

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 19 July 2026

Ordinary 16 A

Greetings and Welcome

In today's readings, Jacob flees into an uncertain future and discovers that the place he thought was empty is alive with God's presence, where heaven and earth meet, and his calling is renewed. The psalmist celebrates the God who knows us completely and accompanies us wherever we go. Paul reminds us that creation longs in hope for the day when God's children fully become what they are called to be. Jesus tells of wheat and weeds growing together until the harvest, revealing that God's call is lived in an imperfect world, trusting that God's purpose will prevail.

As we greet one another in the different languages that connect us to each other and to this land, let us remember that there is no place beyond God's presence. Every language, culture and voice bears witness to the God who knows us, journeys with us, and calls us to walk together in hope and grace.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

Balka wittaberri!

בֹּקֶר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

Goeie dag!

Namasta! (Nepalese)

Namasta! (Nepalese)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Zou San! (Cantonese)

Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Parev! (Armenian)

Parev! (Armenian)

G'day! (Australian)

G'day! (Australian)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In this Season of the Spirit, we light a candle,
reminding us of the fire of hope and freedom.

As this flame flickers, we commit
to spread its light and heat in the world.

As we gather as Spirit-filled disciples of Christ,
we see the presence of the Spirit among us,
uniting us as we worship God.

Acknowledgement of Country

*And as we worship God in the presence of the Spirit, who has been on this
land since the beginning of time, let us take a moment to recognise all the
resources God has generously provided us through it.*

For this Land

We give thanks!

For the First People who cared for this land

We give thanks!

For all nations and people who live on this land

We give thanks!

We honour the custodians
of sacred stories,
of dreamings
and the connections
with the deep earth.

*May we work together
for the restoration
of the Land
and its People.*

Call to Worship

Early in the morning, we gather
at the edge of heaven.

*Finding the gates flung wide open
by the One who welcomes all.*

Early in the morning, we come
to this holy place of worship.

*To be touched by the One
who offers us grace and love.*

Early in the morning, we worship God,
who adopts us into the family.

*To be filled by the One who would
pour us out in service to the world.*

Praise Hymn:

How Great Is Our God

*Psalm 139 says, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works." How great is our God. Sing with me, how great is
our God. Let's stand and sing.*

Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

*Psalm 139 says, "You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon
me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain
it." Let us approach the God who is behind us, under us, beside us, over us,
and ever and always with us.*

Let us pray:

God of promises,
every word you have spoken
of hope found in the depths of life,
of healing surprising our pain,
of grace jumping rope with children,
will all come true,
even when our stubbornness
deafens us to your whispers.

Christ of the harvest,
every hope you have for us
of kindness never ending,
of persistent patience,
of sacrificial service,
can still be found,
even when others cannot
see it growing within us.

Spirit of life,
every dream you have
of peace becoming our best friend,
of joy bubbling from our hearts,
of strangers welcomed as kin,
will come to life,
even when we insist on
living out our own fantasies.

Behind us, under us, beside us, over us,
you are ever and always with us,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen!

Praise Time:

Show Me Your Ways There Is None Like You

Psalm 139 says, "You search out my path, and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways." Show me your ways that I may walk with you. Let us stand to praise the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Hiding in the cobwebbed corners of our lives, we hope God cannot find us and see how we truly act and speak. But God's light of righteousness shines on us, so that we might find comfort, hope, forgiveness. Let us confess our sin. Let us pray:

God of Love,

We try to hide from your searching gaze. We climb mountains, and dig deep into earth's caverns. We flee to the farthest edges of our souls, and long to sail in fears to the dark side of the moon. And wherever we go you are waiting for us! Even in the dimmest corners of our hearts, your light finds us.

Lost, we are found;

afraid to speak of our sinfulness, you hear our stumbling words before we shape them in our minds. Unable to help ourselves, you redeem us through the gracious love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Silence is kept

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The places we try to hide become places where God's grace finds us.

Your sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The Lord gives us strength;

The Lord blesses us with peace;

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements/Notices

Prayers of Intercession

Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for Djibouti and Somalia. Today the wider Church highlights Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday, so we also share some of the Assembly's prayers prepared for this day.

Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.

Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, [Prayers](#).

Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.

God of every nation and language,
you gather people who would never have chosen one another,
weaving our many stories into one Fellowship in Christ.
Teach us to receive one another as your gift,
and to rejoice in the diversity of your grace.

God of the pilgrim people,
you call us from our individual lives and our separate communities into the
Community of Christ to be one people, your people. As we gather, your
people in your holy presence, affirm in each of us the good that you have
created; remove from each of us the evil that works against you; reform in
each of us the life that we have through Jesus. May your Spirit enliven our
worship, and enlighten our understanding of your will. Encircle us in your
love and so enable us, in return, to love you and one another.

God of peace,
we pray for the people of Sudan, where war continues to drive families from
their homes and disease spreads among the most vulnerable. Bring protection
to those in danger and strength to all who provide care, food and shelter. Turn
the hearts of those who profit from conflict towards justice and peace.
Challenge us not to look away, but to stand alongside our neighbours through
our prayers, our generosity, our advocacy, and our willingness to share what
we have, so that hope may grow where despair has taken root.

[Add more prayers here](#)

God of healing,
Your Son, Jesus, walked on earth, healing people from many illnesses. We
have different kinds of diseases today, but we still need your healing touch.
We bring to you all who are waiting for your healing.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and remember:

— A moment of silence —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

Open our eyes and give us the wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

A prayer from Somalia

God of creation and nature,
 You, who made all things,
 transform our ruin into blessing and good!
 You who are truthful,
 we accept in submission whatever you say!
 You who give sustenance to your creatures
 put water for us in the nipples of rain!
 You who poured water into oceans,
 make this land of ours fertile again!
 You who are worshipped and answer prayers,
 make the rain spread over the whole of the land!
 You who are one and are the trusted provider of all,
 give water to your people!
 You who used to relieve the strangest plights,
 it is to you that we turn to for help!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song:

It Is The Cry Of My Heart

Psalm 139 says, "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast." Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord, so I can walk in Your truth. As we prepare to listen for God's voice and learn God's ways through

the reading and proclamation of the Word, let us stand and sing It Is The Cry Of My Heart.

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us say the prayer of illumination together.

Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.

We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.

Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.

Amen.

Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:12-25

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36

Genesis 28:10-19a

The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, chapter twenty-eight, verses ten to nineteen. Listen now for the word of God.

28:10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

28:11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

28:13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

28:14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

28:15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

- 28:16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!”
- 28:17 And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”
- 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.
- 28:19a He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Romans 8:12-25

The Epistle Reading is from the epistle to the Romans, chapter eight, verses twelve to twenty-five. Listen now for the word of God.

- 8:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —
- 8:13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
- 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”
- 8:16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
- 8:17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.
- 8:18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
- 8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
- 8:20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
- 8:21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

- 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;
- 8:23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- 8:24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
- 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

For the Word of God in Scripture.

For the Word of God among us.

For the Word of God within us.

Thanks be to God

Matthew 13:24-30, 36

The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter thirteen, verses twenty-four to thirty, then verse thirty-six.

Listen now to the Word of God

- 13:24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;
- 13:25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.
- 13:26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.
- 13:27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'
- 13:28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'
- 13:29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.
- 13:30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind

them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.””

13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children’s Story

Sermon:

This Call Comes With Limits

Hymn/ Offering

The Summons

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us affirm our faith.

Prayer for Offering

God of generosity,

Wherever they are, the broken, the homeless, those without hope, those in need of justice, you are with them. Not just with them, but healing them, caring for them, feeding them, and sustaining them with all the gifts offered to you by so many, including ours. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Communion Song:

Glorify Thy Name

Psalm 139 says, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me.” We glorify your name as you fill us with your love through Word and Sacrament. As we prepare to join the Table of the Lord, let us stand and sing Glorify Thy Name.

Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, repent of their sin, and seek peace with one another.

Come, not because you have all the answers, but because Christ has called you to follow. Come, trusting the One who knows you completely, welcomes you graciously, and nourishes you with bread for the journey.

Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant, poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God who knows you best be with you!

And also with you!

Worship the One who is with us at this Table,
as well as in our hunger for hope.

How blessed we are to open our hearts to God.

Sing songs of wonder to the One who whispers in your soul.

We praise the One who surrounds us in every moment.

God of creation,
into the shadows of chaos,
you shine your light of righteousness.
You looked, and saw the sun
shimmering over green meadows.
You watched, as the moon
gleamed in the night sky.
When your Spirit came to lead us
through the gardens of your grace,
 we ran and hid ourselves
 under the shelter of death,
 believing you would never find us.

You sent the prophets
to sow seeds of hope
in our shallow and barren souls,
 but we collected them
 and threw them out with the trash.
So, groaning with the pain
of your shattered heart,
you sent Jesus to gather us up
and to bring us home to you.

So, with those who have gone into the deserts,
and found you waiting for them;
with those who have journeyed to the centre
of faithful living, led by your Spirit;
we lift our voices, to sing your praises:

*Holy, holy, holy,
God who knows us completely.
All creation waits in hope,
for all we are yet to be.
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is the One who comes,
turning many into one.
Hosanna in the highest!*

You search for us,
finding us wherever we have run.
You take us by the hand
to lead us to this Table of reconciliation,
where the bread and the cup
have been prepared and blessed
by the gift of your Spirit.

Fed by the Bread filled with grace,
may we dare go live
at the farthest edges of despair,
to stand with those who have lost
all hope and life.

When our parched souls have been
watered by the Cup of love,
may we dare to carry
the light of your joy and freedom
to those living in the shadows
of injustice and oppression.

And when all are gathered
at the Table of the Lamb,
we will sing your praise
for ever and ever,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;

Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

We thank you, God our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we receive your Son, the true Bread of Heaven. Strengthen us to serve faithfully with humility and hope, trusting what belongs to you and embracing what you entrust to us. As we pray, “Bring justice, bring peace, bring joy to this world,” make us willing partners in your work; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn After Communion

Beauty for Brokenness

Psalm 139 says, “Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?” There is no place beyond God’s love, not even the places scarred by injustice, suffering and despair. As we pray that God would bring beauty for brokenness and make us part of that healing, let us stand and sing Beauty for Brokenness.

Blessing

Go now, trusting the call of Christ.

Be faithful with what has been entrusted to you,
and leave in God’s hands what belongs to God alone.

Walk with patience, humility, and hope,
knowing that God is still at work in lives, in creation, and in you.

And may God walk beside you and give you peace wherever you go.

May Christ Jesus lead you in the way of faithful service.

And may the Holy Spirit grant you wisdom to know when to act and when to wait, so that you may live as signs of God's grace in the world.

Amen.

Blessing Song

Father God I Wonder