



2025 Uniting Church Anniversary message

UCA President Rev Charissa Suli shares this message marking 48 years of the Uniting Church in Australia



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Message for the 48th Uniting Church Anniversary – 22 June 2025 President Rev Charissa Suli

Beloved friends in Christ, I greet you from Sydney Town Hall on the lands of the Gadigal People where 48 years ago the Uniting Church in Australia was born. Today, we give thanks for the grace that has carried us and the love of God that continues to weave us together.

This year, we mark two milestones. 40 years of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, a covenant of truth, justice and deep listening. And 40 years when we declared ourselves a multicultural church. Many bodies, one body united in the Spirit of Christ.

I've personally seen the Spirit at work in quiet faithfulness, bold leadership, deep compassion and the perseverance of the faith. But friends, I'm also seeing the cracks and the blind spots of our own brokenness. I'm seeing a church under strain, congregations who are feeling the weight of change and uncertainty. Our leaders are tired, resources are stretched thin and trust has been tested. And relationships they feel the strain, and healing and reconciliation is needed.

This is not a failure, but this is a point of crossroads. And this is not a moment to dwell on where we have gone wrong, but this is a core to return to the heart of our faith, Jesus Christ. And God is calling us to look inward with honesty. We need the courage to repent and change. We need the love to reform and we need the Spirit's renewal, just as our Basis of Union calls us to be a church always reformed and renewing so that we continue to follow Jesus Christ, who is the perfecter of our faith.

Now is the time to renew our commitments, to live out the gospel, just not in words, but also in deeds. To nurture and raise up disciples and strengthen our congregations, support our leaders so that children and refugees, migrants, seekers of faith feel welcome and feel the belonging in Jesus Christ.

So, let's embrace this moment of our anniversary, not to hold on to the past, but to look forward with courage and pay attention to the threads you are weaving into God's story.

Happy 48th Anniversary Church! Let's continue to be a church that follows Jesus Christ, investing in justice and reconciliation, celebrating our diversity and living the gospel for generations to come. May God weave us together in love. Christ renew and reconcile us, and the Spirit breathe courage onto us.

Ofa lahi atu in Christ's name.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

This six-week course will explore the historical, social and theological context of women in the bible through six figures from the Old and New Testaments.



Week 1: Danger

Hagar - An Egyptian slave, given to Abraham by his barren wife Sarah to fulfil God's promise of descendants, yet treated harshly.

- *Where is God when the vulnerable are cast out?*



Week 2: Power

Deborah - A prophet and judge, Deborah leads Israel at a time when women held no official power.

- *What does faithful leadership look like when it upends expectations?*



Week 3: Loyalty

Ruth - A Moabite widow who chooses loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi over safety.

- *How do ordinary acts of loyalty become part of God's redemption?*



Week 4: Courage

Esther - A Jewish queen in a foreign empire who rises to meet the threat of her peoples' annihilation.

- *What happens when you risk revealing who you are for the sake of others?*



Week 5: Trust

Mary of Nazareth - A young woman from Nazareth called to birth the Son of God

- *How does trust shape the human response to divine mystery?*



Week 6: Faith

Mary Magdalene - A devoted follower of Jesus, Mary Magdalene is the first to witness the resurrection and proclaim it to others.

- *What does it mean to be the first to see and proclaim resurrection?*

This course is designed to be stimulating yet accessible, with no prior theological knowledge required. It will take place live on zoom and include group discussion. Join us in what will be an eye-opening, thought-provoking and enriching experience.

- **Dates:** Weekly, Wednesday, July 23rd – Wednesday, August 27th
- **Cost:** \$90 (or whatever you can afford)
- **Time:** 7:30pm-9:00pm
- **Venue:** Online (live via Zoom)
- **Facilitator:** Brad Denniston
- **Enrolments or Enquiries:** Visit ormondunitingchurch.org/ormond-learning-hub or; Call Cate on 0411 958 127 or; Email office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au



Bible Readings for June 2025

(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

1st June	Easter 7	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
8th June	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-9	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17, (25-27) or Acts 2:1-21
15th June	Trinity S'day	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15t 2
22nd June	Pentecost 2	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a or Is 65:1-9	Psalm 42 and 43 or 22: 19-28	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
29th June	Pentecost 3	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT are available at the entrance of the Black Rock Church.



We pray for all in need especially -



Prayers of the People

Jo-ann
Heather McPherson & family on
the loss of Don
Margaret Eales and family
Jo-ann's brother Ian
Graeme, Joan & Chris
Margaret Walker
Emily
Karen
Martine & Andrew
Fran (Margaret Bode's sister)
Joan's friends Robyn & Deb
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz

Grace & Van Rensberg
Nan & Charlie
Helen Cole
Susan Hoskin
Kath Tondorf
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their
daughter, Rachel
Barbara Shying's sister Loris
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Virginia (Nan's friend)
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking

Gloria, Samson & Family
Pat Northfield
Joyce Carpenter
Bronwyn
Teresa
Sybil Bond
June and Grace Fairbank
Mark
Mary
Andrew

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee Name "Charman Uniting Church"

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



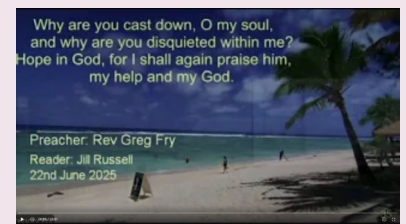
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:



Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **Over 180** sermons and Service Preludes

"Why are you cast down.." Rev Greg Fry 22nd June 2025

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUUwOTStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the - **Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836** Passcode: **665 784**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

Sunday Church
on Zoom



Life' gets like this

If laziness was an olympic sport,
I'd come in 4th place so I wouldn't
have to walk to the podium!



I'D LIKE TO DEDICATE
THIS NEXT SONG TO AN
OLD FLAME OF MINE...

