Mooroolbark (St. Margaret's) Uniting Church

25 October 2026 SUNDAY SERVICE

Pentecost 22A

Rev. Jinseon Park





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

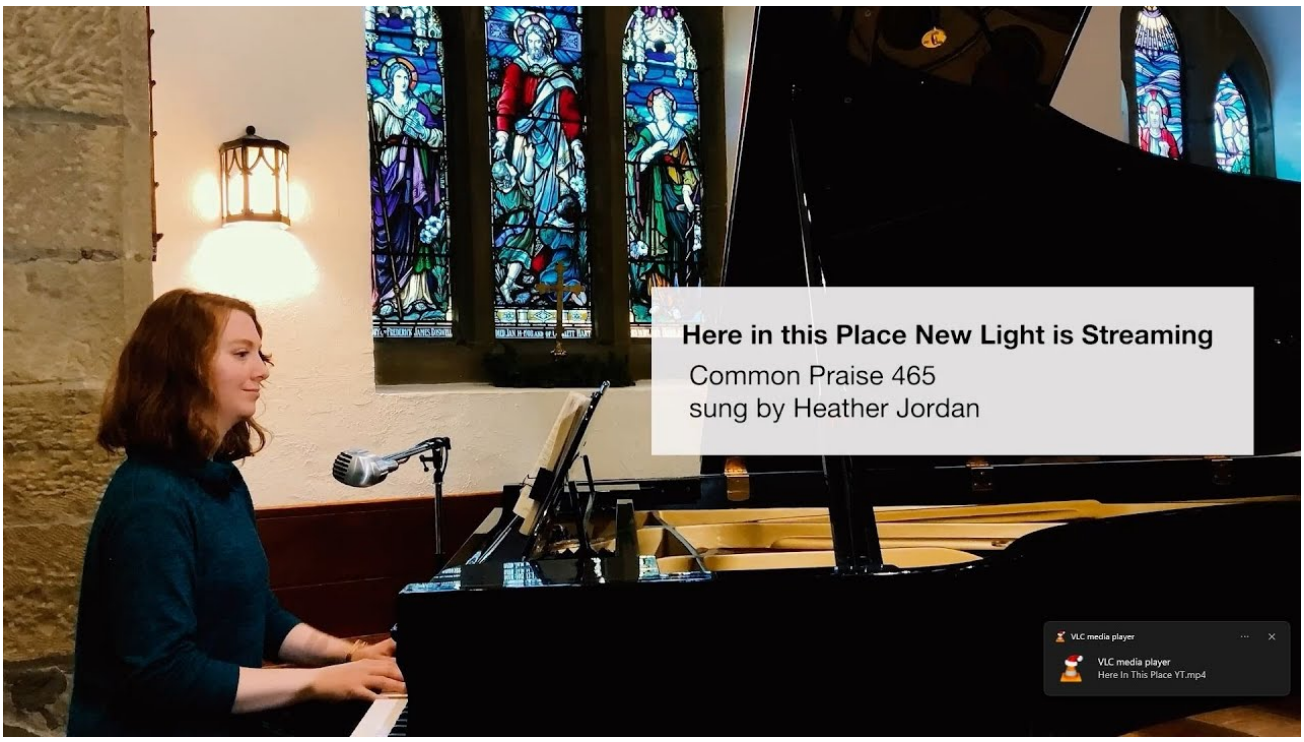
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. We give thanks for their deep spiritual connection to creation, for their care of earth, sky, and waterways through countless generations. As we worship in this Season of Creation, may 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 474 Here in this place



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

You, O God, know our hearts.
Guide our hearts, O God.

You, O God, see our ways.
Shape our ways, O God.

You, O God, call our spirits.
Call us now, O God, as we call on you.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of the early morning and the long afternoon,
God of the kitchen table and the hospital corridor,
we thank you.
You have been with us all week.

For bread, and the hands that made it,
for neighbours who waved,
for friends who stayed when it was hard,
we thank you.
You have been with us all week.

For the people we carry in our hearts today,
the tired, the grieving, the ones far from home,
hold them as you hold us.
You have been with us all week.

Like trees planted by running water,
root us in you,
and let our lives bear fruit for our neighbours.
In the name of Jesus, friend of all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of every neighbour,
you ask us to love the person next door
as we love ourselves.
Some days we do.
Some days we don't even notice they're there.

We have looked after the people we like,
and kept our distance from the ones we don't.
Forgive us, and teach us again.

We have passed on a story
that wasn't ours to tell.
Forgive us, and teach us again.

We have seen someone struggling
and kept walking.
Forgive us, and teach us again.

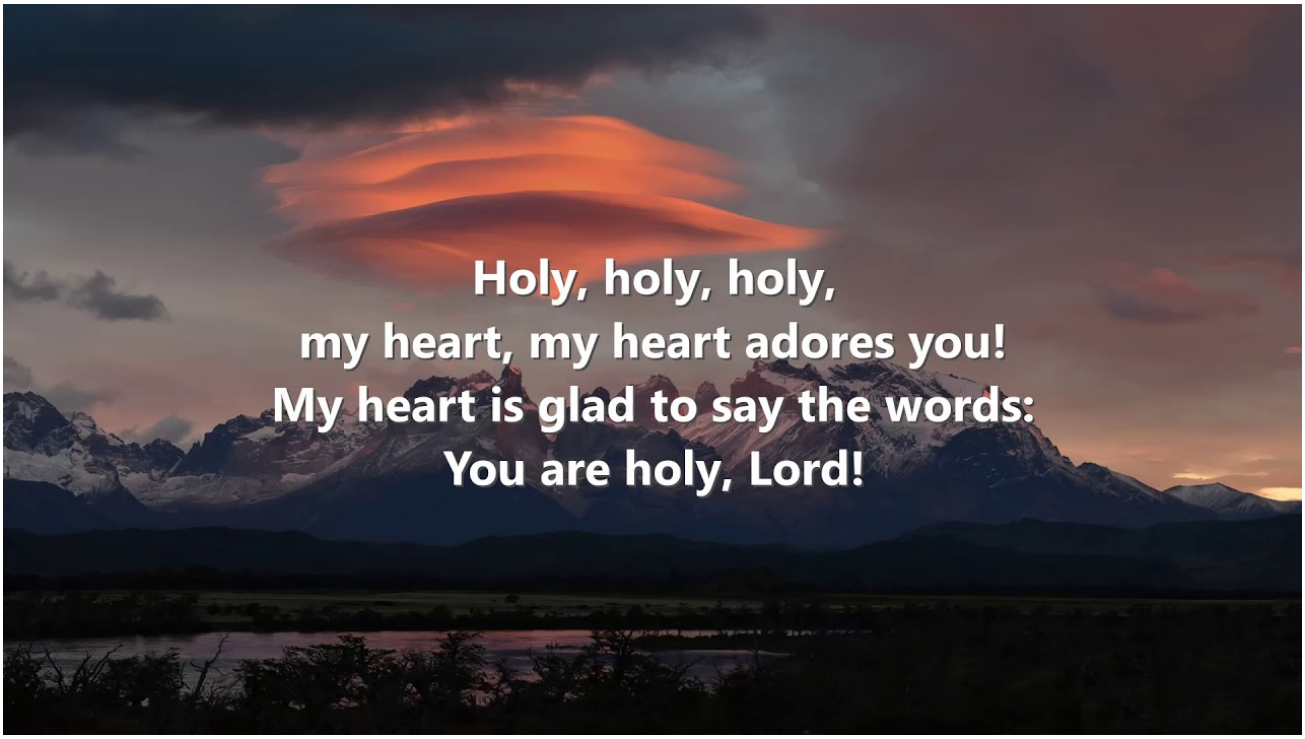
We have held on to a grudge
long after we should have let it go.
Forgive us, and teach us again.

Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news.
God does not hold a grudge against us.
God's love is like water to a thirsty tree.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN TiS 723 Santo, Santo Santo



- **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

EARLY WORD "Samaritan"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

"You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

HYMN TIS 217 Love divine, all loves excelling



THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

DEDICATION OFFERING

Generous God, here is our money, here is our time, here are our hands.
Take what we bring. Let it become bread for the hungry, a place to rest for the stranger,
and a kind word for a neighbour. Amen.

NOTICES AND SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Faithful God,
on this World Communion Sunday,
we pray for your church in every land.
In many languages and many places,
your people gather at one table today.
Hold us together as one family in Christ.
We pray for Christians who worship in fear,
and for churches that are struggling or small.
Keep them in your care.

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,
and strength to those who work for peace.

God who holds us,
hear our prayer.

On this Older Persons Sunday,
we give thanks for the older people among us,
and for all they have given.
Their faith, their prayers, their patience,
and the stories they carry.
We pray for those whose bodies are growing tired,
for those living alone,

for those in hospital or aged care,
and for those who have lost a husband, a wife, or a lifelong friend.
We pray for those whose memories are beginning to fade,
and for those who care for them.
When their hands grow weak, hold them fast.

God who holds us,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people and children of our church.
May they learn faith from those who have walked before them.
And 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.
(We hold silence, and name before God those on our hearts.)

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

VIDEO & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

BENEDICTION

Go out into the week.
The God who planted you by the water goes with you.
We go in love.

Look for your neighbour.
You will find Christ there too.
We go in love.

The Spirit, closer than your breath,
will hold you on the way.
We go in love.

The blessing of God, Creator, Son and Spirit,
be with you, now and always.
Amen.

HYMN "Go Now in Peace"

