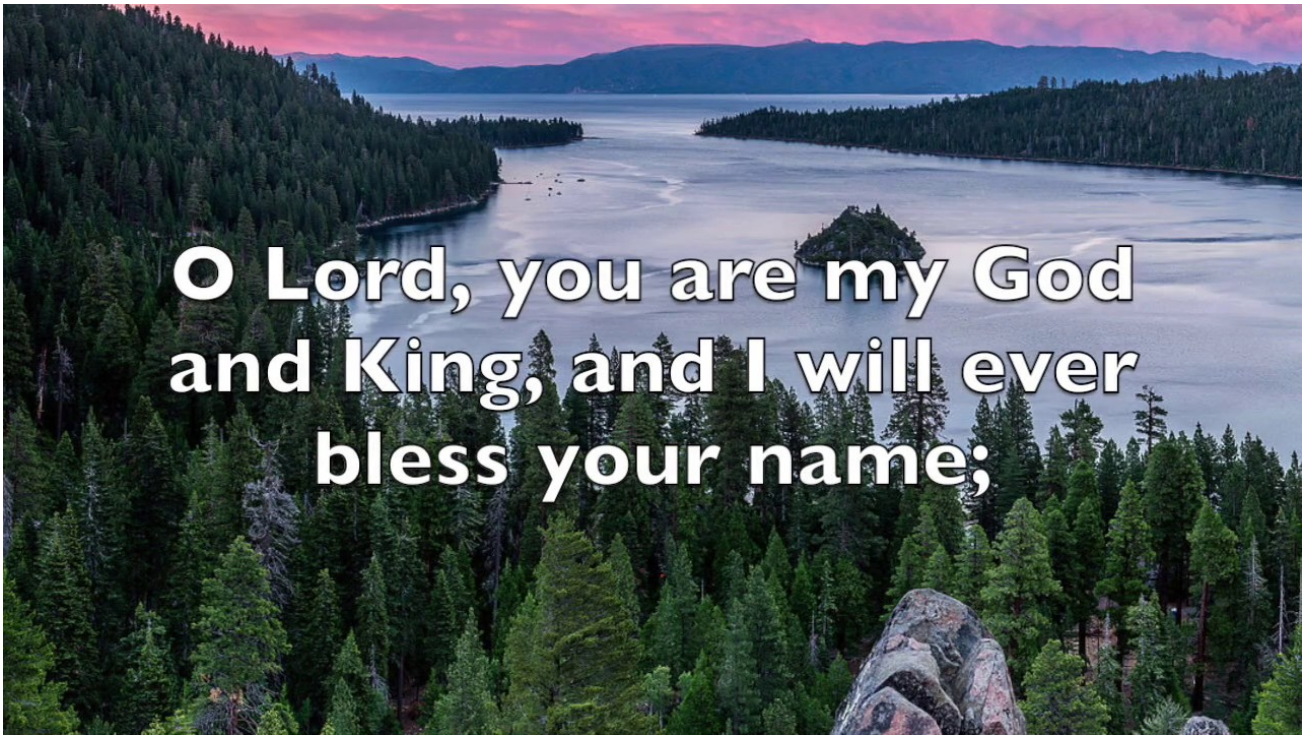
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. We give thanks for their deep spiritual connection to creation, for their care of earth, sky, and waterways through countless generations. As we worship in this Season of Creation, may 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 89 O Lord, you are my God and King



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of peace calls us together.

We come as we are, with our joys and worries, our hopes and struggles.

Peace is not only needed in places far away.

It is needed in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, and in our relationships.

We come to seek God's peace and to share it with others.

God calls us to live in faith, to work in love, and to hold on to hope.

May God's peace begin with us.

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

God of peace,
we have each come through a different week to be here.
Some of us bring good news. Some of us bring a heavy heart.
You know us all.
We are yours.

You were here before us, waiting for us.
In this hour, let us rest.
Keep us close to your Word, and close to one another.
Give us the peace we cannot make and cannot buy. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS (together)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

HYMN TIS 598 Dear Lord and Father of Humankind



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news. Through Jesus Christ, we have been made right with God, and we have peace with God.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

- ## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God whose image we bear, speak to us now.
We bring our ears and our hearts. We are listening.

Gospel of Matthew 22: 15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

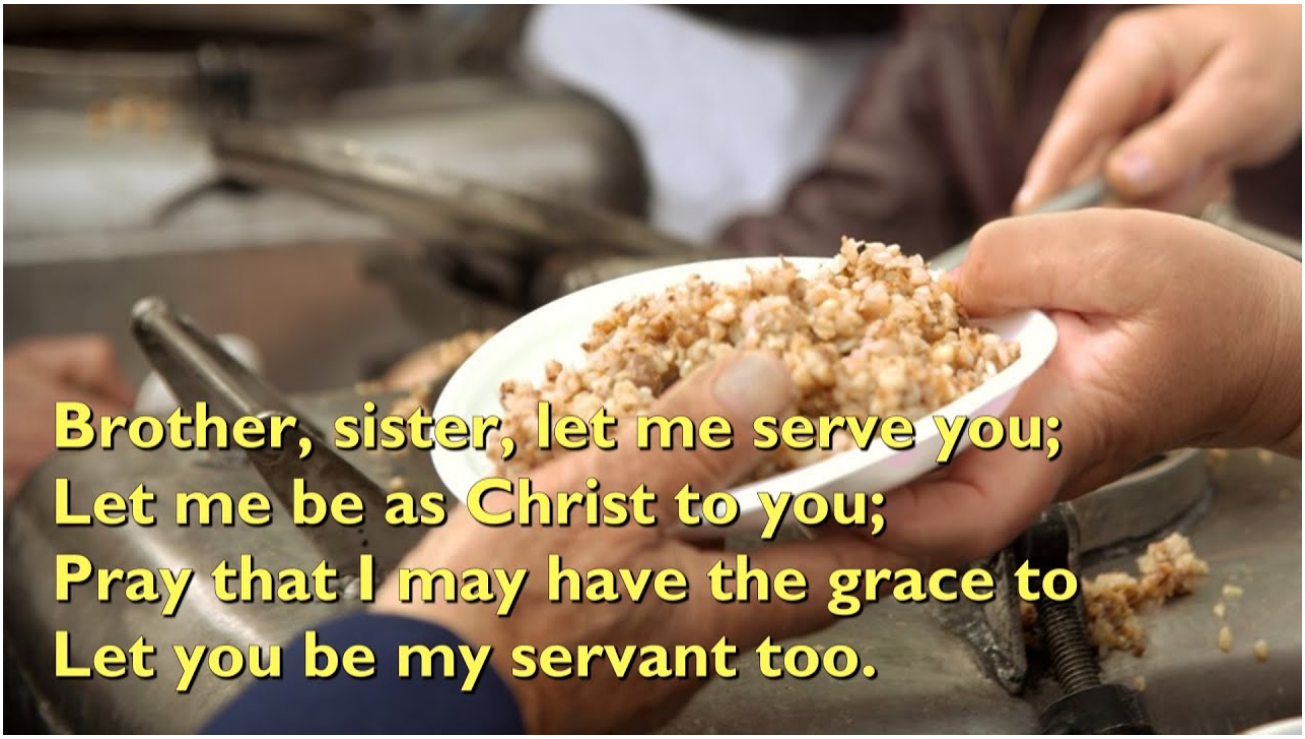
Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN TiS 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you



DEDICATION OFFERING

Generous God,
all we have, we first received from you.
Whether much or little, receive what we bring today.
Receive, too, the hearts of those who feel they have nothing to give.
May these gifts bring comfort to those who hurt, and company to those who are alone.
Use them to sow peace in our homes, in this neighbourhood, and in your world.
Amen.

NOTICES & SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

For places at war: *Ukraine and Russia. The Holy Land and Lebanon. Sudan. Myanmar. Afghanistan and Pakistan.)*
For our neighbourhood and our nation, where we are divided.
For those in our church family who are sick or weary.
And for the one person on your heart. The one you have not made peace with.
(silence)
…….

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

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SONG WITH CHILDREN "I've Got a Voice"

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

BLESSING & SENDING

Go into the world in peace.
Hold on to one another. Untie what you can.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord show you his face and have mercy on you.
May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
The Lord bless you.
Amen.

HYMN TIS 782 Go now in peace


Go Now
In Peace
grace
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST