

## Woden Valley Uniting Church



28 April 2024

Easter 5

**Leaders:** David Cran  
Joan Pratt

**Prayers:** George Pratt  
John Robbins

**Music:** Joan Pratt  
Anne Mann

**Reader:** Piers Booth



*Timmy's Blanket*

**Jesus practiced radical inclusion! All are welcome here.**

### **WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD**

**The Gong is struck three times.** *The gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.*

**Prelude** *(a time for quiet preparation - please be seated).* Excerpt from **Somme Lament** (Frederick Septimus Kelly)

#### **Acknowledgement of First Peoples.**

We live in a peaceful nation relatively recently born out of dispossession, settlement and migration. For centuries before, the land was occupied and cared for by many indigenous nations with highly-developed traditions and customs. We therefore acknowledge that here we live, work and worship on the lands the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people inhabited and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, sea and community. They made this land sacred as we seek to make our lives sacred. We pay our respects to their cultures and to their elders, past, present and emerging, and to all those providing leadership, and commit to working for understanding respect and justice for all.

**Lighting the Community Candle** *(The candle is lit.)*

Come light, light of God, give light to creation.

Enlighten our hearts and show us your truth. **Amen**

### **Call to Worship**

We meet in the presence of God, who calls us to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

**In faith we commit ourselves to work together with all people of good will toward that justice and peace between nations and peoples which is the hope of our calling.**

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

**We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away. Amen.**

**Hymn: TIS 607 - Make me a channel of your peace**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

### **Passing of the Peace**

The courage, the peace, the comfort and the love of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you**

### **Hymn for Anzac Day**

Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave,  
honour our children left in foreign grave,  
where poppies blow and sorrow seeds her flowers,  
honour the crosses marked forever ours.

Weep for the places ravaged with our blood,  
weep for the young bones buried in the mud,  
weep for the powers of violence and greed,  
weep for the deals done in the name of need.

Honour the brave whose conscience was their call,  
answered no bugle, went against the wall,  
suffered in prisons of contempt and shame,  
branded as cowards, in our country's name.

Weep for the waste of all that might have been,  
weep for the cost that war has made obscene,  
weep for the homes that ache with human pain,  
weep that we ever sanction war again.

Honour the dream for which our nation bled,  
held now in trust to justify the dead,  
honour their vision on this solemn day:  
peace known in freedom, peace the only way.<sup>1</sup>

### **WE REFLECT ON WORDS FOR OUR TIME**

#### **Martin Niemöller**

'First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.  
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.  
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me'.

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<sup>1</sup> © Shirley Erena Murray. Music: © Colin Gibson 2005. Tune: ANZAC 2005

## 1 John 4:7-21

### God's Love and Ours

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup>This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

### Reflection.

*Music for quiet reflection – Excerpt from **Benedictus - The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace** (Karl Jenkins)*

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**Hymn: TIS 668 – Touch the earth lightly**

### Offerings

We give thanks for the gifts of faith and trust, hope and patience, which we bring with our offering today and our offerings of so many kinds that are given to our congregation and wider community during the rest of the week. **Amen.**

### Prayers of the People.

*Light the Caring Candle*

### The Care Candle Song - *Aaron Harper*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. We take a match,<br>And light a spark,<br>To show the want within our hearts,<br>To share each joy,<br>To bear each pain,<br>We take a spark, | 2. We take a flame,<br>And light a fire,<br>To represent our heart's desire,<br>To share our hopes,<br>To bear our shames,<br>We take a spark and light a flame, |
|--|--|

And light a flame.

We light a flame.

**Leader:** Please join together in the response after the leader says the words 'This is our prayer'

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the servicemen and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** God give peace to those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** God give peace for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** God give peace for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** God give peace for peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** God give peace for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this world and hope for peace and a better life for all, and grant us the grace to pray for those who might wish us harm.

**Leader:** This is our prayer.

**Response : May God give peace**

**Leader:** As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

**All: Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

Friends,

This is the table of the Lord and he invites us to this sacred feast.

We come to this table today because we seek the Lord's love, strength and companionship.

We come because he loves us and gave himself for us.

We pray that you are present with us, risen Lord Jesus, as you were with your disciples, and that you will make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

For you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With all we are, we give you glory, O Holy God, sovereign of all time and space.

We bless you for this wide, red land, for its rugged beauty, its changing seasons, for its earliest people and for all who have come here over the centuries.

You have called us to be the church in this place, to bring love, respect and service to all who live here.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, we thank you that you called a covenant people to be a light to the nations. Again and again, you raised up men and women to speak your word, to guide, to challenge and convert.

At the last Father, you sent Jesus Christ, child of your love, God with us. Born as one of us, he lived our life and died our death, offering us, both now and forever, eternal life with you.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Let us remember:

On the night before he died, on the evening of his betrayal,

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

In the same way, also the cup after supper saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in memory of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes”.

**Holy God, we offer our thanks and praise.**

O God, by your word and Spirit bless this bread and this wine,  
that they may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ,  
and that he may ever live in us and we in him.

Make us one with him, one with each other, and one in ministry in the world, until at last, we feast with him in the kingdom.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, in your holy church, all glory and honour are yours, Father Almighty, now and for ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. AMEN**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**God, you are life for us, Holy be your name.  
Your new day come, Your will be done on earth as in your vision.  
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Strengthen us in the time of test,  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the power and the splendour and the fulfilment are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

And now, with thanksgiving, we take this bread and this cup and proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection until he comes.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

*(The elements are distributed, and we eat and drink together.)*

The body of Christ, given for us all. **AMEN**

The blood of Christ, given for us all. **AMEN**

Blessed be God who calls us together. **Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. **Praise to the God who loves us.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us. **Therefore we offer all that we are and all we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise. **Accept our thanks for all that we are. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**Hymn: TIS 621 – O God of every nation**

**Blessing**

May you always see the beauty of the Earth.  
May you always taste the sweetest fruit.  
May you always hear the laughter of the People.  
May you always feel the warmth of the Flame.  
May you always smell the perfume of the flowers.  
May you dreams always be happy ones.  
May your friends always be with you when you have need.  
May your stomach always be full.  
May you never feel hurt. Amen.

**Postlude** (*A time for quiet reflection – please remain seated*). Excerpt from **Small Town** (Peter Sculthorpe)

*The Worship and Community Candles are extinguished.*

**In Memoriam**

**The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood  
This Eastertide call into mind the men  
Now far from home, who, with their sweethearts,  
should have gathered them and will never do again.**

**Edward Thomas**

**This Week at Woden Valley Uniting Church**

A time of community to share notices, sharing, comments, significant birthdays, anniversaries.

**Morning Tea.**

You are invited to share in this time of fellowship and friendship.

**Notes**

***Timmy's blanket*** (text by the artist, John Butler)

On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday our father enlisted with the RAAF. This blanket was his constant companion and comforter for the duration of his war service initially south of Darwin and then on Bougainville. In what would have been his centenary year (he died at the cricketing 'devil's number' age of 87) this blanket has been painted in his memory. Northern Territory clay forms the background colour for the plethora of wildflowers, poppies, aircraft marking roundels, and a few cricket balls. The vertical blue stripes of the blanket provide structure for the airfields he was involved in building or perhaps the centre square and pitches of his beloved MCG.

Possibly an apocryphal story, but one of few recounted of his war years, tells of his commanding officer owning, like a test umpire, a box of red kookaburra cricket balls. When he deemed a runway finished, he would throw Timmy, a tearaway fast bowler, a ball and watch as he bowled an over from each end to test the evenness and bounce.

Humour and ingenuity trumped adversity

**Frederick Septimus Kelly DSC**


Frederick Septimus Kelly, an Australian musician and composer was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme.

**In Memoriam.**

The end poem was written by Philip Edward Thomas who was an Anglo-Welsh poet and essayist. He is commonly considered a war poet, although few of his poems deal directly with his war experiences. Already an accomplished writer, Thomas turned to poetry only in 1914. In 1915, he enlisted in the British Army to fight in the First World War and was killed in action during the Battle of Arras in 1917, soon after he arrived in France. The poem is a poignant reminder of the sad consequences of war – more poignant is that Thomas enlisted, at the age of 37, because he felt that his courage was questioned in a poem written by his friend Robert Frost that gently mocked indecision. Sadder still, Frost's poem was never intended to send that message.


## We salute your service

Vietnam War Service




Major  
George Stephen PRATT

Service No: 235132  
Service: Army  
Service Between: 21/01/1964 and 31/01/1970  
Total Days: 373  
Units: Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force  
Visit




Vietnam War Service




Private  
Tomasz BIALKOWSKI

Service No: 2794631  
Service: Army  
Service Between: 24/12/1970 and 28/10/1971  
Total Days: 309  
Units: 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot




Vietnam War Service




Leading Aircraftman  
Alan Thomas Ivan JOHNSTON

Service No: A315729  
Service: RAAF  
Service Between: 23/11/1965 and 7/09/1967  
Total Days: 132  
Units: No. 79 Squadron




Vietnam War Service



Flight Lieutenant  
John Frederick ROBBINS

Service No: O222543  
Service: RAAF  
Service Between: 25/03/1971 and 6/12/1971  
Total Days: 257  
Units: No. 9 Squadron



## Acknowledgements:

CCLI Licence 546647; Painting by John Butler was a finalist in the Gallipoli Art Prize 2024 – see <https://www.gallipoliartprize.org.au>; John Butler is a Central Coast Artist – see <https://www.johnbutlerart.com.au>; Prelude by Frederick Septimus Kelly accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSPLngd0cTU>; Quote from Martin Niemöller accessed at <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/martin-niemoller-first-they-came-for-the-socialists>; Blessing accessed at <https://blessingfiles.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/40000-year-old-australian-aboriginal-prayer/> Copyright ©2001 Francis Bodkin. Intellectual property of the Bodkin-Andrews clan of the D'harawal Peoples. The poem by Edward Thomas is quoted from *Poems of the Great War, 1914-1918*, Penguin Books, 1998, p 35.