



Uniting Church in Australia  
Western Australia



A WELCOMING  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY

48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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# Opening Service

13 SEPTEMBER 2024 ■ 7.00PM  
MOUNT PLEASANT UNITING CHURCH  
1 COOMOORA ROAD MOUNT PLEASANT



# WELCOME

Welcome to Mount Pleasant Uniting Church. We welcome all visitors, all members of the Synod who are here or joining via livestream.

If you are able please join us for supper in the hall after the service.

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## Acknowledgement of Country

*Ngaala kaadit Wadjak Noongar moort kyen kaadak nidja boodja ga derbarl yerrigan.*

We acknowledge Wadjak Noongar people as the original owners and custodians of this Swan River land. We also acknowledge their ongoing relationship with the land.

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# GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

## ■ MUSICAL PRELUDE

## ■ SOLOIST

By the waters , the waters of Babylon,  
we sat down and wept, and wept for Zion.  
We remember, we remember, we remember Zion.

JEWISH MELODY TIS708  
Anon

from Psalm 137

## ■ WORDS OF WELCOME

## ■ LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

## ■ WELCOME TO COUNTRY

## ■ CALL TO WORSHIP

Moderator

We have come together tonight to open our Synod in worship. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

All

**and also with you.**

■ WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

■ HYMN

**God is our strength and refuge,  
our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling waters and raging;  
God the Lor of Hosts is with us evermore.**

**There is a flowing river  
within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be moved.  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at his presence;  
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.**

**Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of his deeds all-powerful,  
wars will cease across the world  
when he shatters the spear.  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift him in the nations;  
God the Lord of Hosts is with us evermore.**

DAMBUSTERS MARCH TIS28

Eric Coates (1886-1958)  
arr John Barnard (1948)

■ PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

## ■ THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Moderator Hear the promise of Scripture:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Moderator Hear, then Christ's words of grace for us: "Your sins are forgiven."

All **Thanks be to God.**

## ■ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, whose image we all bear;  
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;  
Praise Spirit, making justice grow—  
One God from whom all blessings flow!**

FAIRHILL TIS768(ii)  
Mary Luti <https://sicutlocutusest.com/>

Jimmy Owens (1930)

## ■ PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## ■ PSALM 137

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept,  
**when we remembered you, O Zion.**  
As for our harps, we hung them up  
**on the trees in the midst of that land.**  
For those who led us away captive asked us for a song,  
and our oppressors called for mirth:  
**“Sing us one of the songs of Zion”.**  
How shall we sing the Lord’s song  
**upon an alien soil?**  
If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
**let my right hand forget its skill.**  
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you,  
**if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.**

## ■ HYMN

**By the waters , the waters of Babylon,  
we sat down and wept, and wept for Zion.  
We remember, we remember, we remember Zion.**

*Sung twice*

JEWISH MELODY TIS708  
Anon

from Psalm 137

## ■ PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Moderator     Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.  
All             **A light to our path.**

## ■ FIRST TESTAMENT READING | JEREMIAH 29

Reader

The prophet Jeremiah was a boy when he was called to serve God. He objected and God insisted. Jeremiah had both insight and foresight and could see the catastrophe that Judah was facing long before others could see it. He warned Judah, while other prophets reassured the God's people by saying, "the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord." Jeremiah also challenged the false prophets for saying "peace, peace" when there was no piece.

Jeremiah warned the leaders and the people for years and, in the end, his predictions came true, the Babylonians conquered Judah and Jerusalem and took the key leaders into exile. Although not in Babylonia himself, Jeremiah still brought God's word to them.

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These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. . . . Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future

with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

■ HYMN

**By the waters, the waters of Babylon,  
we sat down and wept, and wept for Zion.  
We remember, we remember, we remember Zion.**

*Sung twice*

JEWISH MELODY TIS708  
Anon

from Psalm 137

■ NEW TESTAMENT READING | CORINTHIANS 1

Reader

Like Jeremiah, Paul brought God’s word through letters. Paul wrote several times to the earliest Christians in Corinth, a church he had established.

+ + +

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth... : Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ...

... I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on to Judea.

Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No,



no” at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you is not “Yes and No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not “Yes and No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.”

For this reason, it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God.

## ■ GOSPEL | LUKE 14:25-33

Reader

Mark spoke of Jesus calling the twelve disciples to be “with” him – so that they could live with him, accompany him, and see how he ministered, taught, healed and helped. In this way the twelve were to be “understudies” who learned the part they would play once Jesus had left the stage.

Luke reports on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee until the time came when he “set his face towards Jerusalem.” From then on, Jesus was on the way to the cross and he wanted those with him to be clear about what this meant – both for him and for those who were called to follow him.

+ + +

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot,

then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

■ SERMON | MODERATOR REV DR IAN TOZER

■ HYMN

**God gives us a future,  
daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers  
on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow  
in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.**

**We must leave behind us  
sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning  
is a better way.**

**Fear and doubt and habit  
must not hold us back:  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.**

**Holy Spirit, teach us  
how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge  
of our trouble times.**

**Love us into action,  
stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life, and  
find our future there.**

TIS687 CAMBERWELL  
Elizabeth J Smith (1956)

John Michael Brierley (1932)

■ THE PEACE

Moderator Peace of the Lord be with you,  
All **And also with you.**

■ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

■ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

■ ONE MINISTRY OF CHRIST

Moderator There are diverse gifts:  
All **but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Moderator There are different ways of serving God:  
All **but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Moderator God works through people in different ways:  
All **but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through all.**

Moderator Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:  
All **and there is no gift without its corresponding service.**

Moderator     There is one ministry of Christ:  
All                **and in this ministry we share.**

Moderator     Together we are the body of Christ  
All                **and individually members of it.**

*Based on 1 Corinthians 12:4ff and Basis of Union para 13.*

## ■ CONSTITUTION OF THE 2024 SYNOD

The Uniting Church in Australia, Western Australia, 48th Synod comes together as a council of the church.

We gather to hear of the work of God among us and our communities, so that we may be accountable to one another in the church and wider community. Together, we will discern the leading of the Holy Spirit, in order to respond to God's call and minister with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We bring the reports on our life as the Uniting Church. In its gathering, the Synod takes responsibility for oversight, direction, administration and support of the Church's worship, witness and service within its bounds.

As we consider the items in this agenda and reports, may we be open to the ongoing call of the Holy Spirit within us.

Moderator     I invite the members of Synod to stand, as we constitute our meeting.

Let us pray together:

All                **Almighty God**  
**you have founded your church upon earth**  
**and you have promised**  
**to be with your people forever.**

**We seek your blessing**  
**as we meet as a council of your church**  
**in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us.**

**Through your Holy Spirit,**  
**direct our hearts, and enlighten our vision,**  
**so that in all our deliberations**

**we may have sound judgement,  
serve you with enthusiasm  
and listen and care for each other  
as we play our part in the work of your church.**

**May our meeting glorify your name,  
and serve your purpose  
of the reconciliation of all things in Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

■ **MODERATOR'S CHARGE**

■ **LORD'S PRAYER**

All

**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.**

# SENDING FORTH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

## ■ HYMN

**Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord  
The infant church confessed its risen Lord:  
O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
No less your power of fellowship display.**

**Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
That unity may be our great desire:  
give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,  
and readiness in each to work for all.**

**Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace  
in your strong care all those of every race:  
like wind and fire with life among us move  
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.**

WOODLANDS TIS411  
J R Peacey (1896-1971)

Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

## ■ WORD OF MISSION

## ■ BLESSING



■ PARTICIPANTS:

Rev Dr Ian Tozer

Rev Dr Andrew Williams

Rev Mitchell Garlett

Rev Lorraine Stokes

Iliapi Taoi

Mary Riley

Rev Dr Elaine Ledgerwood

Joshua Adams

Moderator

General Secretary

UAICC

Moderator's Chaplain

Reader

Pianist

Cellist

Solo Vocalist



**Being with Jesus**  
*in Ministry*





