



# WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

10 a.m. Worship  
3:5:2026



*Living Stones*

*Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.*

## *We Gather as People of God*

The gong sounds. We hold silence. The reverberations of the gong call us to gather and be present.

### **Prelude**

#### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

*We pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land where we meet, land that was never ceded by them.*

*We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, and pay our respects to their elders, past and present.*

*We honour the custodianship of the First Peoples of Australia, who have cared for the lands and waters since time immemorial.*

*We stand in solidarity with the call for a First Nations voice to reconciliation and Justice.*

#### **The Community Candle is lit**

As we light the candle may we see and feel the light of Christ in this service, in each other and in those we meet.

#### **Let us join together in the Call to worship**

In a world of 'us and them'

#### **God invites us to embrace**

In a Church too often characterised by division

#### **Christ invites us to embrace**

In our lives, full of petty grudges and neglected relationships

#### **The Spirit invites us to embrace**

So come all you who yearn for deeper living

Come and enter into God's embrace this hour. **Amen**

#### **Hymn TiS 477 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

#### **Welcome & Introduction**

#### **Autumn Michael Leunig**

We give thanks for the harvest of the heart's work;  
Seeds of faith planted with Faith;  
Love nurtured by love;

Courage strengthened by courage.  
We give thanks for the fruits of the struggling soul.  
The bitter and the sweet;  
For that which has grown in adversity  
And for that which had flourished in warmth and grace;  
For the radiance of the spirit in Autumn  
And for that which must now fade and die.  
We are blessed and give thanks.  
**Amen**

### **Sharing a Sign of Peace**

May the heart of peace rest with you.  
**And also with you**

## *We Reflect on the Word for our time*

### **Readings**

#### **1 Peter 2 : 2-10 NIV**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

#### **The Living Stone and a Chosen People**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house<sup>[a]</sup> to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”<sup>[d]</sup>

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **John 14 : 1-14**

### **Jesus Comforts His Disciples**

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>[a]</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."

### **Jesus the Way to the Father**

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know<sup>[b]</sup> my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

### **Throwing stones with my son**

A poem by Joel McKerrrow from *Hollowed out Lungs* 2018

### **Reflection and Meditation**

### **Silence for Personal Reflection**

## *We Respond to the Word*

## Hymn: Will you come and follow me

Words: John Bell and Graham Maule Tune: Kelvin Grove, TIS 679

1. Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you 'you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## Offering

Creative Spirit,  
as we bring our gifts of hand and heart,  
inspire us to bring to life our vision of a church  
where everyone has a place to stand  
a society where everyone is valued and understood  
where the gifts of the Spirit bud and flower  
and bear the Spirit's fruit.

We also acknowledge that this the first Sunday the Month and we bring our offerings for the Little Pantry which provides food to people in need in these difficult times.

**Amen.**

### **The Care Candle song** *The care candle is lit*

Aaron Harper, 2011

We take a match,  
And light a spark,  
To show the want,  
Within our hearts,  
To share each joy,  
To bear each pain,  
We take spark,  
and light a flame.

We take a flame,  
And light a fire,  
To represent,  
Our hearts desire,  
To share our hopes,  
To bear our shames,  
We take a spark,  
And light a flame,  
We light a flame.

### **Prayers of the People**

Response:- **Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

We pray for those parts of the world where there is war and unrest.

For those in Ukraine, Iran, Yemen, Palestine,  
and so many other places where there is no peace.

Hear the cries of those who are frightened,  
strengthen and inspire those who work for peace.

And help us to be people of peace ourselves in our families, our communities and the world.

**Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

We pray for justice,

that in our country and across the world leaders will be inspired by the Spirit  
to act fairly and wisely for the common good,

and that our institutions would be guided and renewed  
by those seeking to hear Your voice.

**Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

We pray for families,

in particular families struggling with rising living costs  
and the extra struggles that the cost of petrol brings.

Help them to know of Your peace and encouragement;

and help us to form communities which nurture and support families of all kinds.

**Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

We pray for our Church, that at times of change and uncertainty we will be a place of refuge, silence and peace in our communities, that in a busy and troubled world we will have wisdom and compassion to support people in their pain; and guide them to find rest in Jesus' words.

**Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

*We take time of silence for our own concerns and prayers*

**Loving God, help us spread your love and peace**

**Join together in the Jesus' Prayer**

**God, lover of us all, most holy one,  
help us to respond to you  
to create what you desire here on earth.  
Give us today enough for our needs;  
forgive our weak and deliberate offences,  
just as we must forgive others  
when they hurt us.  
Help us to resist evil  
and to do what is good;  
for we are yours,  
endowed with your power  
to make our world whole.  
Amen. Lala Winkley**

## ***We Go out into the World***

**Hymn TiS 753 You are holy**

### **Blessing**

May the blessing of God go before you,  
May their grace and peace abound.  
May her Spirit live within you  
May his love wrap you 'round.  
May their blessing remain with you always  
May you walk on holy ground. Words: Miriam Therese Winter

**The Candles are extinguished**

**Ending song** - Brendan will lead us  
Based on 1 Peter 2 : 2 -10  
Sung to 'The Building Block' by Paul Stookey

People's response (Chorus): sing twice.  
**The building block that was rejected  
became the cornerstone of a whole new world.**

**Leader:** Joan Palmer  
**Reader:** Alison Robinson Libby Coates  
**Music:** Helen Swan

### **'This week' at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

***Notices - Congregational meeting after the service to decide whether we have  
Muyng Hwa Park to be our next minister***

*Significant birthdays, anniversaries or events (eg: decade birthdays)*

#### **Fellowship**

*Morning tea is now served.*

*You are invited to share in the time of fellowship.*

**References for OOS:** illustration Joan Palmer; CCLI licence #546647 Prayers of the people; <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship>; Prayers <https://stmichaels.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pentecost>; Meditation <https://laughingbird.net/occasion/a36/2026-05-03/>