

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH GEELONG

EASTER 6B, MAY 5th 2024

LOVE

each other as I have loved

YOU.



Rev. Tupe Ioelu

A WARM WELCOME to any who are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time today. Please make yourselves known. We trust you will enjoy this time of fellowship with us. You are invited to join us over a cuppa after the service.

We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which Wesley is built. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, Energy of Love, you call us into being.

We abide in your love, and your joy is in us.

Heart of Love, you guide us in each moment, each breath.

We abide in your love, and your joy is in us.

The world does not understand love, but your love conquers the world.

We abide in your love, and your joy is in us. Alleluia!

SONG TIS 111

Praise to the Lord the almighty the king of creation.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear;
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our
work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend us.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
as with his love he befriends us.

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

TIS 111

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
Words in the Public Domain

PRAYER

Loving God, we enter this space today with grateful hearts and songs of praise. We know that You are a Wonderful God, the Everlasting One and Lord of Peace. Guard our hearts and minds from the distractions of this world: all the busy-ness of our to-do lists and things left undone, all the elements of consumer culture that would have us look at our neighbour to see what they have that we don't, all the things that pull our attention from You. Guide us in this time of worship to centre our lives in You, to remember Your great love for us, and to be encouraged in our love of one another.

God Who Opens, we confess that we are often the ones to leave doors closed. We are often the ones who build up the walls and break down the bridges.

We are the ones who want to define who people are as for us or against us, as worthy of love or not.

But You continually have torn down the walls and built bridges. You have continually drawn the circle wider. You have continually erased the lines we define ourselves by. God, may we be open to Your spirit doing new things in our lives. May we be open to Your people, who may not define themselves by the labels of the past. May we remember that the most important identifier is our love, and if we love one another, we are living as You have commanded us. Call us deeper into Your ways of love that always open more doors, that lead us to inclusion over exclusion, and that centre our thoughts and actions in the heart of Your love. **AMEN**

SONG TIS 685

Lord, I come to you.

1.

Lord, I come to you,
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.
O Lord, I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away, by the power of your love.

Chorus:

*Hold me close,
let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you,
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

2.

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind,
as your will unfolds in my life,
in living every way by the power of your love.

TIS 685

The power of your love

Words and music by Geoffrey Bullock

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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has remembered God's steadfast love to all the people. We are healed and called to again be God's beloved children and witnesses. Receive that healing love and share the good news with all you meet, that God is love and in God there is no darkness or fear. **AMEN.**

BIBLE READINGS

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SONG

How deep the father's love for us.

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast, beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life

– I know that it is finished.
I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.

*Words & Music: Stuart Townend © 1995 Kingsway’s Thankyou Music,
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REFLECTION

COMMUNION

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

God of love, we thank you,
for you have embodied your love
and your delight in us.

Your Creation is a gift of love.

In Christ you have laid down your life for us.

Your grace is a gift of love.

In love you set us free from all that oppresses,
and choose us to join you in working for justice,
that all your Beloved may know fullness of life.

Your love has conquered the world.

You call us to this meal, to feast on your love
and to share in your joy.

Therefore with all Creation we praise you.

***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.

SONG TIS 538

Feed us now, bread of life.

1.

Feed us now, Bread of life,
in this holy meal;
let us know your love anew:
we hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of life,
come and live within;
let your peace be ours today,
Lord Jesus, we pray.

2.

Piece of Bread, glass of wine:
Lord, this food is good:
love and mercy come to us –
your promise we trust.
Piece of bread, glass of wine;
who can understand
how his mercy works in these?
Yet, Lord, we believe.

3.

God is near, O so near –
nearer than our thoughts.
Stay with us where'er we go;
Lord, help us to grow.
God is here, O so near,
in this heaven's meal.
May we always feed on you –
on the bread that is true.

TIS 538

Feed us now

Words and music by Robin Mann

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OFFERING & NOTICES

SONG TIS 699

A new commandment I give unto you.

A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another;
by this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.

TIS 699

A new commandment I give unto you
Source unknown.

SHARING

INTERCESSION

BLESSING

SONG TIS 778

Shalom to you now.

Shalom to you now,
shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you,
my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.

TIS 778 "Shalom to you now..."

Words by Elise Shemaker Eslinger
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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th

Fellowship and Friendship

12.30 pm



May 8th

Craft Group

10.30 am



May 10th

Wesley Playgroup

10.00 am



May 19th

Combined Pentecost
Service 10.00 am



May 22nd

Bus Trip

10.30 am



May 28th

Coffee and Chat

10.30 am at the Hub East



Fellowship and Friendship

Monday 6th May at 12.30pm

At our next fellowship meeting we are delighted to host a very special guest.

Gary Banks is an accomplished singer and songwriter who draws inspiration from Traditional Celtic folk style with a strong emphasis on the rugged coastline of Ireland and Victoria's Great Ocean Road coastline.

He has already recorded four albums combining the talents of other top class musicians. Gary's music is now available on Spotify and other Music providers.

At our gathering Gary will share a couple of his songs and then chat about his great passion "Lighthouses"

His grandfather was a Lighthouse Keeper and had a great influence on Gary's dad who was brought up in the very special environment of lighthouse living.

Gary likes to spend time each year in Ireland immersing himself in singing, writing and the Irish countryside .

He continues to perform at a range of live music venues and music festivals.

All Welcome



The Geelong Uniting Churches - combined Pentecost Service

The service is **open to all**, and will be held at **10am on the 19th of May**, at **'The Dome'** - Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong.

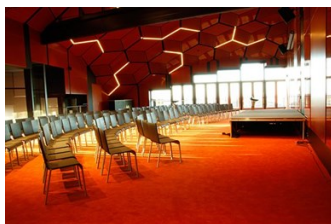
The Uniting Churches across Geelong are combining together to celebrate Pentecost;
the Sunday when we observe the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

This day is also integrated with the wearing of something **red**; to represent the Holy Spirit descending on the people like 'tongues of flame'.

Celebrating the Holy Spirit: **'Sofia Wisdom'**
(Honouring the feminine aspects of God)

Don't forget to wear something **Red**

The service will be followed by a shared morning tea.
The service will be **Live-Streamed** for those unable to attend in person (details will be made available on the Presbytery Facebook page).
For more information, please contact Jeanne on 0432284279



The Church office will be closed from
May 7th to May 20th.

Daily Diary

Monday	6th May	10.30 am	Gentle Exercise
		12.30 pm	Fellowship and Friendship
Wednesday	8th May	10.30 am	Craft Group
Sunday	12th May	10.00 am	Service

Rosters

	Today	Next Sunday
WELCOME	Vicki and Ian Uldrich	Betty Backwell
READER	Orisi Qaranivalu	Helen Maybin
Camera Operator	Heather Cooney	Zara White
Data Projection	Patrick Puckett	Will Pearce
Morning Tea	Gail Pett and Michael Nolan	Hilary Prideaux, Leon Pederick, Helen Maybin
Offering Counters	Vicki and Ian	Lorene and Judy
Communion	Orisi Qaranivalu, Lorene Day, Sue Strong	

MINISTER & CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT

MINISTER: Rev. Tupe loelu	0448 415 656
CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACTS: Chairperson: Graeme Harris Secretary: Heather Cooney	0429 415 613 0477 805 234
Pastoral Concerns: Lauren Woolnough Jan Watson	0428 365 910 0421 320 296

CHURCH OFFICE:

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