



# Wesley Church Melbourne

*Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia*

## Sunday Worship at Home! 24th October 2021



***Title: The Blind Man's meal (1903)***

***Artist: Pablo Picasso 1881-1973***

*Note: Those in the sighted world cannot imagine being unable to see. We are moved to pity for those who do not "see" the world in the way that we do. But Picasso's painting forces us to reconsider; his subject touches the pitcher of wine, and holds the bread, symbols of Christ's own life and death. The "blind" person may "see" God more deeply than those of us who are distracted by the busyness of the sighted world.*

*Attribution: From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the Kulin Nation,  
traditional custodians of the land, under God.  
We commit ourselves to work and pray for justice in this land.

### Welcome and Acknowledgment

#### Call to Worship: (Psalm 34:1-8)

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
**God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
**let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the LORD with me,  
**and let us exalt God's name together.**

I sought the LORD, and the Lord answered me,  
**and delivered me from all my fears.**

Look to God, and be radiant;  
**so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,  
**and was saved from every trouble.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear God,  
**and delivers them.**

O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
**happy are those who take refuge in God.**

### Hymn 212 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

*by Charles Wesley, 1707-88. From Together in Song, HarperCollins Religious.  
Pianist and Soloist: Geoff Urquhart*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ the true, the only light,  
sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph over shades of night;  
dayspring from on high, be near;  
day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
if you seem not close to me;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till your mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more yourself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Confession**

I will bless you, O Lord, at all times,  
your praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
Your creation, in its beauty, complexity and sheer magnitude  
leaves us speechless, save for praise and wonder.  
We bless you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for embodying God's grace among us,  
flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,  
calling us to follow your light  
on the way of justice and peace, mercy and kindness.  
With you at our side, Risen One,  
we can endure life's challenges as you remind us:  
'Do not be afraid, I am with you always.'  
Holy Spirit, advocate, guide, Comforter,  
ever-present nearness of the Living God,  
fill us with God's love and hope,  
bring clarity in our confusion  
and guide us in the ways that lead to fullness of life.  
Blessed Trinity, we praise you,  
Holy, holy, holy are you.

Lord Jesus Christ, you ask 'what do you want from me?'

Forgive and heal our wilful blindness to your presence  
in creation, in our neighbour, in ourselves:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive and heal our wilful deafness to your Word,  
and the attention and power we give to words that are cheap and hollow.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

So that we can identify and fling off all that prevents us from following  
in your life-giving way and company,

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Friends,

Christ Jesus came into the world to save and restore the broken,  
the hopeless, the sinful, the lost:

Hear Christ's word of grace and restoration:

Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Introduction of the theme with the children:**

*What do you want Jesus to do for you?*

### **Hymn 152 Joyful, joyful we adore you**

*by Henry Van Dyke, from Together in Song, Harper Collins Religious. PUBLIC  
DOMAIN. Soloist: John Lander. Organist: Geoff Urquhart. Recording made at Wesley  
Church.*

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
singing bird and flowing fountain  
call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest.  
You our Father, Christ our brother,  
all are yours who live in love;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to your joy above.

## Readings

Reader: Leonie Barber

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:  
**a light to our path.**

Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup> They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "What do

you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher,<sup>[a]</sup> let me see again.”<sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.”  
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Lord may your Word live in us:  
**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

## **Preaching**

*Seeing and following*

Rev Alistair Macrae

## **Hymn 658 Here I am, Lord**

*By Daniel L. Schutte, 1947-, © Words by permission of Oregon Catholic Press. OneLicense #A-604653 From Together in Song. HarperCollins Publisher. Pianist: Geoff Urquhart.*

*Solo: Catherine McLean*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who make the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn a-way.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Jesus, as you once heard the cries of Bartimaeus,  
hear the cries of your people today:

In this United Nations Week,  
we pray for all the peoples of the world,  
for harmony and for peace based on justice.  
For all who lead and govern nations and who administer the law,  
for victims of corruption, incompetence and aggression.  
We pray for the work of the United Nations,  
may it live up to its founding vision  
and be a force for cooperation and peace among the nations.  
Bless its role in this pandemic,  
encouraging and enabling fairer distribution of resources  
to respond where it is needed most.

We pray for the forthcoming global summit on climate change.  
You have entrusted humans with the care of creation.  
Forgive our mindless disregard for other creatures,

and our despoiling of the land, waterways and atmosphere.  
Fill our leaders with new vision and with resolve to make decisions  
and set targets for a sustainable future for those who come after us.

We pray for the church, its ministry and mission the world.  
For our Church Council making decisions about re-opening our church safely.  
We pray for an increase in our faith,  
may our lives bear good fruit  
and be a sign to others of your goodness and grace.

We pray for all in need. Please comfort the sad, the bereaved and the lonely,  
the sick and the dying and all who care for them.  
Especially we pray for all those engaged directly  
in caring for those sick with Covid.  
Grant them strength and a sense of community support and appreciation.

In the quiet we hold before you those whom we carry in our hearts,  
who are in special need of your healing presence...

**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 for ever. Amen.**

**Hymn 282 The voice of God goes out to all the world**

*By Luke Connaughton, 1917-79. © Words by permission of McCrimmon Publishing UK.  
From Together in Songs, HarperCollins Publisher. Organist: Geoffrey Urquhart. Soloist: John  
Lander.*

The voice of God goes out to all the world;  
his glory speaks across the universe.  
The great King's herald cries from star to star:  
'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'

The Lord has said, 'Receive my messenger,  
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,  
a lamp to every nation, light from light':  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.

The broken reed he will not trample down,  
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.  
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.

Anointed with the Spirit and with power,  
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,  
to show the face of justice to the poor:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.

His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,  
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,  
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:  
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.

## **Benediction**

The blessing of God be as a cloak  
to shield you from harm,  
to comfort you in sorrow,  
to warm you within and without.

The Holy One, Sacred Three,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit,  
uphold, enfold and surround you,  
now, always and everywhere.  
Amen.

## **Postlude**

*Voluntary in C major*  
*Organist: Geoffrey Urquhart*

*John Barrett*

## Worship Services

With the easing of lockdown restrictions the prospect of re-opening the church for on-site services has drawn closer. Church Council will consider government and Synod advice and address the question at its meeting on Monday evening.



## Bible Study Opportunity

The next Bible study opportunity for this year will be a three session series looking at the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

This book is unique among the prophets for concentration on the one question, 'Why do the empires trample over everyone?'

We will meet via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings in November (specifically, 1, 8 and 15 November).

Please register your interest in joining this study with Sandy Yule at [yules@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yules@optusnet.com.au)



Inner Melbourne  
UCA Justice Coalition  
hosts

# Shining a light on asylum in Australia

Presenters:  
Sr Brigid Arthur &  
Pamela Curr OAM

**Sunday 24 October | 2pm to 3:15pm  
via Zoom**

Zoom link:

[https://zoom.us/j/93235042878?  
pwd=aHQxYkQw  
TkswQk5PMTVEWWdKa  
HZZPT09](https://zoom.us/j/93235042878?pwd=aHQxYkQwTkswQk5PMTVEWWdKaHZZPT09)

Meeting ID: 932 3504 2878  
Password: 362 935.

## Daily readings for this week

Monday	25th October	Ruth 1:1-18
Tuesday	26th October	Hebrews 9:11-14
Wednesday	27th October	Mark 12:28-34
Thursday	28th October	Psalms 146
Friday	29th October	Isaiah 25:6-12
Saturday	30th October	Revelation 21:1-6a

### Readings

*24th October 2021*

*Jb 42:1-6,10-17*

*Ps 34:1-8,(19-22)*

*Heb 7:23-28*

*Mk 10:46-52*

*31st October 2021*

*Ru 1:1-18*

*Ps 146*

*Heb 9:11-14*

*Mk 12:28-34*

### Our Ministers

Rev Alistair Macrae

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Days off: Monday and Friday

Rev Dr Sandy Yule (part-time)

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### Director of Music

Geoffrey Urquhart

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### Children and Family Education

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### Minister's Secretary

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(03) 9051 4700

Tuesdays to Thursdays

### Verger

Alex Yam

Check out <http://wesleychurch.org.au> for the latest news, events and sermons!



# Our Home Gardens

By Geoff Serpell

From biblical times we have been informed of the adage that we reap what we sow.

In times of drought, the harvest may be negligible or nonexistent, when not only humans miss out on edible fruit and/or vegetables, but also insects and birds.

Was it a failure to waste seed, sowing it in such an environment? No. Just because the expected harvest did not happen, the garden was still a spiritual

haven, a little closer to heaven.

Pruning and weeding around our plants nurtures our souls too. Gardening provides peace, healing, and happiness for those blessed with "green" thumbs.

Growing food whilst growing ourselves is where the effort is more important than the outcome.

Sharing our harvest to those in the community also brings great dividends.

## Reflection:

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Luke 10:2

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by Sandie Clarke | October 2021

## MORE MONEY FOR MISSION

God calls us to be wise and generous stewards of the resources with which we have been blessed.

The UCA Vic Tas now provides a new opportunity for congregations to more fully live into this calling by transitioning real estate assets into shares in an ethical fund.

For further information visit: <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/money-for-mission/>

