

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG

DAY OF MOURNING

21ST JANUARY 2024



Rev. Tupe loelu

A WARM WELCOME to any who are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time today. Please make yourselves known. We trust you will enjoy this time of fellowship with us. You are invited to join us over a cuppa after the service.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

Today, as we gather to worship, we acknowledge the Wadawurrung peoples, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

We acknowledge that the First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers;

the Spirit was already in the land, revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

We acknowledge that the same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways;

and so we rejoice in the reconciling purposes of God found in the good news about Jesus Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our land is alive with the glory of God; desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing and mountains breathe their stillness.

All created things add their rhythms of delight and even stones rap out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth; may our hearts join the beat of her joy, for our triune God is with us:

the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us. Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.

The Spirit moves within and between us. Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

SONG TIS 154

Great is your faithfulness

1.

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail, and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.

Chorus:

*Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God to me.*

2.

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3.

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow-
these are the blessings your love will provide.

PRAYERS

Abba, Father, Bāpa God,
source of all life, answer our call,
as a mother responds to the cry of a child in the night.
Jesus Christ, teacher and liberator, friend of the poor,
dwell with us as healer of creation,
and restorer of hope.
Creator Spirit, bringer of hope, source of courage,
help us to listen, and open our hearts to the stories of these lands.

CONFESSION

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, lament the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land. We lament the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture, law and spirituality despised and suppressed.

We acknowledge and lament the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it.

We lament that in our own time, the injustice and abuse has continued.

We have been indifferent.

Gracious God, hear our confession —

We have not loved you with our whole heart,

nor have we loved First Peoples and other neighbours as ourselves.

***God of mercy, forgive us for our failures, past and present and
give us the grace today to make a fresh start.***

***By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts so that we may love as you
have loved us, that we may boldly speak your truth
and courageously do your will.***

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

This is the best of all:

When we are empty, God fills us;

when we are disheartened, God is compassionate; when we are wounded,
God brings healing; when we confess our sin, God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

You refill the cup of life, O God.

In Christ, we find refuge, strength and hope. Amen

SONG TIS 607

Make me a channel of your peace

1.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred

let me bring your love;

where there is injury,

your pardon, Lord;

and where there's doubt,

true faith in you.

O Master,

grant that I may never seek

so much to be consoled

as to console,

to be understood

as to understand,

to be loved,

as to love with all my soul.

2.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life,

let me bring hope;

where there is darkness,

let me bring your light;

and where there's sadness,

ever joy.

3.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning

that we are pardoned,

in giving of ourselves

that we receive,

and in dying

that we're born to eternal life.

BIBLE READINGS

Micah 6: 6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

John 14: 15-24

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to

the world?" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

VIDEOS

Spirit in the Land

First and Second peoples

TIME OF SILENCE

The gathered community may be invited into a time of silent reflection.

VIDEO SONG

How long?

OFFERING

NOTICES & SHARING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Give us the courage to
accept the realities of our history
so that we may build a better future for our nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Teach us to care for our land and waters.
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
to improve the quality of life
for all peoples in our communities,
especially the disadvantaged.
Help all young people to find true dignity
and self-esteem by your Spirit.
May your power and love
be the foundations on which we:
walk together as First and Second Peoples; and
build our families, our communities and our nation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SONG TIS 473

Community of Christ

1:

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:

the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

2:

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

3:

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound-
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

4:

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

WORD OF MISSION

People of God,
be strong and of good courage,
live as people of the Covenant,
seek justice and resist evil,

honour First Nations People and confront racism,
love and care for creation and turn from exploitation of the earth,
proclaim truth and challenge lies
until we are reconciled through God's love.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God,
ancient of days,
Jesus, embodiment of God's justice
and the Spirit, animator of Creation
Be on us and remain with us. **Amen**

SHALOM TO YOU NOW

Shalom to you now,
shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you,
my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.

WORSHIP SUNDAY 28th JANUARY

On the morning of 28 of January Yarra St will be closed to traffic access between 10.30 and 11.30 for the Cadel Evans cycling road race. Despite this, **morning worship will continue as usual at 10 o'clock**. We will only be affected up until 11.30, after worship – time to join for morning tea. If you need to get away from church before 11.30, please find alternate parking to Yarra St and to the car park at the front of the church accessed from Yarra St. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the church and in the Council car park, for which no payment is required on Sunday. Hope to see you on the 28th.

Graeme Harris

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23rd

Coffee and Chat

10.30 am at the Hub East
Geelong, All Welcome



January 24th

Craft Group

10.30 am



February 4th

Sunday Lunch



February 5th

Evening Fellowship



February 18th

Young Families Lunch

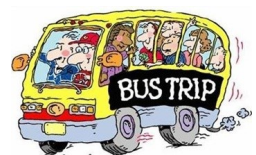
12.00 pm
Congregational Hall



February 21st

Bus Trip

10.30 am



RU OK?

Fundraiser
Start the conversation
Bring a friend

GARAGE SALE

Saturday January 27th



PROCEEDS to "RU Ok?"

Household items, Bric-a-brac, Vases
Souvenir spoons, Candles
Retro- collectables , Jewellery, Books
Kitchen storage containers, Rope, CD's,
Gym, & other stuff

164 Thornhill Rd, Highton
8am to 4pm remember to ask

RU OK ?

www.ruok.org.au Lifeline 131 114



YOU ARE INVITED to join the Wesley Sustainability Group.

We are members of Wesley who care about God's created world and are concerned about the effects of climate change on it. We try to do all that we can in our personal lives to minimise our carbon footprint and we like to gather together to encourage one another.

The Uniting Church in Australia has committed to net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest and we are working on doing our little bit to assist this, through our efforts here at Wesley.

We would welcome you joining with us. We meet once a month, alternating via Zoom and in person, on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30 pm. (although our January meeting is on the 30th , to allow folks to have their January break).

This year we are also gathering with our like-minded friends at Western Heights, on 4 occasions in the year.

Why not come along and check us out and get a feel for what we do?

If meetings are not for you, you may like to consider helping us out on Clean Up Australia Day on March 3rd at 4 pm.

Call Sue Strong on 0437 741077 or email Sue at susanannestrong@hotmail.com

Daily Diary

Tuesday	23rd January	10.30 am	Coffee and Chat
		7.30 pm	Church Council
Wednesday	14th January	10.30 am	Craft Group
Sunday	28th January	10.00 am	Church Service

Rosters

	Today	Next Sunday
WELCOME	Jackson Bell	Ian and Vicki Uldrich
READER	Michael Nolan	Orisi Qaranivalu
Camera Operator	Lauris Lowe	Tim Qaranivalu
Data Projection	Graeme Harris	Keith Fagg
Morning Tea	Mercie Wetherall, Nora Morales, Jill Shalless	Shirley Ogle
Offering Counters	Jan and Ruth	Vicki and Ian
Communion		

MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

MINISTER: Rev. Tupe loelu	0448 415 656
CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACTS: Chairperson: Graeme Harris Secretary: Heather Cooney	0429 415 613 0477 805 234
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