

# Order of Service – 07/05/2023, Easter 5 A

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## Opening verse:

You are my refuge Psalm 31:4

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

**Wominjeka yearmann koondée biik Wurundjeri balluk.....**

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people and Brunswick Uniting Church, in person & over the internet, for this service. My name is Jenne, your liturgist. Let's stand and praise the risen Christ in song as we welcome the Word and the Easter Candle.

## Gathering Song

**TIS720 Halle, halle, hallelujah**

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*Halle, halle, hallelujah!*  
*Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Halleluja!)*  
*Halle, halle, hallelujah!*  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah! (Halleluja!)*

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SONG: [Halle, halle, halle](#), Tune Caribbean traditional. Words: traditional liturgical text, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Lighting the Christ Candle

**Jenne**

O God, we come to worship You and light this candle as a sign of your Son, in whom we abide and he in us, who makes many rooms for us all in your house

## Acknowledgement of Country

**Jenne**

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of this land since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land is not ours to own, but to look after; and that if we listen, we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.

**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.**

## Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to Brunswick Uniting Church those present in person, those joining us on the live-stream, Today we abide and know we have a place in God's house and are called to ensure that all have a place there!

The God of steadfast love and faithfulness be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Let us pray

**TiS 19 In you O Lord I have found refuge** (John Bell)

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*In you, O Lord, I found refuge; let me nevermore be put to shame.*

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God we praise you for being a loving God we can abide in and that You abide in us.  
You make room for us, many rooms for all shapes, sizes, ways of being, without a home,  
without a country, solo, with many kin, those without land, those taken from their land ...  
thus you abide as in Jesus words 'Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me'...

We praise you for the rest, comfort, loving presence and just being when we abide in You.  
We praise you for the gift of you abiding in us ... we just need to 're-member.'

We too are 'a house'... every morning a new arrival, some momentary awareness  
comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all!

The visitor may be clearing you out for some new delight'.

Adapted from *Jalaluddin Rumi*

God Abide with us today, let us sense the abiding of you within,  
resting in your house of many rooms.

Let us **Pause** in that abiding for a moment .....

### Let us pray our prayer of confession

O God, We need your forgiveness for not abiding in you enough,  
for not pausing and sensing your love and being within us.

Forgive us when we do not claim this abiding right for ourselves and for all.

For you are waiting with the doors of the many rooms open.

See our regret when we have not opened the door enough  
for those without a house or a room.

May those with rooms and houses, that place profit above a home for all,  
open their doors & rooms and be forgiven.

In abiding, may we be strengthened by you, O God,

to speak out so that all may have a literal and spiritual place to abide.

Amen

### Word of Grace

This is the best of all:

when we are empty, God fills us;

when we are disheartened,

God is compassionate;

when we are wounded, God brings healing;

when we take responsibility, and commit to heal our human mistakes,

by God's liberating and gracious love, we are transformed

so that we may do God's will in love and praise.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we are restored.

**ALL: In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 31

Let us sing our first bible reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.  
The musicians will lead us in the verses. Please join in with the refrain.

**TiS 19 In you O Lord I have found refuge** (John Bell)

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*In you, O Lord, I found refuge; let me nevermore be put to shame.*

---

Words and music by John Bell © 1993 The Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, UK.  
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For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

**Thanks be to God**

## With the Children

**Cath**

Cath invited the children to explore some of the things we might find in God's house.

## Song

**MV01 Let us build a house (All are Welcome)**

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- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*
  - 2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*
  - 3. Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:*
- 

SONG: Let us build a house, by Marty Haugen, from More Voices, United Church of Canada,  
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## Gospel Reading – John 14:1-14

**Lyn**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I

am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word:

***Thanks be to God***

## Reflection

Ian

## Offering with Song

Jenne

Responding to God’s love & abiding, to Jesus’ gift of opening the doors to the mansion of many rooms, we offer our gifts to support the work of the church and to lift up those in need. We do this through the offering of our money, the time we devote to the committees and programs of our congregation and the wider church and all the many ways we seek to follow Jesus in our living and loving. We offer our gifts of money in the bowls which will be passed around or through direct debit (see the details on the screen)

### **TIS586 *Abide with me***

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- 1 *Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*
  - 2 *Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
Earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*
  - 3 *I need Thy presence every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*
  - 4 *I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*
  - 5 *Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*
- 

By Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847. Public Domain.

## Offering Dedication

Jenne

Please join me in the response at the end of this dedication.

We long for the time  
when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice  
shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time  
when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.

**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts  
and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

(Source: *Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona*)

## Prayers of the People

Natalie, offered by Shawn

God our strong tower, you are a refuge for all who suffer,  
Our hearts are troubled and we pray for your justice to reign in this world and in our country.  
We continue to pray for Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, for Sudan, Thailand and  
Nigeria, and all places at war or where there is political unrest.  
We continue to pray for the people of Syria and Turkey displaced by the earthquake, for those  
displaced by flooding in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and for all those who are homeless.  
We pray for the continuing work towards better recognition for indigenous people here in  
Australia, and around the world. We pray for clear thinking and open hearts as all Australians  
consider their response to Voice to Parliament and for the continuing work of the Yoorook  
Justice Commission.

We pray for all refugees seeking asylum.  
We place these before you, our refuge and our rock.

*In your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

Spirit of truth, we pray for your church, as we seek to be a refuge for others,  
For our community here at Brunswick: for Ian, Cath, and Peter,  
for our council and committees and for all who lead our work together.  
For the broader church, especially for those churches and communities  
who are divided and in need of your wisdom.

For those harmed by the church or by people within it, that their concerns will be heard and  
responded to, that their wounds will be healed, and that they will find a place of belonging.

We pray for all churches and all Christians, as we wrestle with our place in society.

As we seek to bring about change, may we seek always to be the voice of Christ,  
rather than the voice of Empire.

May we be your people, a refuge and rock.

*In your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

Suffering Christ, we pray for all those who need you, and need us, to be a refuge for them,  
We pray for those who are sick, and for all those who support and care for them.

Bring healing, bring wisdom, bring peace.

We pray for those who mourn. Bring comfort and community.

We pray for those in prison, their families, and for prison chaplains.

We pray for all those we meet in our daily lives.

May we be inspired to proclaim your gospel in all that we do.

Help us to support those who need it, and to be strong to speak out when we see injustice.

Help us to be for others a living refuge and rock.

*In your mercy*  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

Ian

Servers: Ian, Cath, Jenne, Kenna, Max, Natalie

### Invitation

#### Thanksgiving

We are the body of Christ  
***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift our hearts to God.***

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love.  
***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Holy and life-giving God,  
you are Creator of all things,  
and Lover of each one.  
In Christ you share with us  
the joy and pain of our humanity.  
We give thanks that through him,  
life rises from despair  
and all things are made new.

Dying Christ destroyed our death  
***Alleluia***  
Rising he restored our life  
***Alleluia***

Therefore,  
with the whole creation  
we sing in thanks and praise:

*Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)*

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*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)*  
*holy Lord of power and might.*  
*Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)*  
*heaven and earth are full of your glory.*  
*All glory to your name.*  
*(All glory to your name.)*  
*All glory to your name.*  
*(All glory to your name.)*  
*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)*  
*is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)*  
*is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*Hosanna in the highest.*  
*(Hosanna in the highest.)*  
*Hosanna in the highest.*  
*(Hosanna in the highest.)*

---

Blessed is our brother Jesus,  
who on the night of his betrayal  
took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

***This is my body given for you.  
Whenever you eat it, remember me.***

In the same way, after supper,  
he took the cup saying:

***This is the cup of  
a new covenant in my blood.  
whenever you drink it, remember me.***

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,  
love us into the unity of peace  
through this bread and wine. For:

***Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!***

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ  
all glory be to you,  
Source of all Being,  
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,  
one God and Mother of all creation.

***Amen.***

Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen***

Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of resurrection:  
***new life for all.***

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

We who are many are one body,  
***for we all share in the one bread.***

Let us receive what we are.  
Let us become what we receive:  
***The body of Christ.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution

## The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Exchange a sign of peace*

## Notices

Jenne

## Sending Song

**ATAR616 In my father's house** (Paul Somerville)

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*Rainbow of colours a complex of creeds  
Age-old perspectives meet fresh ways to see  
Everyone welcome fling open the doors  
You'll learn of my path and I'll learn from yours*

### *Chorus*

*In my father's house there are many rooms  
But no walls to divide  
In my father's house there are many rooms  
The gates are open wide*

*The strong and the scared  
Come from left and from right  
We're not so different seen in this light  
There at the table a banquet is served  
For every person a place is reserved*

*Some greet a stranger some serve the poor  
Some shake the system right to its core  
Some have found true faith others still search  
'Cause it takes all kinds to make up a church*

*A voice for the voiceless justice for all  
And for the listless a clarion call  
A church of inclusion we're bringing to birth  
Just like in heaven it can be on earth*

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## Blessing and Sending

Ian

*[Blessing prepared and shared by the Shearwater Ministry Team for the congregations of Phillip Island, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Tarwin Lower, Fish Creek, Foster and Toora and the Presbytery of Gippsland in 2020 alt]*

In the gospel of John, Jesus says:  
"Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
trust in God, trust also in me."

And the psalmist sings:  
"Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for our God."



Go into this week knowing  
yourself at home in God's house of love with Jesus.

In this sure knowledge,  
be strong and take courage,  
let your hearts be filled with love  
and let the light of life  
shine brightly in all you do,  
to light the way for others  
until we are all one;

one house of love,  
one house,  
one love.  
one.

May it be so,  
in the name of Christ. Amen.

## Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:  
Jenne Perlstein

Bible readers:  
Lyn Anderson

Children's time:  
Cath James  
Minister of the Word –  
CYA

Reflection:  
Ian Ferguson

Prayers of the People:  
Natalie Sims, offered by  
Shawn Whelan

Musicians:  
Courtney Rodhe  
(co-ordinator)  
James Balsillie  
Michael Cameron  
Glenice Cook  
Quilan Goff  
Rosie O'Reilly

Images:  
Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: Let us  
build a house, by Marty  
Haugen, from More Voices,  
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Daniel Whelan, Shawn  
Whelan

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Hugh Brown  
Saide Cameron  
Alistair Hunter  
Ian Ferguson  
Marcelo Mendoza  
Lauren Reader

## Closing verse:

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. John 14:2