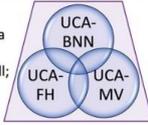




**Whitehorse
Uniting
Cluster**

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



Sunday 31st July 2022

Welcome

We hope you find the worship a blessing

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations People, the Traditional Owners of this land and their many unique cultures and languages. We respect the knowledge and wisdom of Elders past and present. They have never ceded their sovereignty and we commit to walking with them in their quest for truth, justice and treaties.

Call to worship

We are called to sit at the feet of Jesus

To listen and learn from him

We are called to pray, then act

**Let us listen to the Lord in our hearts,
then bring his wisdom and love into the world**

YouTube Hymn: Come as you are - Paul Gurr - Willemina 2014

<https://youtu.be/b0cbQS55RTM>

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation - Rev Tina

Lord, your love is endless and faithful.

You offer us the deepest call, a call that touches the core of our being,
inspiring us to venture out into the world.

You offer us a hospitality of the heart that transforms us.

You offer us life, not rejection, truth and love, not fear and death
life and hope, not stagnation and anxiety.

You, Lord, bring a deep conversion within our hearts.

You desire to bless and love us Lord.

We give you our thanks and praise.

Lord Jesus, you came for the poor of spirit, the marginalised and those without hope
who long for freedom from oppression, for wholeness and hospitality
to be loved, saved, and forgiven.

Lord, you come for those who long for a changed heart, and new beginning,
for rest, compassion, and deep conversion.

You Lord came for all of us, the hungry and for those with deep longings.

You came offering a new way of being that brings a future, life, and hope.

You came to bless us, Lord.

We give you our thanks and praise.

Holy Spirit, ever there for us, provoking us to change our mindset,
helping us venture out of our comfort zones,

so, others may see the light of Christ, shining within us.
 Holy Spirit, you never let us give up or lose hope,
 you gently awaken our soul, like a midwife,
 giving us courage to embrace all Jesus calls us to be.
 You fill us with compassion, so our hearts go out to those who suffer.
 You inspire us to offer a radical hospitality that changes lives,
 by blessing us, you make us a blessing for God and others.
We give you our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Confession – Rev Tina

Lord if we haven't loved or offered hospitality
 If we cannot or have not forgiven or asked forgiveness
 give us the grace to receive or offer forgiveness
 help us make a fresh start and a new beginning
 change our hearts O Lord.
 As we come before you now in this moment of silence
 with all that troubles our hearts, bless us Lord

Moment of Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
 "Your sins are forgiven"

THANKS BE TO GOD

Meditation on Jesus' Hospitality – Rev Tina



*Did not our hearts burn when we journeyed with Him, when he shared the gospel with us?
 Were not our eyes opened, when he offered us hospitality?*

I invite you to find a quiet place where you will not be disturbed.
 Make yourself comfortable, placing your feet firmly on the ground and hands resting on your lap
 and closing your eyes, just slightly, to shut out any bright light.

Notice any sounds around you.
 Sound of birds, the humming of passing cars or the sound of someone beside you breathing softly.
 Notice the sounds, then let them float away, like clouds passing through the sky.

Begin to notice your breathing.
 Allow it to slow down, noticing your tummy, rising and falling
 allowing your lungs to fill gently and naturally.

Breathing in slowly, then allowing your lungs to empty naturally.

Breathing out any tension or worries you may be feeling, allowing your lungs to fill with God's peace.

Imagine you're sitting beside Jesus
Where he is listening to the deep longings of your heart, longings to be loved and accepted
Longings for peace

Breathing out any worries Breathing in peace
Imagine Jesus looking at you Offering you grace and blessing

Breathing in His peace Breathing out any worries
Giving Jesus all your weariness

Stay with this peace
Just for a moment
Know you are loved

Silence for a moment – continue with the worship when you are ready



Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, open our hearts to the gospel today, amen

Readings

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; ⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. **43** Let those who are wise pay attention to these things and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Luke 12:13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this:

I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." ©NRSV National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen) – Jamie Brown-Hart & Canadian Virtual Choir Canada (Josh Tamayo) 2021

<https://youtu.be/XIDim9aYWds>



Prayers of the People – Margot Kemke

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you today with our prayers for all people, here in Australia and around the world. We thank you for your many blessings, for your love and care, and for your encouragement as we try to show the same to others around us.

We pray for our congregations, Mountview, Forest Hill and Blackburn North/Nunawading, and our Ministers, Rev. Tina and Rev. Peter and their families. Guide them as they minister to us, and grant them wisdom and support as we all explore together ways of sharing your love in our own communities. We pray for the Priest and congregation at St John's Catholic Church in Mitcham and their school, its teachers and students. Within our own Uniting Church Presbytery we pray for the congregations at Emerald, Gembrook and Tecoma and for the leaders and helpers at the Prahran Mission. We pray especially for those who have difficulties at this time – health, economic and relationships – and ask that you will care for them and guide and comfort them in their struggles.

We ask you to bless and guide all care workers who are doing every thing they can to help people in distress and uncertainty. We pray, too, for our leaders, federal, state and local – may they govern for all with integrity, compassion and wisdom.

In our world wide prayer cycle we pray for the people of the West African nations - the Republic of Congo, Gabon and the islands of Sao Tome and Principe. The Congo and Gabon have a turbulent history of coups, counter coups and violent elections, corruption and political instability. However, with oil revenue they have been able to stimulate the economy, provide education and reduce poverty.

The islands of Sao Tome and Principe have little agricultural land and rely on cocoa crops and fishing for very little revenue and are dependent on international aid. For all these countries we pray for political stability and democratic elections, for continuing economic development while protecting environment and wildlife, and for the witness of the Christian Church.

We pray for blessings for our families, friends and neighbours. Give us wisdom and courage to share your love and compassion and to be true Christian witnesses for you. These prayers we bring to you, O Lord, in Jesus' name and pray together –

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 forever. Amen.

Offering Prayer

(This Prayer is 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.

YouTube Hymn – I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Daniel O'Donnell 2009 (Memories 64)

<https://youtu.be/VyHTkGrLicg>

With thankfulness

We thank you, Lord, for this time spent with you in the quiet.

Help us to begin the coming week with a thankful heart.

You are beside us to guide us, with us each day to point us in the right direction.

Help us to see You in those we meet

to hear You in those we speak to

to serve You in those we help.

Let our hands be your hands, let us be tuned in to where you might guide us.

Thank you for all that we have and can be. Amen.

Shalom tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oqiFenpWxY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=35>

