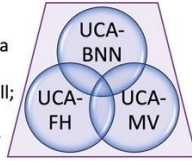




# Whitehorse Uniting Cluster

The Uniting Church in Australia  
Congregations of: Blackburn  
North / Nunawading; Forest Hill;  
and Mountview (Mitcham);  
in a shared ministry together



## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**YouTube Introit - Be Still for the presence of the Lord 2011 Northern Baptist Association**

<https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U>

Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before Him now with reverence and fear:  
in Him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.

Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

**Words and music: David J Evans**

### Welcome

May the Worship Bless You

### Acknowledgment



### The coolamon Prayer – Rev Tina Lyndon

A coolamon is used to dig or scoop water or collect roots and vegetables or as a carry all for bush tucker.

It takes a long time to make one, long hours of chipping away using a stone axe or sharp shell. A coolamon wants to be filled, like our hearts. It is an open vessel, like our hearts.

I've placed seeds in my coolamon. I love to propagate seeds. Perhaps these seeds will grow. God plants seeds in our hearts. Seeds that can grow, if nurtured. Seeds that grow in darkness, to begin with. We nurture the seeds in our hearts in stillness and awareness of how God is speaking into our hearts.

Aboriginal culture embraces stillness and patient waiting. Dadirri is about the respect of nature and identifying with land as sacred, where the story of creation is born and is a cause for deep awe. Dadirri is the quiet waiting in stillness where we open our heart to God and all in creation. Allow silence, nature and prayer to nurture the seeds God has planted in your heart.

Let us pray

Lord, you have created a deep spring within each one of us and in this spring is your spirit which calls us. In this deep spring is the Word of God, Jesus loving us and gifting us life. Lord, help us hear your words of comfort and life in this moment of silent waiting on you.

*Silence*

Amen

## Call to Worship

We invite the skies to worship with us:  
**the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.**

We join the heavens in praising God:  
**proclaiming God's glory across the globe and hailing God's name with the evening stars.**

We join with the atmosphere in worship:  
**the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.**

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:  
**to carry the life-giving drops of rain, that give hope and healing to Earth.**

We invite the winds to join our petitions:  
**to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.**

We celebrate the song of the skies!  
**Sing! Skies! Sing!**

We invite you to name sky creatures to join us in worship:

***We name, silently or aloud, other creatures or parts of the sky or atmosphere and invite them to join us in praising our Creator.***



We celebrate the song of the skies!  
**Sing! Skies! Sing!**

## Prayers

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies, we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the evening sky, your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth.

Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds, and the sky.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.

Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our loved ones, songs of celebration from the stars, the rains and the light. Christ, teach us to care.

## Remembering

***As we hold the prayer flag received at the door, we remember painful prayers, tears we have shed and the tears of our loved ones.***

**L** Take the prayer flag you received at the door and move it quietly in front of you. Remember your painful prayers, tears you have shed and the tears of other creatures on the planet. Remember the tears you have shed over wrongs committed against friends, against animals and against children.

**P** **We hear creation groaning.  
We hear creatures crying out in pain.  
And we hear the skies weeping with us.**

**L** We remember and reflect.

**P** **Thank you, God, for eyes that weep and for tears that fall from heaven.**

### **Confession**

We share the sorrow of our planet.  
**We share the sorrow. We share the tears.**

### **Absolution**

**Christ, teach us compassion for the life that suffers around us.**  
Christ affirms our compassion. We dry our tears and embrace those in pain.  
**Shalom! Shalom!**  
**We embrace those in pain.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another.  
**The peace of the Lord be with you**

**Hymn TIS 143: Immortal invisible 2016 BBC**  
**The Royal Garrison Church of all Saints, Aldershot – Hymn Channel**  
<https://youtu.be/pfu1dqKCGd8>

### **Readings**



### **Psalm 29**

The Voice of God in a Great Storm

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, <sup>2</sup> ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendour.

<sup>3</sup> **The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.**

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> **The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,<sup>[b]</sup> and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

### Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;<sup>16</sup> for in<sup>[a]</sup> him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

<sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in<sup>[b]</sup> him all things hold together.<sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.<sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,<sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

### Luke 8:22-25

<sup>22</sup> One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, <sup>23</sup> and while they were sailing he fell asleep.

A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. <sup>24</sup> They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!'

And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

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### Don't be Afraid – Scotland 2017

Alison Adam, Chorus pro Musica and John Bell

<https://youtu.be/LXCMv5IF-TM>

### Reflection – Rev Tina

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen*

Most fishing boats were not big in Jesus' time. They were a bit like large wooden rowing boats, so I'm not sure how many disciples were in the fishing boat that set out across the Sea of Galilee. It may have been calm when they set out. Then the wind changed, and the waves began to rise and fall and the seasoned fishermen became afraid of their boat being flipped over and drowning.



*Revised Common Lectionary*

I remember storms from my childhood while living on lighthouses. The sky would turn black for days, then the wind would come howling against the solid stone walls of our house and being inside felt comforting. Then thunder,

lightning and heavy rains would follow. The wind was once so strong, it lifted the roof off above my bedroom and water came pouring in and ran down the walls. I sat on an old iron bed paddling my feet in water. To amuse myself I screamed as loud as I could, but my voice was drowned out by thunder and lightning. The lightning hit the lighthouse, went down the earth and blew a metal plate out of the ground. It caused a huge explosion that sounded like a bomb going off. Storms like this prevented fishing boats from bringing over the groceries and mail, sometimes for a month or more. We'd have to kill an animal and forage for wild vegetables.

Sometimes we took the ketch to Mallacoota to go shopping. It meant crossing the sandbar into the inlet. One day the wind picked up and the waves kept increasing in size and rocked the boat backwards and forwards, where one side of the boat would tip right over and touch the water, then roll back over to the other side and touch the water. About an hour of this left my face looking a little green. We were so afraid of the boat tipping over and drowning. Most of us couldn't swim.

Knowing about the power of the sea and storms, makes it easy to imagine how seasoned fishermen were afraid of drowning. We hear about Jesus sleeping in the boat. He must have had a lot of trust in God.

The disciples were so afraid, they had to wake Jesus up. They were shouting, *'Master, Master, we are perishing!'* Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. He spoke and the storm was stilled, and all was calm.

Then the disciples were afraid, and felt awe and were amazed. It was a different kind of fear. A holy Fear. They asked: Who is this? Who is this who commands the storm to be still? Jesus spoke to them, reassuring them, asking them to have faith and not to fear.

It seems there are two kinds of fear. The fear of death and the fear of God. We are afraid of dying. Yet our fear of God reminds us we find eternal life through our faith in Jesus. Perhaps this is the good news for us, today.

So, who is Jesus? Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, tells a little about Jesus. He tells us Jesus is the Cosmic Christ, wisdom embodied and the image of the invisible God. He says Jesus is the head of this church, where the new creation has been born and grows. We are that church, his body and through him we are blessed. Paul says Jesus is the firstborn and God dwells in him, where he is incarnated. People have pondered about the meaning of incarnation for centuries and they will continue to ponder. It is a mystery.

Paul says Jesus reconciled all creation to God, and that he renews all creation, including us. This is the big picture, and we are all part of it and everything we do alters creation, in some way.

We may ponder about how Jesus' crucifixion brought about forgiveness and liberated all creation from hostile forces in the cosmos. How he set us free. Try to imagine what our lives would be like, if we did not have forgiveness. All creation is being restored through Jesus which means salvation is cosmic and not confined.

Most of us may agree Jesus is:

God with us

One who stands with us in all circumstances, changes, and challenges

One who suffers in solidarity with us

One who comes to us to comfort and carry us when we are unable to go on

Yet each of us experiences Jesus differently and uniquely just as we are made into a unique human being over a lifetime. We may not see Jesus, but we know him as the one who stills storms within our hearts. The one who settles our hearts and brings a comforting peace. We know him as the one who loves us.



*Sea Of Galilee*

**YouTube Song: O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus  
Fernando Ortega - Audrey Assad 2016**

<https://youtu.be/1vUhwjydk8A>

### **Offering Prayer**

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

**With all creation, we bless our Creator.**

### **Prayers of the People - Derek Moore**



Let us come before God in prayer.

Today we pray for the nations of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico – countries with long and significant histories. We pray for the wellbeing of their populations during the pandemic and for religious tolerance between their peoples.

In the Ecumenical prayer cycle, we pray for Mitcham Baptist Church, and in our Presbytery for the Richmond congregation. Lord, please bless these faith communities and be with them in their worship and outreach. We uphold to you the staff of Synod's Communication Unit and the Crosslight magazine – may the communications that are generated be uplifting and wide-ranging. We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine, as soon as possible. For those experiencing food insecurity, we ask for sufficient food for all, irrespective of employment status. In relation to the impending vote about the Whitehorse Cluster we ask for clarity of thinking about our future.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

You are all invited to join me in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 for ever. Amen

*We thank God for a wondrous creation. We celebrate with all the heavens. We pray for all those in need.  
We name them now.*



### **Communion**

The Spirit of 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  
**It is right to give our thanks and Praise**

Archangels sound the trumpets  
 Angels teach us their song  
 Saints pull us into your presence  
 And this is our song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God**  
**Our life, our mercy, our might**  
**Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory**  
**Save us, we pray, you beyond all**  
**Blest is the one who comes in your name**  
**Save us we pray, you beyond all**

And so we cry, Mercy:  
**Mercy!**  
 And so we cry, Glory:  
**Glory!**  
 And so we cry, Blessing!  
**Blessing!**

Holy God we beg for your spirit, enliven this bread  
 Awaken this body, pour us out for each other  
 Transfigure our minds, ignite your church  
 Nourish the life of the earth, make us though broken, whole  
 Make us, despite death, alive, and so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

You, Holy God, Holy one, Holy Three,

Life-giver, pain-bearer, love maker. Source of all life that is and shall be  
 Father and mother of us all, loving God, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by all peoples of the world!**

Your heavenly will be done  
**By all created beings!**  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
**Sustain our hope and come on earth!**  
With the bread we need for today, **Feed us**  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, **Forgive us**

In times of temptation and test, **Strengthen us**  
From trials too great to endure, **Spare us**  
From the grip of all that is evil, **Free us**  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever, **Amen**

Christ is the bread of Promise  
**For whom the Prophets Hoped**  
Christ is the cup of Peace  
**The Justice of God**  
Let us receive what we are  
Let us become what we receive  
**The body of Christ**

#### **Invitation**

This is the table of the Lord. It is an open table where all are welcome  
These are the Gifts of God for all the People of God  
**May we who Share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us**

The body of Christ keep us in eternal life  
**AMEN**  
The Blood of Christ keep us in eternal life  
**AMEN**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Blessed be God who calls us together  
**Praise to God who makes us one people**  
Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin  
**Praise to God who gives hope and freedom**  
Blessed be God whose word is proclaimed  
**Praise to God who is revealed as lover**

Blessed be God who alone has called us  
**Therefore, we offer all that we are and all that we shall become**  
Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise  
**Amen. Accept our thanks for all that we are.**  
**Our hands were empty and you filled them.**

**YouTube Hymn 658: I the Lord of Sea and Sky**  
**Chet Valley Churches 2020**  
<https://youtu.be/2zr9SMm1gll>

#### **Prayer for Healing**

May the power of Christ's love reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen



### Sending Out

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion,  
to serve Earth by caring for creation, especially the atmosphere above  
that gives breath to all creatures of Earth.

Hold again the prayer flag in your hands.

**We will celebrate the winds!**

**We will plead for creation!**

**We will flood the sky with prayers!**

Will you care for creation?

**We will care for creation! We will nurture our planet! We will celebrate with the sky!**

### Blessing

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in sky  
and Earth and the presence of Christ within you.

Go in peace!

Serving Christ and loving Earth!

**We go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.**

**Hymn 779: May the Feet of God Walk with You**

**2015 Robin & Dorothy Mann**

<https://youtu.be/WfOFIWxGaP8>

### Pastoral care tips -Rev Tina



*Musician with Auntie Joy and the Dali Lama*

Poetry is written for all people and both ancient and modern, speaks to all through the ages. Each of us finds our poem. Sometimes the poem finds us.

This poem was written by **Roslyn White** and appears in her book **Stammerings**.

#### Ancient Wisdom

Confusion hovers this ancient land  
where waves of heat, torrential rains,  
harsh winds, fire, and drought  
weave stories of duress.

Mountains heaved, oceans invaded  
leaving mollusc and dinosaur frozen in time  
clutching secrets in the womb of this dusty,  
pockmarked land.

No comfortable landing place here  
Amidst ghost gums holding witness to  
Stories of sadness and loss keening across chasms  
Filling gorges with litter under Tjukurpa skies

where songbirds first assembled to etch the ear before Chronos crested time to birth anxiety.  
Good intentions and pity plied a cord  
that strangled and liberated.

Leaving altar cloth and bell covered with the  
dust of silent confusion,  
remembering songs not yet resolved  
nor modulated into peace.

Dry river beds became the playground  
for big boys playing games on overgrown trucks.  
Climbing sacred places just for fun,  
memories for dinner party telling just begun.

Old language and wisdom refused to be extinguished. The millennia of knowing and caring,  
too deep to be erased, matched  
country hostile to attempts to tame.

Grandmothers gather bush tucka and  
stories to feed those with ears to hear.  
Respect in time honours song lines and  
surrenders ignorance.

To hear the ancient wisdom tell a tested truth,  
to challenge prejudice,  
look again with less clouded eyes  
to clarify the story,  
and allow a truthful history  
no longer covered with the leaf litter of lies.

*Used with permission*