

Surf Coast Uniting Churches All-Age Worship

Sunday 26th July 2026



YouTube Bernadette Farrell. You have called us by your name.

https://youtu.be/CTWDmv0kb5g?si=XG_sftLQCyXJjrpl

Welcome

May the worship bless you

Acknowledgment

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

As the day dawns anew
so do our spirits
As our community gathers
so does our joy
As God awakens us
our hearts become one.

Prayer by Rev Tina, with response by Stan Chapman

Loving God, we long to be in your presence
where we can find your deep sustaining peace.

We know you love us and
in our weakness your lifegiving Spirit helps us.

With the help and belief of the Holy Spirit, we become better than our best effort and thought

You Lord know our hearts
and your Spirit guides us
We give thanks that all things work together for good
for those who love you.

Lord, You give each one of us a purpose
to fulfil in your divine plan.
You desire to bless us and
are there for us.
You never fail us.

With the help and belief of the Holy Spirit, we become better than our best effort and thought

Nothing can separate us from your love for us
in Christ Jesus.
Not persecution or oppression or suffering or even death.
For Your kingdom is within us and all around us.

Lord, you shape our hearts and
Your love transforms us
You help us become a blessing to you, to others and ourselves.

With the help and belief of the Holy Spirit, we become better than our best effort and thought

Your grace satisfies all our longings, and you fill us with abundant life.
Lord, you always want what's best for us
We love you Lord and will follow you all the days of our life
We give you our heart.

With the help and belief of the Holy Spirit, we become better than our best effort and thought

We give you thanks and praise, for You fill us every day,
with joy and peace.

Amen

Confession & Quiet moment

In this moment of quietness, we come before you Lord
With all that's on our hearts
Asking for healing, forgiveness and the grace to forgive others.

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us

"Our sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God.

Our choir sings for us – Receive our gifts Lord

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

13:31He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed
that someone took and sowed in his field;

13:32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and
becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

13:33He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman
took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

13:44"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and
reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

13:45"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

13:46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

13:47"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught
fish of every kind;

13:48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but
threw out the bad.

13:49So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from
the righteous

13:50and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.

13:51"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

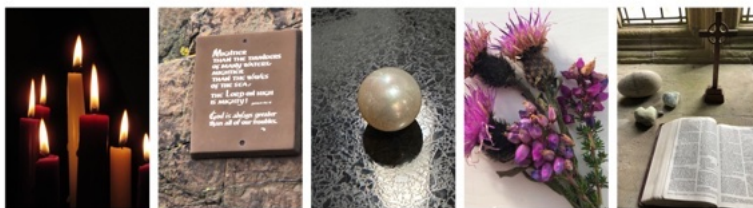
13:52And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the
kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is
new and what is old."

Hymn 745 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Sermon

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

Spend time with God everyday



Some of us may not like rushing around in traffic, with aggressive people edging us on. Our walking may have slowed down over the years, and we may prefer spending time alone or slower music, rather than fast music and we may be impatient when newsreaders talk a million miles a minute.

Others may like fast and furious and stride along the footpaths wearing headphones, while listening to loud, fast, music. Some may like to put their foot down on the accelerator or dance all night and go to bed at 3:00am, then work hard the next day.

We're all different.

No matter what age we are, we need downtime,
a pause in our day to ground ourselves in God and nature.

We need time alone with God, to nurture our relationship with God, and pray for our loved ones and concerns. We need to be spiritually fed and nurture our soul.

Perhaps those who stare at screens may be natural contemplatives, for contemplation is about being absorbed by something outside of us, like a sunset, candle, photography, a picture or book or watching birds or the breeze move tree's branches.

The Pearl



The parables remind us about what's important in life.

The pearl and treasure are about what we value most in life, what we focus on or are moved by or what motivates us. The one thing we desire and long for in life. It represents what we are prepared to live and die for.

Love for God leads us to live our lives wanting to please God.

Mustard seeds and mighty bushes



The humble mustard seed grows into mighty bushes that shelter birds, like our heart grows strong in love and shelters others.

A mustard seed packs a punch when it's made into mustard. I remember when I was a young child, there was a mustard pot on my grandmothers table and I took a teaspoon full and put it into my mouth. I was on fire.

Mustard goes a long way and its flavour is intense. It's like the presence of the Holy Spirit within us groaning in our gut, with sighs so deep to understand, helping us in our weakness, making us strong.

The Parable of the Yeast and Bread

Bread has humble beginnings. The yeast rises quietly, until the dough doubles in size.

Baking bread smells wonderful. Have you smelt it recently?

My father used to make flat bread, we called bubble bread because when he cooked it on top of a woodfire stove and it cooked so quickly it formed bubbles in the dough. The smell filled the entire kitchen, and we ate it, still hot, with butter.

The church began as a small group of people and over time the work of God's Spirit and faithful disciples helped it grow and today there are over 2.4 billion Christians in the world.

In a similar way, the mustard seed is about growth in the Kingdom of God. When we begin a new ministry in the church, it begins small and slowly over time the Holy Spirit works quietly

and slowly growing that ministry. In time it grows and doubles and increases and blesses God, his church and each one of us and all those who come.

We can trust in the slow work of God and know God is with us and will never fail us.
That is the way God works.

God calls us to be faithful disciples.

The parable of the net

Imagine God throwing a net of grace over all of us and drawing us into the kingdom of God. Imagine this great treasure within us of the Holy Spirit, hidden within our heart, with our old ways and new ways of knowing God.

Imagine the kingdom within us being like a garden we water and nurture with prayer, as we build our relationship with God.

The parable reminds us God gives us a choice. We can care for our soul like a garden or ignore it. The parable is a wakeup call.

No matter what happens we can be confident, nothing can separate us from God's love. We can put our trust in God, who has a plan for of us, a plan for good, a divine plan that will bless all of us.

I'll finish with a blessing.

A Blessing for all of us

May the Lord bless us
May we find our pearl and know our inner treasure
May we pack a punch in life like mustard
May our heart grow into a mighty sheltering place for others
May we be like yeast, where the Holy expands our gifts and leadership,
our ministry and legacy as the body of Christ.
May we always choose God and nurture our soul with prayer and love.

YouTube The Seekers – Kumbaya my Lord

<https://youtu.be/bYJMtn6IJeE?si=31LQRjAq1PHUwksy>

The Offering – Lyn and Molly

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

Prayers of the People – Marie Harding

Dear God

Today, we thank you that we can meet together, as a Church Family

We thank you for your Kingdom. It is full of surprises.

We here on the Surf Coast are only a small part of it.

Like a mustard seed that grows big, help our faith grow day by day

Like a bit of yeast that changes the whole loaf, help us share your love to change our world
for good.

Where there is conflict in the world, let us pray for peace.

Like a hidden treasure or a pearl of great price, show us how precious your love is so we can
treasure it above all else.

Lord, you know each one of us here today, young and old. Help us to seek your ways, find
your joy and let your love shine here in this place on our beautiful Surf Coast and beyond.

In Jesus name we pray

Candle Prayers while June Angus plays for us



Puppet Madness – Gail Chrisfield, Ian Taylor & Rev Tina

Talking about the parables of the kingdom

Activity

Making prayer cards or bookmarks, or a patchwork quilt with symbols and comments, about
your favourite parable – as June Angus plays for us

Sharing time

What is your favourite parable about the kingdom of God
and why?



Time of sharing

What is the most popular parable and why?

Images NASA, RCL

Short notices - Led by Marie Harding

The Peace

The peace the Lord be with you
And also with you

Hymn 164 1,3,4 The Great love of God

**The Great love of God
 is revealed in the Son,
 who came to this earth
 to redeem everyone.**

**It binds the whole world,
 every barrier it breaks,
 the hills it lays low,
 and the mountains it shakes.**

**It's yours, it is ours,
 O how lavishly giv'n!
 the pearl of great price,
 and the treasure of heav'n.**

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles 1908-70

Blessing

In this place may we be blessed in the opening of our doors to the stranger;
 May we be filled in the sharing of our bread with the hungry;
 May we be enriched in the giving and receiving of love and laughter;
 and may the God of grace gift us all with grace
 as we build his kingdom here on earth.

Hymn 755 You shall go out with Joy

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace,
 and the mountains and hills shall break forth in singing.
 There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
 shall clap, shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
 and you'll go out with joy.**

Steffi Geiser Rubin 1950 based on Isaiah 55:12