Order of Service – 06/09/26, Season of Creation 1

GATHERING

Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time 'set apart' for the purpose of communal prayer.
During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.
A sensory friendly space is available for those who need it.
The worship area is wheelchair accessible.
There is a children's corner with books and activities.

1. Opening verse – Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Rom 13:10

2. Greeting — Amelia

The leader greets the people in God's name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.

Good morning, for the next five weeks we will observe the Season of Creation. During this time we will bring a symbol of the Earth forward as we prepare to worship together.
Please stand as we welcome the Word and the Light'.

3. Song – Song of Praise — Amelia

We usually stand during the songs.

Let's stand and sing Ross Langmead's Song of Praise, a song written for the opening of Synod 30 years ago and which speaks of the ways God is present in the world.
We will sing this song each week for the Season of Creation

Creator of this great land, we adore you.
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.

Descant: Creator we adore you.
Renewer, hear our praise.
Transformer you surprise us,
Be present in life-giving ways.

Creator of this great land, we adore you.
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.
Transformer of all life you often take us by surprise.
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great God.

SONG: Song of Praise, Written for the Commission for Mission by Ross Langmead for Synod worship, September 1996. Used with permission

4. Call to worship — Amelia

Come, feel your feet on the floor, as we worship the God of all Creation.
Come, feel your heart beating, as we worship the One who renews all things.
Come, feel Spirit's living presence, as we worship God together.

5. Acknowledgement of Country — Amelia, Brad

We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship

Instead of four seasons, the Wurrundjeri people acknowledge six seasons. They are marked by changes in the behaviour of plants, animals, birds and people. At the moment we are in Poorneet or tadpole season.

As part of our acknowledgement each week in Season of Creation we have asked someone to reflect on what they are noticing as a way of deepening our connection with place.

Brad Coath to share some observations of place.

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.

6. Welcome and Introduction — Amelia

People are welcomed, those present and those online. Those contributing are acknowledged and / or introduced and an invitation is issued to morning tea after the service.
The themes of the service are laid out.

Good morning, my name is Amelia and I am the liturgist leading worship today along with our minister Cath. Together with everyone leading and supporting worship, I would like to welcome you all as we worship together in person and online.

This week as we begin the Season of Creation we will focus on reconciling relationships with each other and the Earth and God. We will also think about noticing, and how giving our attention to the small, perfect and ordinary things in our day and in our world can help us build connection.

This artwork called *Tet* is by Myrashel, it is from his recent exhibition with the Olive Arts Collective called 'the Symbol of Hebrew'. 22 paintings illustrating the 22 letters of the Hebrew language.

Tet has a literal meaning of basket or nest, and is the symbol of the bounty of God's goodness, a treasure trove of love.

During the service you are welcome to move around and use the fidgets that are available, or to go into the quiet room up the back beside the candle lighting area.

7. Prayers of Adoration and Confession — Amelia

We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.

God, who brings life out of nothingness,
how can we meet the greatness of your creation?
Teach us to listen when you tell us what is needed
and delight in the good things you have made.

Jesus, bringer of new life,
how can we walk with you in the act of recreation?
Free us from the traps of familiarity and sameness,
Encourage us to see new ways of living and contributing.

Holy Spirit, seeker of truth and justice,
in the midst of distraction and overwhelm, what should we question?
Allow us to notice the ways we impact other living beings,
May we be a reflection of your hope and love in the world.

8. Word of Grace — Amelia

In Christ we are created anew, in faith, hope and love.
In Christ, through Christ and because of Christ, our sin is forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

HEARING AND RESPONDING

We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.
Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).

9. Epistle – Romans 13:8-14, p923 — Linda

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled
the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall
not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You
shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the
fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from
sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far
gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of
light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and
licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and
make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

10. Early Word — Amelia

Text of Slides:

1. (Front cover) Tiny perfect things written by M H Clark, illustrated by Madeline Kloepper
2. Today we keep our eyes open for tiny perfect things
3. Like here, on the ground, a yellow leaf that the wind blew down
4. A spider's web that's caught the light

5. A snail that climbed the fence last night
6. See all the crows up in the tree? I watch them and they watch me
7. Here's a red bottle cap. And a flower growing through a footpath crac. And a man with a beautiful feather in his hat.
8. Look! Our shadows are holding hands. They walk when we walk and they stand when we stand.
9. I see a cat on the steps. And someone we know. Let's wave hello!
10. Here's an apple way up high. Red against the blue blue sky
11. And now I see the pale bright moon
12. Its getting cold. Let's go home soon
13. Around the corner, up the stairs. The light is on, who's waiting there?
14. We found so many things today! A leaf, a snail, a cat, some crows. The world is full of wonders no matter where we go.
15. Can we go again tomorrow? I wonder what we'll see.
16. The world is full of perfect things when you come look with me.

11. Song – They'll know we are Christians, AoV1.130

1. We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land.

3. We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride.

4. All praise to the Father,
From who all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit,
Who makes us one.

SONG: They'll know we are Christians, © 1996 F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission, from As One Voice vol 1, Willow Connection, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

12. Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:15-20, p799 Jamie

Reconciliation in the community of faith

15 "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are
alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take
one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two
or three witnesses. 17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the
offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax
collector.18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever
you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth
about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or
three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

13. Preaching of the Word Cath

14. Sacred Pause

15. Offering with Song – Awake, awake to love and work Amelia

We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward. Note – the welcomers will come forward to collect the bowls; 'I give by Direct Debit' cards will be on the pews

It is now time for the offering, please remain seated during the start of the song while the offering bowls are being passed around. You are welcome to make an offering of money into the bowl or online using the link on the screen, or to make an offering in your heart of the gifts or commitments you have made to supporting the work of God.

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1 Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew;
The worlds awake to cry
Their blessings on the Lord of life,
As He goes meekly by.

2 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
Shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up,
Great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come
And set thy soul ablaze.

3 To give and give, and give again,
What God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost;
To serve right gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are,
And all that are to be.

SONG: Awake, awake, Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy,
from New Century Hymnal, (89) Pilgrim Press (June 1996), USA
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16. Offering Prayer — Amelia

Loving God, we offer our gifts to you, trusting that you will use them to make your presence known in the lives of those who feel forgotten and disconnected; bringing hope, healing and the promise of new life. **Amen**

17. Mission Spot — Richard

Visit the Season of Creation – Love our Neighbour page.

18. Prayers of the People — Jenne P

We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.

I will take the Christ candle to the Chapel for your own prayers after.

Place your feet on the ground, feel the Wurundjeri earth, feel the Spirit of the loving Father and Mother Creation around you.

Let us pray

Oh, Divine Creator, of our world and the re-creating seasons,
with new life constantly emerging and cycling as it should.
You create in us a yearning to love and be loved.
You created Father Sun/Mother Earth to give life to humans
who love thence were given the miracle of children. ‘
Traditionally’ a father and mother, together or singly,
and increasingly beyond these roles, in the Church, Community and the world,
the parents who come in multiple identities and genders
we pray for them a part of Creation.

God the Father is the warm embracing divine love,
Today the earthly father’s love is appreciated for some, this Father’s Day.
We pray for fathers who work, who love their children,
care for them and want the best for them.
We pray for new fathers and ask that they find their way with love.
We pray that we may appreciate fathers, visit them,
show love and thanks in food, gifts and sharing joy together.

But some of us no longer have a living father and despite our grief,
he/they lives within our memory and we offer love and thanks to them.
But for those whose fathers were absent, neglectful, abusive, not attuned
we pray for those who struggle with Father’s Day,
want no part of it, or who visit in strained circumstances
or remember with hurt, ambivalence, wounds of trauma
and mental health conditions.

As a community may we embrace the joy and reach out to our dads,
may we offer comfort to those for whom this day is painful, difficult, too hard,
offer acknowledgment of grief, and ambivalent love.
Let us show love to our neighbour especially to fathers,
who may need appreciation or support.

As a Church, loving thy neighbour fulfills the law,
so wake us from our sleep to reach out to the community
to offer love as our Divine Father loves, with empowerment respect,
comfort in grief, healing and listening to those
whose fathers were not there, or were harmful.
Let us embrace them all ….. fathered, fatherless or fathered with no love.

May we all feel the love of the Divine Father,
who holds us safe, who soothes us and shows us
the wisdom of loving fathering.

The world needs loving fathers as leaders,
who care for Creation, who see their people
as needing love, provisions, guidance and
being listened to offer healing and justice.

May they reach into themselves and love those they are responsible for,
as they love their own children.
May they know, despite all their failings the Divine Father
waits for them in love, for their return.

Amen

BEING FED

We are invited to Christ's table to reunite ourselves with him and one another in the sharing of bread and wine. We honour God for all that God is and give thanks for all that God has done in the work of creation and salvation. We serve gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. The congregation is reminded about the live-stream.

19. Song – We are coming, Lord, to the table — Cath

The elements to be brought down during the song.

We are coming, Lord, to the table.
We are coming, Lord, to the table.
With the gift of bread, we are coming, Lord.
With the gift of wine, we are coming, Lord.
We are coming, Lord.

We Are Coming, Lord, to the Table ©2008, traditional words and music from Sierra Leone, transcribed and arranged. Greg Scheer • http://www.gregscheer.com • greg@gregscheer.com
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20. Holy Communion — Cath

Servers: Catherine, Liz, Cath, Amelia

Christ invites all to his table
and makes himself known to us
in the breaking of the bread;

Our bread is gluten free and wine is non-alcoholic so all may partake.

Prayer Of 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,
we offer you thanks and praise
for you are Creator of all things,
and Lover of each one.

You formed the cosmos
and sparked the stars on fire.
You moulded Wurrundjeri country
and shaped the Merri creek .
You imagined frogs and tadpoles into being
and set the wattles bursting.
You made birds of all kinds
and delighted in watching them fly;
and you called forth human beings
that we might tend your creation
Knowing our lives depend on it

When we failed to honour
your work and your being,
your Word of Wisdom
entered creation as Jesus
to share with us the joy and pain
of our humanity.

Through Christ,
life rises from despair.
In Christ, all things are made new.
Because of Christ,
your Spirit remains with us.

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

Holy, holy, holy (TIS764)

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.)

As we gather at this table
We remember 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 he also took the cup.
Again he gave thanks,
shared it with his disciples and said:
This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.
whenever you drink it, remember me.

Send your Holy Spirit, O God,
that these gifts in creation
may also be for us
the gift of re-creation in Christ.

Shape us into one body;
press us into one wine;
bake us into one bread –
the Bread of Life
and Cup of Liberation –
for the feeding of all your children
and the nurture of creation.
Amen

The 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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking Of The Bread

The bread we break
Is a sharing in the body of Christ.
(break bread)

The cup we take
Is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
(hold cup)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God
(hold both)

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

Distribution
music musicians' choice

- Standing in a circle around the space
- Hands crossed on chest if not receiving
- Remain in your seats if you wish
- Live stream

The Peace
The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

As you make your way back to your seats, let's take the opportunity to share a sign of peace with each other:

BEING SENT

Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.

21. Notices — Amelia

We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.
Order: liturgist to announce church council first, then committees and church events, then personal notices

- Keep your notice brief, consider if it needs to be announced - new thing that we explicitly limit to 3 announcements about the same thing if needed.
- Give the minimum details, tell us where we can talk to you or where it's been published or previous/future announcements - no change
- If you have a personal passion that is not a BUC activity or event, this is not a time to convince others about its importance, or to give all the details, but just let people know they can contact you if they have the same interest.

The preacher for next Sunday will be Cath.

22. Sending Song – Canticle of Daniel, NCYC — Amelia

1. And you sun and moon and stars - Oh bless the Lord
And all you showers of rain - Oh bless the Lord
And all you breezes and winds - Oh bless the Lord
And you fire and rain - Oh bless the Lord

Refrain: *To God be highest glory and praise forever more*

2. And you dew and frosts and snow - Oh bless the Lord
And you night time and day - Oh bless the Lord
And you darkness and light - Oh bless the Lord
And you lightning and clouds - Oh bless the Lord ***Refrain***

3. And you mountains and hills - Oh bless the Lord
And you all plants of the earth - Oh bless the Lord

And you fountains and springs - Oh bless the Lord
And you rivers and seas - Oh bless the Lord ***Refrain***

4. Let all the earth bless the Lord (repeat to fade)

SONG: Canticle of Daniel, Words and Music: Don Stewart © 1980, from It all depends, NCYC '99 Songbook, Uniting Church in Australia; Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

23. Sending / Words of Mission — Amelia

The leader sends people out into the world to live out our faith.

Go now into the world as agents of peace.
Reconciling with God, each other, ourselves
and the whole creation;
our common home

24. Blessing — Cath

The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.

And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity of love:
God, creator of this great land
Jesus, renewer of all people
Spirit, transformer of all life
Be with you now and always
Amen

25. Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to…

Liturgist:
Amelia Ware

Acknowledgement of County:
Brad Coath

Bible readers:
Jamie Thom
Linda Wannon

Preacher & Early Word:
Cath James
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Jenne Perlstein

Musicians:
Shawn Whelan (co-ordinator)
Brad Coath
Quilan Goff
Leigh Johnston
Jess Kvansakul
Kate Scull

Images:
Tet, artwork by Myrashel
BUC Library

Postlude Song: Send us out O God, AoV.2.139
Musicians: Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims, Daniel Whelan

Editing / Production:
Michael Cameron
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Maxine Loynd
Dave Miller
Lauren Reader

26. Closing verse – Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.