



Surf Coast Uniting All Age Worship

Sunday 28th June 2026

Introit: **Everyday God** by Bernadette Farrell (YouTube recording)

<https://youtu.be/erZuM8rJWso?si=WyG0MdcVcEJ3YEWK>

Notices

The celebration of 49th UCA Anniversary – recording

Highlights from Rev Charissa Suli, the President of the Uniting Church in Australia, 49th Anniversary address. Please listen to her message. There are links in our newsletter Draw closer to Christ, to lean again on one another, and to rediscover the prayer, worship and service that have always sustained us. For we have never been held together by sameness, but by the love of Christ.

The Spirit is indeed calling us back to depth, back to prayer, and back to a people shaped not by fear or scarcity, but by trust in the abundance of God.

The threads of God's love are still being woven through our life together – in every act of kindness, every prayer offered, every table set wide enough to welcome a stranger. May God weave us together in love. May the risen Christ renew and reconcile us. And may the Holy Spirit give us courage for the journey ahead.

<https://vimeo.com/1202367218>

July is a good time for a Winter Sabbath

Sheltering in our nests, slowing down and going deeper

Welcome

Today we focus on being a people of prayer who welcome and care for one another and stand in for Christ, as his representatives in the world

Acknowledgement

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, traditional custodians of this land under God.

We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to worship

Let us Welcome

Everyone

Let us offer a glass of water
to all the little ones amongst us

To one another and to all who come.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Prayer – Our Wheelie bins and community

Adapted The Purple wheelie bin John Davies, Acorns and Archangels, Edit. Ruth Burgess, 2009 Wild Goose Publications,
www.ionabooks.com

We give thanks for our wheelie bins
 Receptacle of our rubbish
 Carriers away of our cast offs, unused gifts,
 undigested foodstuffs, nappies, wrappers, branches, bottles,
 broken electrical times and veggie scrapes, paper and more.
 All the discarded clutter of our cupboards and our lives

A blessing to those who make it their work
 to collect these bins
 and pour them in garbage trucks
 labouring through gales and winds and rain and hot sun
 on behalf of many who waste so much.
 help us recycle
 and bless those who want to help us recycle

A blessing on those who wheel out the bins for their frail neighbours
 and wheel them in again afterwards

Give us patience with those who use our wheelie bin as playthings
 Climbing on them, racing down the road on them like plastic chariots.

Give us strength to push our full and heavy bins to the roadside
 when we are feeling feeble on bin collection morning

God bless the cockies, and keep them away,
 from our bins.

Help us to use less packaging and
 bless those who want to sell us
 Things with less packaging

Give us grace to care about our waste
 and the way it affects our city and town's space. **Amen**

Confession and Quiet moment

You are invited to spend a moment of quietness bringing all that's on your heart to God,
 asking for healing, forgiveness and the grace to receive and offer forgiveness

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

June plays music for us

Puppet madness

A play about pastoral care and how we can't argue with another's reality. We can only be there for others and listen and offer what they need

Hymn 650 – Brother sister let me serve you

Reading - Matthew 10:40-42

10:40"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

10:41Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous,

10:42and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Sermon

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



Have you ever had someone care for you where you've felt they loved by them and they were Christ for you? What was it like for you?

Over the past few weeks, the gospel has offered us an account of what it means to be a disciple and how to go about it. Jesus has taught us to take nothing for the journey, to trust in God and has asked us not to be afraid. Perhaps these words still speak into our life. In today's gospel, Jesus sums up his teachings to equip his disciples for ministry in just a few verses.

He begins by saying, be Jesus Christ for others. Perhaps doing this has been like a chain of mission throughout the ages, until now, where each disciple has played their part in bringing Jesus' mission to the world. It's like a chain of disciples has brought our faith to us, through our families or friends or mentors who planted seeds in our hearts and nurtured them. Perhaps they have embodied their faith and set an example, or they were there for us in the tough times, or they welcomed all those they encountered on their pilgrimage through life and inspired us to do the same..

Welcoming is important in the church, where over the ages disciples have welcomed one another. Members of this church welcome all who come to this place, encouraging them to worship God and follow Jesus. All who are drawn to this community by the Spirit, need to be welcomed, by us.

The gospel mentions the “little ones.” In Matthews days it was his congregation. Today, it’s our congregation, each one of us. Puppet madness, our play, was about the little ones doing their best to care for one another. Perhaps the little ones amongst us are lonely, vulnerable and hurting and need our care and prayer.

During our visioning day one of our members suggested we set up a prayer group for Surf Coast Uniting Churches. Over the past six months each of our three churches have become praying communities. We have gone through hundreds of tapers for candle prayers and become praying congregations, where the whole church has become the prayer group. This is bigger than we imagined and hoped for during the visioning session.

We will have a session later in the year about strategies to help us fulfill our goals for ministry, which came from our visioning session. Our pastoral leaders have been doing a pastoral care study, with lots of sharing and our recent study offered materials so we could use to discern our gifts for ministry. We are considering whether we will offer this gift of discernment to all the congregations during the strategies session. Perhaps it will help us understand our gifts and empower and equip us for future ministry.

I have heard young adults, without a faith background are walking into churches. The Spirit is leading them. I’ve heard they are feeling disillusioned about society and life and are searching for God. Perhaps it’s time for us to pray and ask God to equip us as congregations to welcome young people and help us pray for them and care for them, by listening to their stories.

Do you know prayer makes our hearts as wide as the ocean? There is room for everyone.

Today, the gospel speaks of offering a glass of water to one another. A glass of water can symbolise our hearts willingness to care for one another, in the simplest ways, where we become self-giving. Like how we’re going to make scones for one another, later in this worship service.

Today’s gospel invites and encourages us to open our hearts to all people and welcome them, and care for them and when we do, we are Jesus Christ for them, and welcome and care for Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with you

Hymn 217 Love Divine all loves excelling – Wesley

Offering

Lord, giver of every good thing, we bring to you our lives, gifts and resources for the building up of your kingdom and church. We give thanks for blessings and transformation that come through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Candle prayers



YouTube Stand by me – Music Travel Love & Friends
<https://youtu.be/4ONfrkSkNp4?si=Pd3zSh1tXYIGMnqx>

All Age Activity – making scones while June plays music for us

Prayers for the People - Robyn Harper

God of the Road, you know our places of reckoning well before we do. We pray for your good creation and all who attend to its wellbeing. We pray too for those focused on power and profits, wake them up to their folly. Empower us to work together for the healing of the earth. God of Grace, let your love run free

God of Hospitality, you know our needs well before we do. We pray for your church here on the Surf Coast and throughout the world. We pray for all its members and for people of faith beyond the church. Empower us to work together to share your love. God of Grace, let your love run free

God of Wisdom, you grant us the freedom to make our own decisions. We pray for people making decisions which have an impact on others. We pray for your beloved whose lives are vulnerable to the decisions of people in power. Empower us to work together for the wellbeing of all. God of Grace, let your love run free

God of Compassion, you give your people the skills to care for one another. We pray for emergency service workers and volunteers. We pray for counsellors, nurses, physiotherapists and all who work in the caring professions. Empower us to use our gifts for the healing of one another. God of Grace, let your love run free

God of Giving, you are the ultimate giver of every good and perfect gift. We thank you for the life, breath and the grace we have so freely received from you.

As a show of giving and receiving, I invite all those around the tables to pick up a glass of water and pass it onto someone sitting beside you at your table and say: I give this glass of water with love and the receiver to say: I accept this glass of water with love. And then they do the same, until the glass has been passed around to everyone.

June will play for us as we do this

June plays music as a glass of water is passed around to each of our members at the tables

God of Love, you have given us hearts filled with love. We pray for those close to our hearts... We pray for situations which trouble us... Empower us to speak of your transforming love. God of Grace, let your love run free

As people called and sent, we entrust our prayers to you. May we be the people of the road, and people of hospitality, compassion, people of giving and receiving and love in Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Blessing

Carol Dixon, Acorns and Archangels, Edit. Ruth Burgess, 2009 Wild Goose Publications, www.ionabooks.com

Grow in God
Be grounded in God's love
Grow in God
Be strong in your inner selves

Grow in God
And be rooted in your faith
Grow in God
Abounding in Christ's joy

Grow in God
God's presence fill your life
Grow in God
God's peace in your hearts

Hymn 778 Shalom to you now

<https://youtu.be/IVRbU3SH50E?si=Ypa6eSqE33EhhMC>