

UnitingWorld Sunday Liturgy 2025



There are links to all the resources referred to throughout this copy. You can also find them at www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday-resources

Acknowledgment of Country

Worship Leader:

From before recorded time, the First Peoples of the Nation cared for this Land.

We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have cared for it.

We acknowledge the Elders and community members who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

From [Assembly Guidelines for Acknowledgment of Country](#)

Other Acknowledgements and resources

[Alternative language by Amelia Koh Butler](#)

[Translations into other languages](#)

1. Lighting the Christ Candle and Call to Worship

If the congregation includes speakers of multiple languages, the Worship Leader may invite them to welcome each other in their heart language.

Worship Leader (as you light the candle)

All over the world, in villages and cities, in sweltering heat and icy cold, in the deep darkness of storm or in the stillness of blue skies, people like you and I are gathering, as we have for centuries, to remember our Christ. Storyteller, healer, hand of hope; we remember in different ways in different places, but we share the one spirit of love.



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connecting communities for life

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Join me as we light the Christ candle to affirm:

Here and now God waits to break into our experience.

Congregation

To change our minds

To change our lives

To change our ways

Worship Leader

To help us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

Congregation

To fill us with hope, joy and certainty for the future.

Worship Leader

This is the place, as are all places.

This is the time, as are all times.

Congregation

O God of this place, and every place,

God of this time and all time,

Here and now, unite us, nurture us, remind us of the fellowship of our brothers and sisters

Far away and near at hand.

Be among us.

Amen.

2. Introduction and Opening Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Worship Leader

Friends, today is a special service to focus our attention on what Christ is doing in our world.

As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, we are connected in partnership with churches across the Pacific, Asia and Africa. Our partners are vibrant, inspiring, and dedicated people of God who are transforming lives and communities for the better.

Many of our overseas church relationships reach back more than 150 years and have impacted countless lives, through many generations.

Through these relationships, we seek to act as one body of Christ in the world, each playing our part to build hope and end poverty and injustice.

UnitingWorld is the agency that manages these partnerships for the wider Uniting Church, and today we hear more about their work and celebrate our global neighbours together.

Worship/Prayer Leader

God of every land and people, we gather to celebrate your boundless love.

You have called us to walk with our faithful partners across Asia, the Pacific and Africa, sharing hope, seeking justice, working to make lives whole and hopeful in the face of poverty, injustice and a changing climate.

For generations, Your Spirit has woven lives together in courage and grace.

Today, stir our hearts with their witness — steadfast, resilient, alive with faith.

Open our eyes to the needs of your world, and our hands to Your work of healing.

Plant in us a bold hope that no injustice is too great, no dream of renewal too small.

Together in Christ, make us sowers of justice and harvesters of joy.

Amen.

3. Song

Recommended:

TIS 137 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

or TIS 217(i) “Love divine, all love excelling”

or “One in Christ”, written by Roxanne McLeod with help from musicians in Sydney for UnitingWorld ([on Google drive](#))

or choose your own hymn or song.

4. Children’s Talk

Three suggestions are available [here](#).

STORY – The Concrete Garden by Bob Graham

ACTIVITY – Life Affirming Generosity

STORY – Shoes from Grandpa by Mem Fox

Choose one of these ideas, or create your own talk based on the UnitingWorld Sunday themes of caring for the earth and for our global neighbours.

5. Song

Recommended:

TIS 161 “Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord”

or TIS 135 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

or “Touch the Earth Lightly” by Shirley Erena Murray and Colin Gibbons (Enjoy this beautiful version on [YouTube](#) by the National Lutheran Choir.)

or choose your own hymn or song.

6. Bible Reading

Option 1: If you are using the sermon video provided, read **Genesis 2:1-15**.

Option 2: If someone else is preaching, then use their choice of reading.

7. Sermon

Option 1: Use the video sermon from Rev Dr Cliff Bird based on Genesis 2:1-15. His theme is ‘Carers and Servants of Our Common Home’.

Rev Dr Cliff Bird is a theologian and minister from the United Church in the Solomon Islands. He has worked extensively with UnitingWorld, authoring our publications on the theology of gender equality and human dignity, and serving on the Pacific-wide Theology of Disaster Resilience Working Group.

Cliff is currently working with the NSW and ACT Synod, resourcing the Uniting Church in providing pastoral care and religious and spiritual guidance to people who are participating in the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme (PALMS) program.

Option 2: The congregation’s choice of speaker

8. Song

Recommended:

TIS 650 “Brother, sister, let me serve you”

or TIS 166 “Creation sings a new song to the Lord”

or “Creation Sings” by Stuart Townend

or choose your own hymn or song.

9. Prayers of Intercession

Our god, we give thanks for your good gift of Creation and ask that we may learn to walk softly on the Earth. We pray for an attitude of wonder and awe in the midst of the beauty and mystery of all that surrounds us.

We pray for those who suffer because of disasters, droughts, floods, fires and famines. We pray especially for those who are impacted by our world's greed and growth, for those who suffer most and have the fewest resources to cope. We ask that here in our own congregations we may learn to make choices which are life-giving for our brothers and sisters, in our local communities and beyond.

We give thanks for those who bring awareness of the suffering planet and work to bring about a change in our attitude towards the Earth, our common home.

Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centred on ourselves, but on all you have created.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

10. Offering

Follow your usual offering practice.

If you wish to take up an offering for the work of UnitingWorld, people can give using giving envelopes (available to order at www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday-resources) or donate online at www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday. If a tax receipt is required, they need to include their contact details with their individual donation (credit card, online or bank transfer).

Alternatively, you can take up a retiring offering and send the money as one gift from your church.

The following prayer can be said after the gifts are collected.

Worship Leader: Offering prayer

God of extravagant mercy

With hands outstretched you have poured out

Wonder and pleasure and delight

Goodness and beauty and bounty.

Take and use these offerings we pray,
To help grow your Kingdom of justice and peace.
May we be part of building your new creation, together.
Amen.

11. Song

Recommended:

TIS 607 “Make me a channel of your peace”
or TIS 629 “When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?”
or “For You, Deep Stillness” by [Robin Mann](#)
or choose your own hymn or song.

12. A Sending Blessing

Worship Leader:

Go now into the world in peace.
May the love of God guide you,
the compassion of Christ move you,
and the breath of the Spirit stir you to action.
Care for the earth, tend to one another,
seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
And may the blessing of God — Creator, Christ, and Spirit —
be with you and remain with you, now and always.
Amen

13. Song

Recommended:

TIS 779 “May the feet of God walk with you”
or “God of Justice” by Tim Hughes (CCLI: 4447128) [on Vimeo](#)
or choose your own hymn or song.