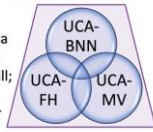


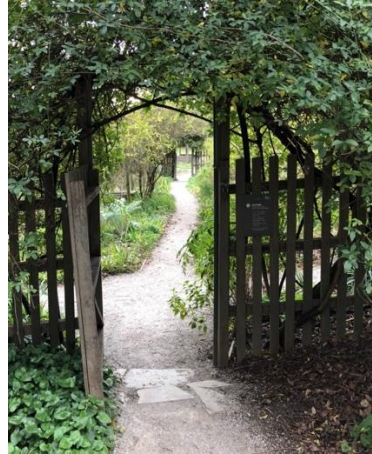


**Whitehorse
Uniting
Cluster**

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



Sunday 19th June 2022



***713 As the Deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you
Robin Mark 2011 (citrail)***

<https://youtu.be/FBppKZ0eJlQ>

Welcome

May the worship be a blessing to you

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Call to Worship

As a deer pants for flowing streams
so my soul longs for you, O God
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God
When shall I come and behold the face of God?

Prayers of Adoration, Invocation and Confession

Loving God, you find us
In the silence
In your presence
In your love for us
In the questions you ask us
We seek you yet cannot define you
For you cannot be named
Yet you can be known

Our soul longs for you Lord

Jesus our Lord
 Healer and comforter
 You accept us
 You care for us
 You welcome all
 You dwell amongst us

Our soul longs for you Lord

Holy Spirit
 Speaking through the turmoil and troubles
 Into our soul Your still small voice
 Speaking words of hope and peace
 Where we come to ask: *O my soul*
Why are you so cast down?
Why are you so disquieted within me?
 Hope in God

Our soul longs for you Lord

Holy Spirit, Come upon us today
 Prepare our hearts to meet God
 Come upon us, Fill us with peace
 Help us be still and know God

And Lord if we have not loved you with all our being
 and others as ourselves, Forgive us
 Help us begin again, Transform our hearts
 Heal our wounds
 Guide us, Help us come before you now
 In this moment of silence with all that troubles our hearts

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"
THANKS BE TO GOD

Hymn 111 praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Fernando Ortega 2008 (Francis H)

<https://youtu.be/JEh7Vt9sxmc>

Readings

1 Kings 19:1-15a

19 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³Then he was afraid;^[a] he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay

down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

Psalm 42:1-11

¹As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

³My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

⁴These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng ^aand led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help ⁶and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

⁷Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

⁸By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"

¹⁰As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?" ¹¹Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Psalm 43:1-5

¹Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; from those who are deceitful and unjust, deliver me!

²For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you cast me off? Why must I walk about mournfully because of the oppression of the enemy? ³O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

⁴Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the harp O God, my God.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Luke 8:26-39

²⁶Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, ^awhich is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn ^bany clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹for Jesus ^chad commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with

chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons^[d] begged Jesus^[e] to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened.³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes^[f] asked Jesus^[g] to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus^[h] sent him away, saying,³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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Sermon - Where do we find God?

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



Gorak Shep village, near Everest

I've always been drawn to the mountains and climbing up them. When I was climbing to Everest Base Camp, I met a man from Holland doing a documentary where he was filming people and interviewing them. He was asking people why they were climbing to Everest. He seemed surprised, maybe even impressed (I hope) to meet someone "my age", a granny, climbing. He asked me why I was climbing up the mountain and I replied: *I find God in the mountains*. He was silent for a moment and then put his hand over his heart, and looking close to tears, said: *That's profound*. Next day, when I fell off the mountain close to Base Camp, and was being carried along on a bed of small boulders to certain death, God found me. I felt people praying for me and put out my right leg and it hit the only rock sticking up at the edge of the ledge and I came to an abrupt halt, and obviously didn't go over or die. But the sense of connection with the universe, the peace beyond all understanding and sense of expansion was beyond words. It was God.

The reading from 1 Kings has always been a favourite of mine. Here is Elijah hiding in a cave on Mount Horeb. He is afraid of being killed by Jezebel. God found him and asked him: *What are you doing here Elijah?*

Elijah tells God all about his faithfulness and fear of being killed by Jezebel. Then, God asked Elijah to move out of the cave and to go and stand on the mountain. Then Elijah experiences winds so strong they split mountains and rocks into pieces and earthquakes and fires, but God isn't in this display of creation's power and turmoil. Elijah hears the sound of sheer silence, and he knows it is God. Have you ever heard and felt the sound of sheer silence? It is the presence of God. There are no words for it. Elijah heard it and wrapped his mantle around his face. Perhaps he felt awe and reverence for God in the silence. There's no words for it.

Again, God asked him: *What are you doing here Elijah?* Most of us would expect a different answer and that Elijah had been transformed by his experience of God, but he gives the same answer, of faithfulness and fear of being

killed. Despite this, God asked him to return, to go back and to embrace his call and role as a prophet and anoint the new king and he returns.



Mount Horeb



A Cave

I Kings has shown us God is in sound of sheer silence. I chose the hymn: *Dear Father, Lord of Humankind*, because it speaks of Jesus, kneeling before God, and sharing the silence of eternity with us, a silence interpreted by love. A silence that brings quietness where our soul is stilled, and all our strivings cease, and all strain and stress is taken from us. A silence where we come to know the beauty of God's peace within our soul, just like Elijah came to know God is not in the turmoil, God is in the still small voice of calm.

So where do we find God or where does God find us? Here are some images to ponder about. I wonder why people carve images into rocks or make things out of them or use smaller ones for prayer? Perhaps rocks seem permanent.



This seems like a humble rock. I found it in a pool of water beside a church that is on the Mount of Olives that overlooks Jerusalem. The church is called Dominus Fleuit which means: The Lord Wept. Wept because he saw the Second temple and knew it would be destroyed and many Jews would flee and wept because the people of Jerusalem didn't listen to his message. The church is shaped like a teardrop. So is this humble rock, which I held, off and on for many weeks, while I grieved for the death of a family member. Years later while doing clinical pastoral education at a hospital I lent it to a man from South Africa who had left behind everything to come to Australia to be treated for throat cancer. I got to know him and his wife as he tried to communicate by using a white board. I told him about how I found holding the stone comforting when grieving. His treatment for cancer had failed and he went home to die. About a month later his cousin, a catholic priest returned it to me saying: *He had held it as he was dying and had been able to make his peace with God.* When you consider the connections between Jesus and this rock, God found him. The rock was white quartz when I gave it to him. Now it looks like tear drops have formed in the rock and its colour has been changed by his sweat as he held it.

Many people say they find God in nature, where God surrounds them with beauty.



Others say God finds them where they sense the presence of God's love, where it's comforting, especially when they are unwell or grieving or facing challenges.

Which brings me to Psalms 42 and 43. The psalmist longs for God in his troubles. He wants to see the face of God. People are saying to him: *Where is your God?* They pour out their soul to God and somehow in their turmoil they hear the still small voice of God, speaking into their soul: *Why are you cast down my soul. Hope in God. Deep calls to deep.* God calls to their soul, and they are reminded of God's steadfast love for them.

After my parents died, I was given a copy of my great grandfather's bible. His name was Henry Lyndon. When I looked inside his small pocket-sized leather covered bible, I found he had earmarked the page at Psalm 42 and 43 and that he had kept this photo of my grandfather, his son, in his bible. You can see how the photo has been folded in half to fit inside the bible. Perhaps he prayed for my grandfather who fought in WWI, when he was at Gallipoli and in the trenches in France. Perhaps he found the Psalms reassuring whenever he feared for his son's life.



Finally, there is today's gospel, a story of a different world where people believed those with mental health issues or disabilities had demons in them or if they were very ill, had sinned somehow. It must have been a terrible time to live for anyone who had health issues. Thankfully times have changed in many places.

Last time I went to Nepal I met staff working at a charity called Seven Women, founded by a young Australian who found seven disabled women living in a tin shed. These seven women are now leaders at the Centre and have touched the lives of many disadvantaged women.

University of Melbourne has a gallery called the Dax Gallery at the Dax Centre They work with people with a lived experience of mental health issues and provide a safe and supportive environment for artists to exhibit their work, develop their art practice, and offer education programs to school and university students to expand their understanding of mental health issues and break down stigma. The man I was standing beside had several paintings exhibited and he told me about his drawings, what it is like to have schizophrenia and about the effects of the treatment on his body. I knew him from the healing services at St Paul's Cathedral in the 1990's, where all people were welcome and accepted from all walks of life. To me this witnessed to the Love command of Jesus, where people saw the love of God in one another and community.



There is no one way of knowing God. Experiences of God are as diverse as we are as the people of God. As I said in my Tidbit for this week, I remember a sermon from years ago where a question was asked: *How big is your God box?* Perhaps we cannot limit God. Perhaps when we do, we limit ourselves. After all God said: *I am who I am*

Quiet moment



Hymn 598: Dear Father, Lord of Humankind

Katherine Jenkins leading singing at St David's Cathedral 2019

BBC Songs of Praise (Ron Davis)

<https://youtu.be/y47vEE1zbDE>

Offering prayer

(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen

Prayers of the people – Margot Kemke, Mountview

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you today with our prayers for all the people of our world, for our neighbours, friends, our families and for ourselves.

We come with thanksgiving that we have the freedom to worship you and to share your love within our families and communities.

We pray especially for members of our cluster congregations who have concerns with health problems and also for our members who are in care and can no longer join with us in fellowship.

We ask for your loving care for the families of previous members of Mountview -Joyce Suto, Ron Legg and Jean Millist, and for the family of Ray Kemke as they mourn the passing of their loved ones recently. We pray for those in the Forest Hill and Blackburn North/Nunawading congregations who are grieving, recovering from illness or experiencing other concerns at this time. O Lord, we pray that you will bless all those who call on you, and may they feel your comfort, compassion and healing.

We pray for the medical and hospital staff who are tireless in their care of those who are suffering due to the COVID pandemic and the recent 'flu outbreak. We ask your blessing on teachers, members of the police force, social workers and all who volunteer their services to help others. We pray for our leaders, federal, state and local. May they govern with wisdom and integrity and their decisions be for the benefit of all.

We pray this week for the priest, the parish leaders and the congregation at St Thomas' Catholic Church in Blackburn, and, within the Uniting Church of Australia, we pray for the minister and congregations of the Diamond Valley Parish and the Diamond Creek Church at Hurstbridge. Bless, guide and encourage them all in the fellowship and outreach of their communities.

In the world wide prayer cycle we pray today for the people of Malawi and Zambia. These democratic republics, land locked within the vast continent of Africa, are gradually stabilising after many changes in political leadership and

economic hardship since their independence in the 1960s. They are still very poor and rely on international assistance from the World Bank and the IMF but are gradually increasing their own revenue from mineral exports and agriculture, and Zambia has an emerging solar and hydro-electricity export business. Education is free and universal, and medical services are increasing, but education and health care for women is lagging. HIV Aids is still an ongoing problem and infant mortality is high. Seventy-five per cent of the people are Christian and the Christian churches are increasingly active in education and community care. We pray for the continuing progress in all areas of life in these countries, O Lord, and for continuing international assistance.

Here at Mountview we especially ask for your care and encouragement for our ministers, Rev. Tina, Rev. Peter and for our student minister, Daniel. May they feel your presence as they prepare our worship services, and we thank them for their care during the past two weeks with the extra services required.

Guide us as we leave this morning and hear our prayers, O Lord.

Together we pray :

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil,

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

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 right to give our thanks and praise.

We proclaim your power in goodness and your might in compassion,
as we say:

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

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Nurture us with your brokenness, renew us with your poured out life,
empower us with your powerlessness, that we may take root in your risen life
and bear fruit in your world.

**You are our life;
you are our hope;
you are our peace;
and we praise you. Amen.**

The bread of life is offered to us. **We feed on the bread of life with gratitude.**

The cup of the newness of life is offered to us. **We drink of the cup with gratitude.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

Taize 714 x 3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDqk-DMS4Mk>

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
 come to him and never be hungry.
 Eat this bread, drink this cup,
 trust in him and you will not thirst.**

Prayer after communion

God of truth and love who calls us and leads us into the future, make us a blessing for others
 Help us to see creation as being in the future and to love it into being.

**May we hold on to the hope You have planted in us, believing the unbelievable reaching for the unattainable,
 trusting the things beyond seeing and the things beyond hearing, loving and living with compassion, offering
 hospitality and hope, until the people who walk in darkness see the great light and are glad and free.**

Hymn 459: In Christ there is no East or West
Paul Demer 2020 (World Communion Day) with an acoustic guitar
<https://youtu.be/YLxhATZcAbs>

Blessing

We go in Peace in the love of God in the Power of the Spirit
 May the Lord Bless and Guard us
 May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us
 As we bring Christ's love and peace to the world.
 Amen

779 May the Feet of God – tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhiG-Vj8CGU&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=40>

Pastoral Care Tips – Rev Tina



Living with Dementia and Alzheimer's

Over the years I've visited people who have dementia or Alzheimer's or couples where one partner has dementia or Alzheimer's. Often people seem unresponsive, but when music is played or *Music Melodies* is offered in aged care centres, or worship is offered, or therapy animal visits, people often come alive and sing, smile and remember or pat the therapy dog.

I've watched the documentary *Alive inside* and it's inspiring. These are short clips of it. A psychologist shares about music's ability to transform in the second one – about the power of music to bring back memories and awaken people. Have a look at the trailers and the other YouTube videos. If you want to watch *Alive Inside* it could be our

first 4pm alternative worship Service. We could watch the documentary, have a discussion and sing some favourite hymns and have supper. Let me know if you're interested. We hope to offer many more services that focus on music and singing. You are welcome to bring family members to our services when we sing our favourite hymns, and we can offer communion. If you are interested in watching the documentary **Alive Inside** contact me: 0423 715 590 or tinaalyndon@gmail.com

Short Clips for *Alive Inside*

Alive Inside official trailer (2014) Alzheimer's Doc HD 2014

1. <https://youtu.be/laB5Egej0TQ>
2. Sundance Film Festival (2014) *Alive Inside: A story of music and memory* Featurette – Doc HD
<https://youtu.be/8HLEr-zP3fc>

A ballet dancer responds to the music from *Swan Lake*

3. Emotional: Former Ballet Dancer with Alzheimers reacts to *Swan Lake* 2020
<https://youtu.be/wlAXKJfesBM>
4. Ballerina with Alzheimer's gets back her memory of her *Swan Lake* Dance 2020
<https://youtu.be/hvvXom7uqUI>

A website about an organisation providing support in the Community

<https://umbrelladementiacafes.com.au/>

Some photos of Joyce Suto, for those who couldn't make it to her Memorial Service. Copies of her book are still available. Speak with Colleen Rowe and make a donation to Mountview.

