

Mooroolbark (St. Margaret's) Uniting Church

4th October 2026 SUNDAY SERVICE

19th Pentecost

Rev. Jinseon Park



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

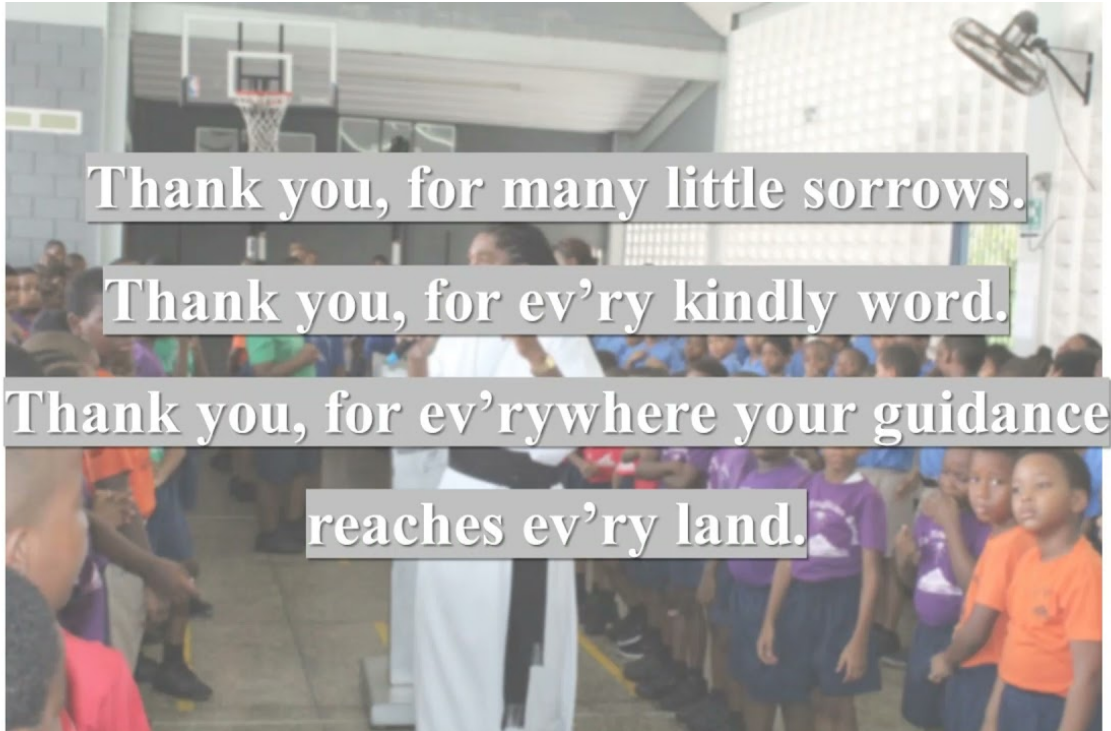
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. We give thanks for their deep spiritual connection to creation, for their care of earth, sky, and waterways through countless generations. As we worship in this Season of Creation, may 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 162 Thank you for giving me the morning



WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

God of steadfast love and overflowing grace,
thank you for calling us together on this holy day.
You have kept us through another week.
You have led us, step by step.
We remember your goodness, and we give you thanks.

Here, we lay down our worries and our busyness.
We turn our hearts to you.
Hold our thoughts. Hold our hearts.
Let our lips sing honestly.
Let our souls meet you, the living God.

On this Older Persons Sunday,
we thank you for those who walked the way of faith before us.
Their faithful lives and patient prayers
built the church we stand in today.

On this World Communion Sunday,
we remember that we are one body,
sharing one bread and one cup
with your people in every land.

From beginning to end,
may this worship give you glory.
Feed us through your Word
and at your table.

And yet, you know us.
We forget your goodness quickly.
This week, too, we carried
the disappointments and regrets of daily life,
and let them speak louder than your grace.
We measure ourselves by what we can still do,
and forget that we are yours.

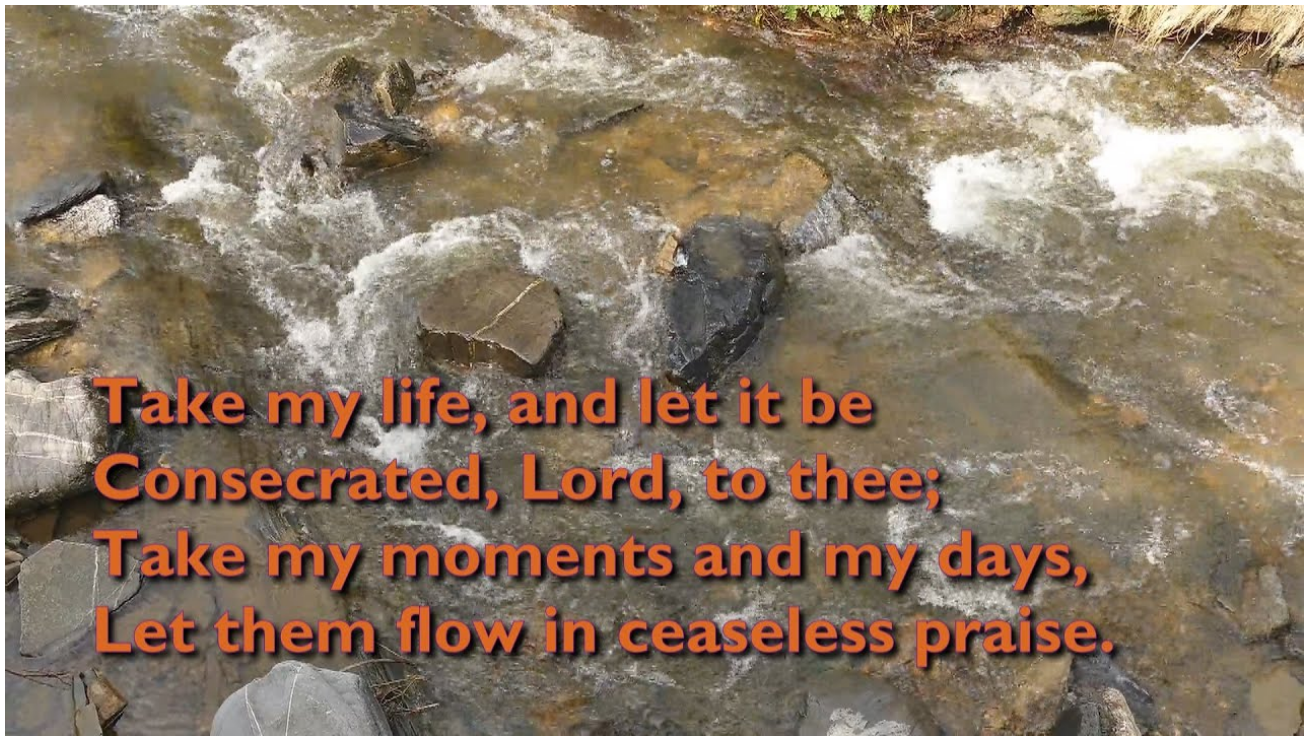
(silence)

Forgive us, faithful God.
Let the words of our mouths
and the thoughts of our hearts
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news.
God does not measure us
the way we measure ourselves.
Christ Jesus has made you his own.
Not for what you can do.
Not for what you remember.
Because God loves you.
Hear Christ's word of grace to us,
"Your sins are forgiven!"
Thanks be to God!

HYMN TIS 599(ii) Take my life and let it be



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THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Living God, open our ears to hear you today.

Let your Word take root in us. Amen.

The Gospel of Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

We have not yet arrived.

Christ has made us his own.

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

RESPONSE OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN "Have faith in God"

***Have faith in God, He's on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watches o'er His own;
He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.***

Have Faith in God

OFFERING

Generous God,
all we have comes from your hand.
We give it back to you,
with thankful hearts and open hands.
Bless these gifts,
and bless those who come after us. Amen.

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.

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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**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of every generation.

You spoke, and the heavens began to sing.

Day to day. Night to night.

Year after year, you have not stopped speaking.

You called Abraham and Sarah when they were old,
and gave them a promise they would not see fulfilled.

You brought your people out of slavery
and gave them your law as a road to freedom.

Parents told it to their children.

Children told it to theirs.

And the story reached us.

We thank you for Jesus Christ.

He welcomed children into his arms.

He let old Simeon hold him in the temple.

He touched those others would not touch,
and sat at table with those others left outside.

He is the stone the builders rejected,
now the cornerstone of your house,
where the young and the old,
the near and the far,
sit down together.

Today your church in every land
gathers at this one table.
In many languages, in many ways.
With those who went before us,
and those who will come after,
we join the song of heaven and earth:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE STORY OF THE LAST MEAL

We remember when Jesus, at table with his friends,
took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, and broke it.
As he shared it with his companions, he said,
"Take this, each one of you, and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me."
At the end of the meal, he took the cup,
and gave thanks to you, God of all generations.
He passed it among his friends, and said,
"Take this, all of you, and drink from it.
This is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this to remember me."

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD & CUP

Faithful God,
pour out your Spirit on us.
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Some of us remember much.
Some of us are losing our memories.
At this table, you remember us all.
Make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one with your church in every place. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. *(the bread is broken)*

The cup which we share is a sharing in the new covenant of Christ *(the cup is raised)*

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

NOTICES & SHARING & RETREAT REFLECTION VIDEO

BLESSING & SENDING

Christ has made you his own.
Go, and keep walking with him.

May God, who made you, Christ, who holds you,
and the Spirit, who walks with you, bless you all your days. Amen.

Go in peace,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN TIS 531 Sent forth by God's blessing



