



Uniting Church Birthday

Led by Rev Tennyson Chan and KyoungHee Cho

Creating Community with God

Greeting

Cooee Warami mittigar

Come – you are welcome here

Anyong haseyo

Ni hao

Acknowledgement of Country

We give thanks for the land on which we meet – this is God’s land,
given into the care of the Wallamattegal clans of the Darug-speaking peoples.
We affirm the First Peoples, as beloved of God.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present and pray for those who are yet to come.

Lighting the candles

John 8:12

요한복음 8:12

约翰福音 8:12

Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

후에 예수님은 사람들에게 다시 말씀하셨다. “나는 세상의 빛이다. 나를 따르는 사람은 어두움에 다니지 않고 생명의 빛을 받을 것이다.”

耶稣又对众人说：“我是世界的光，凡跟从我的，必不会走在黑暗里，必要得到生命的光。”

Gathering Hymn TiS 137 For the beauty of the earth (vv. 1, 3, 5, 6)

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light.
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

- 4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild.
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
- 5 For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces all of your design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
- 6 For the church that evermore
lifting holy hands above,
offers up on every shore
the pure sacrifice of love.
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Open wide the window of our spirits,
God, and fill us with light;
Open wide the door of our hearts
that we might receive and entertain you
with all our powers of adoration and love. Amen. (Jamie Norwich McLennan)

**For the beauty of the earth – that we have not seen,
For the beauty of the earth – that we have not preserved,
For the beauty of the earth – that we have damaged or been silent at its destruction,
Forgive us, God.**

**For the joy of human love – that we have ignored,
For the joy of human love – dying while we watch another channel,
For the joy of human love – that we damage by our personal sins and faraway
complicities, forgive us, God. Amen**

Words of Assurance

God teaches us to raise a song of praise, not only with our lips open,
but with widespread hearts and hands.
We are forgiven and given responsibility again –
For the beautiful earth and all aspects of human love. (Maren C.Tirabassi)
Our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Human and Divine – encountering Jesus Christ

A Time for Everyone

- Young People reflect on what it means to be part of the Uniting Church <https://vimeo.com/217440875>
- What do you think? How do you describe being part of the Uniting Church?
- President's Message for the UCA birthday <https://vimeo.com/563519853>

Sacred Stories from the Scriptures

Psalm 116: 12-19

- ¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.
¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!

For the stories that connect us to God's love and grace - **Thanks be to God!**

Empowering the Community's Spirit

Offering and Announcements

Hymn Dreams and Visions All Together Everybody 249

- 1 As a dream receive your history
from the martyrs and the saints.
Let their story be your story,
yours the laughter, yours the pain.

*We will rise, we will rise
We will rise up on wings like eagles, run and not be tired.
Show us your dreams and visions,
warm our hearts with tongues of fire, tongues of fire.*

- 2 Lord, we stumble in the darkness,
we cry for visions in these days.
Pour on us your living spirit,
in all ways, always.

Chorus:

- 3 Jesus, save your nomad people,
bring us face to face with you.
Start in us a new creation,
Christ be with us as we go.

Chorus:

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Prayers of the People –

We bring to mind people we know who are physically unwell.
We bring to mind their carers and helpers and treatment teams.
We pray for those who make the tough decisions to try to protect and serve our communities.

God, we know you call us to go with you to the other side.
You call us to a world larger, more open and more loving than we can ever imagine.
You call us to live in radical community with you and with each other.
You call us to a bigger version of ourselves than we have the courage to live
or the imagination to picture.
You call us to be one great family of all humanity.

Today we pray for all those in our community who do not know themselves called,
who do not experience themselves as being worthy of being called by anyone for any reason.

Today we pray for all of those who truly wonder if life can have a meaning and a purpose,
those who are sure that if it does, it does not include them.

We pray today for all who feel that they are on the outside looking in on community,
those who can find no way and no reason to participate.
We pray also for all of those who continue to be isolated and alone –
those who are unable to join with us here, and those who *are* here,

but feel lonely or unable to participate here with confidence.
We pray for those who suffer with the demons of anxiety or sorrow or shame.
Give us compassionate hearts and wisdom with how best to support.
God we pray for a world of radical inclusion, a home for all.
And we pray in the name of the great includer, Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Rev Paul Turley

Sending Blessing – TiS 779 May the feet of God walk with you

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

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Go in peace. Celebrate the wonders of creation,
and know that in all the seasons of our live God is with us.
Listen to the songs of the waves and the hymns of the trees.
Touch the earth with love and respect.
May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in the world.
Our service has ended. Our service begins!

AMEN