

Worship Resource for Sunday June 21

For those who wish to have Worship at Home at their own pace (without Zoom)

The service starts on page 2. First, let's get ready.

Prepare your **meal** and your **space**.

Each week while we gather for worship in our homes, together yet apart, and we'll share our worship time over a meal or snack.

- Gather at your kitchen or dining table, with a laptop or tablet or a printout of this resource if you can. This allows you to participate with one another with space for your food and for you to write.
- In the middle of your table, place a candle and matches, your heart stone (see below), extra paper to write on and something to write with.
- Your meal could be your breakfast or a light snack with a cuppa or juice.
- This week you will need a copy of the Uniting Church logo. Athelstone Uniting Church members should have received a pack in their letterbox by now which contains an envelope with a sticker kit. *If you don't have one*, please print out a copy of the Uniting Church logo provided and have some black and red pencils or markers ready.

As we continue to worship at home in this ungathered way, we invite you to continue to use a "**heart stone**". This is a stone you can hold on to when you are feeling anxious or worried. It can be used for personal devotions and for our worship services. Use a stone large enough to hold in your hand and draw a heart on it. (*Psalm 62: 5-8*).

We are in the third week of the **unraveled** series which explores how we can press onward even when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads.

Our focus is on the Uniting Church Anniversary, this week so we won't be referring to the study journal.

There are a number of **songs** which you may choose to listen to. You could take time now to click on the links so that they are ready to go (and so you don't need to wait for the ad to run during your time of worship).

1. Come people of the risen King <https://youtu.be/oflAD-UGdYE>
2. Christ be our light <https://youtu.be/5g0c4YeABTs>
3. Here I Am Lord <https://youtu.be/odHsov9jOTo>



Worship

This service uses resources from the unraveled series by A Sanctified Art and from Rev Cheryl Wilson, Ascot Community Uniting Church.

Other sources are developed by Rev Linda Driver or acknowledged within the text below.

With thanks to Di Curtis and Meg Edwards for their creative input.

9.30am Gather at your table with your meal and all the elements needed for worship, ready to go, as we join together in Worship at Home.

Introduction

This week we recognise the 43rd anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia, which was inaugurated on June 22nd 1977. We'll unravel some of the story of the Uniting Church, reflecting on our own church communities, and on the various ways in which we worship, witness and serve.

Let us begin the holy unraveling by centering ourselves.

Spend Time

As we gather, across space and time and connect, in spirit, take in a deep breath and remember that wherever you are, it is the same air that we are all breathing, the same Spirit who breathes life in to and through us. Even though we are physically apart right now, we are still connected in the communion of the Spirit.

Pick up your heart stone. Feel the roughness, the smooth places, the strength and the weight of the stone. Let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is within us, between us, and around us.

As close and real as this stone is in our hands right now, is how close *Love* is to us always.

Let us imagine letting go of our worries and our unraveling for now into God's heart of love.

Let's take one more deep breath. In and out.

Light candle

Light your candle then put it in a safe place nearby and set your heart stones next to it.

We are reminded once again of Christ, light of the world, source of life and love, with us always.

Call to Worship

Pray: Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

Hem us in before and behind.

Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

Weave us together in hope and praise.

God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts.

Draw us together and point us toward you.

In hope and faith we pray. In hope and faith we worship.

Amen¹

Song

Let's sing Stuart Townend's '**Come, people of the risen King.**

Play this link if you are able <https://youtu.be/oflAD-UGdYE> See lyrics over the page.

¹ Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Come people of the Risen King
 Who delight to bring Him praise
 Come all and tune your hearts to sing
 To the Morning Star of grace
 From the shifting shadows of the earth
 We will lift our eyes to Him
 Where steady arms of mercy reach
 To gather children in

Chorus

*Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue
 rejoice
 One heart one voice
 O Church of Christ rejoice*

Come those whose joy is morning sun
 And those weeping through the night
 Come those who tell of battles won
 And those struggling in the fight
 For His perfect love will never change
 And His mercies never cease
 But follow us through all our days
 With the certain hope of peace

Chorus

Come young and old from ev'ry land
 Men and women of the faith
 Come those with full or empty hands
 Find the riches of His grace
 Over all the world His people sing
 Shore to shore we hear them call
 The truth that cries through ev'ry age
 Our God is all in all

Chorus

CCLI Song # 5232617

Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend

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Break Bread

Blessing the Meal

One of the features of this time of worshipping at home has been our sharing of a meal together as we worship. We gather at our table this day, giving thanks for all the people who have contributed to our meals every day and every week: farmers, market gardeners, supermarket workers, those who cooked it, or brewed it and those who will clean afterwards. Let us bless our meal by praying ...

Creator God, we gather in your name, invited by Jesus, bound together with your Spirit, in union with each other. Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we might be your comfort to others. Bless this food and break open our hearts. Bless this drink and pour out your love. Amen

Let us begin to “break bread” (eat) while we “break open the Word” in our scriptures. *Enjoy your meal!*

Breaking Open the Word with Scripture

Let us pray as we prepare to hear the Word:

God of unending surprises, this life is a tapestry of moments woven together, and we long to be weavers of love. Today we gather and pray that you would unravel our bias. Unravel our assumptions. Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you. And as you do, clear space in our hearts for your Word.

We are listening. We are praying. Amen.²

Bible reading 1- Psalm 122: selected verses - New International Version

Let's hear our first reading, Psalm 122:

I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the LORD— to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.

May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”

For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

² Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

At this time, some Congregations are making plans to resume gathered worship, while others for various reasons are unable to do so. Our Church Council will be considering our own plans when they meet this week.

How much are you missing gathering together in the “house of the Lord”? Or are you content finding other ways to worship and praise God?

Name some members of your church community out loud and pray for each of them that: “peace be within you.”

Bible reading 2- John 17:20-26 New International Version

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Our Moderator, Bronte Wilson says:

“As we approach the 43rd anniversary of the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia, my thoughts go back to that time in 1977 when the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian denominations came together to form the Uniting Church in Australia. We had a long legacy and many traditions behind us, and we were also prepared to be our own church, with our own mission and priorities. Many individuals worked tirelessly to prepare the Basis of Union, our founding document that sets out the important ways we are to be the Uniting Church.

As Rev Prof Andrew Dutney says in his latest book, *Angels in this Wilderness*³, “The union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in 1977 wasn’t an amalgamation or a take-over. It wasn’t for the sake of efficiency. It was three historic, proud denominations choosing to set aside the things that divided them for the sake of something bigger: the visible unity of divided people as a foretaste, sign and instrument of the reconciliation of the world to God in Christ. “God is calling us to be a church which receives its diversity as the precious gift of the Holy Spirit that it is; ... and “The Church’s call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself”.

It is our diversity in our Unity that makes us who we are.

³ *Angels in this Wilderness; Reflections on the Journey of the Uniting Church in Australia.* (Mediacom, Unley, Australia, 2020) p102

At the Inauguration service, which was held in the Sydney Town Hall and televised across the nation, a Statement to the Nation was read⁴. As I reflect on what is happening in our world at this moment I am drawn to two paragraphs of this Statement and I quote them here.

“We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond. We affirm the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. We will oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms.”

“We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others.”

This week, I (Linda) had the opportunity to meet with Rev Amel Manyon, Minister at our neighbouring congregation, Dernancourt Uniting Church.

This week is Refugee Week – Amel is a refugee, the first South Sudanese female minister in the Uniting Church, who came to Australia from war-torn South Sudan as a refugee and finding a place of welcome in the Uniting Church.

In the Uniting Church, Amel found the encouragement to get involved and to take on roles of leadership. This led to her journey of discernment and candidature.

Amel started a faith community for Dinka-speaking South Sudanese in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and ministered there for the past eight years and the faith community became South Sudanese Uniting Church congregation in 2019. On Sunday 7 July 2019, Rev Amel Manyon was inducted as the Dernancourt Uniting Church minister and she spoke about the theme of 2020 Refugee Week, Celebrating the Year of Welcome.

“What a welcoming church we have and what a privilege to be part of this community that has a place for me and embraces my graces and gifts. And I hope Australia be a welcoming and compassionate nation, where every person who seeks refuge here is treated fairly and made to feel welcome and safe-regardless of their country of origin or mode of arrival”.

Back to the Moderator:

“Today, during a pandemic, we care for the vulnerable and needy, we support the Black Lives Matter campaign, we reach out with compassion and comfort to all humanity. The Uniting Church is not closed; we are fulfilling our calling in these different circumstances. We are still that pilgrim people on a journey toward the promised goal as described in the Basis of Union. As we remember our history may we look to the future, carrying out God’s calling to each of us.”

Prayer: from the Inauguration Service of the Uniting Church

Sometimes Lord, we have forgotten our calling to unity, allowing our differences to divide us. Sometimes we are guilty of setting ourselves apart from those we should be making welcome: the newcomers to our land, or those who are not part of the mainstream of society.

Forgive us Lord, as we renew our promise to love, follow and serve you.

Sometimes Lord, we listen to other voices; we begin to wonder what is true and what is wishful thinking. **Forgive us Lord, as we renew our promise to love, follow and serve you.**

⁴ You may find the whole statement here: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/introduction/item/134-statement-to-the-nation-inaugural-assembly-june-1977>

Sometimes Lord, we cling to what is comfortable and familiar; to resist the new thing you promise to do. **We acknowledge our need for your forgiveness, as we renew our commitment to love, follow and serve you. Amen**

Words of Assurance:

Through God's good grace, we can make a new beginning, even as we continue to celebrate our past. Our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!⁵

Artwork

Think of some well-known logos. What do they tell us about the product they are advertising, or about the organisation they represent?



Consider the Uniting Church logo.



What might this say about the Uniting Church?

Members of Athelstone Uniting Church should have received a pack in your letterbox this week. In it is an envelope with a sticker kit from the Moderator to build a Uniting Church logo. Follow the instructions on the next page which came with the kit and create your own logo.

If you don't have a pack, you might like to print out the colouring-in logo that came with this resource. Following the instructions provided on the next page, colour in the different sections, adapting as you go!

⁵ Linda Sutton

Uniting Church in Australia Logo Instructions

Moderator's Theme: Connections

Connections with God

Connections with each other

Connections with our world

Kit Contents:

Black round coaster

Stickers: White cross

White U

Red dove

Description on card

Instructions:

Black circle

Symbolic of

- Us as individuals
- Our congregations
- The world, darkened by suffering and pain and sin.

White cross sticker

Peel off and place in the middle of black circle.
The cross of Jesus Christ brings light and life into our lives, and into the darkened world.
We are a church centred on Christ, who is redeeming the world, the church, and us through grace and truth.

White U sticker

Peel off and place around the bottom of the black circle.
This points to the fact that we are uniting;
as a semicircle it also reminds us that the renewing of both church and world are as yet incomplete.

Red dove/White beak stickers

Peel off and add to the centre of the emblem,
fitting the white beak into the gap in the U first to get the placement correct.

We are guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in our world, and communities of connection.

The Uniting Church in Australia logo:

Reminds us

- that the gospel message is central in all that we seek to do;
- of the need for constant reform and renewal;
- of our commitment to worship, witness and service.





Now that you have completed your sticker logo or coloured in your logo, spend some time reflecting on what this symbol says about the Uniting Church.

The **cross** of Jesus Christ,
in its light and love,
stands over a darkened, disconnected **world**,
redeeming it through grace and truth.
The wide **U** at the bottom is an incomplete
semicircle, reminding us that we are *uniting*:
in our diversity, we continue to seek a life of connectedness with God,
with each other and with our world.

The Holy Spirit **dove** guides and empowers us to be witnesses
to Jesus Christ and communities of connection.

**Together, we are God's people,
sent out to worship, witness and serve.**

Breaking Open our Lives with Discussion

Let's take some time now to break open our hearts by sharing our thoughts. You may wish to journal and share these thoughts with God in prayer. If you are in a household with others, you might choose to talk for a few minutes. Choose one of the following to reflect on now.

- What do you see in the Uniting Church logo?
- Consider the role that 'church' has played in your life, over the years. How has it helped you grow in faith?

Affirmation of Faith – We are a Pilgrim People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One, confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church, the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal; on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments, and we have the gift of the Spirit in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Together with all the people of God, we will serve the world for which Christ died.

And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus. ⁶

⁶ Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia from Uniting in Worship 2

Song

Let's sing **'Christ be our Light'** *Sung here by the Notre Dame Folk Choir.*

Click here if you are able: <https://youtu.be/5g0c4YeABTs>

Lyrics available here: <https://www.sixmaddens.org/?p=1804>

Breaking Open Our Hearts with Prayer

We are going to spend some time in prayer for others. As we think about our own lives and of the world around us, we can think of many things, people and circumstances unraveling. Let's spend a moment in silence, bringing those thoughts before God in prayer.

Let us continue in prayer:

- for everyone who has worshipped, witnessed and served in our Church over the last 43 years.
- all those who are yearning for face-to-face worship but are still unable to gather safely.
- our Church Council
- those we know who are struggling with ill health.
- those we know who are recovering from a medical procedure.
- those struggling with mental illness, addiction, chronic pain and other health conditions
- the Medical HQ team as they run the COVID-19 Respiratory Clinic on our premises.
- those facing financial hardship through a reduction or loss of paid work
- all those who stand against racism and seek racial justice.
- the healing of racial tensions worldwide, including here in Australia, and an end to racial inequality and racist attitudes.
- refugees, both those known and unknown to us, for greater compassion from our decision makers, for the safety and wellbeing of refugees living in hardship and for endurance of people supporting refugees.
- our Church partners in Zimbabwe and India.
- As we hear in the news that we currently are in the midst of the highest worldwide recording of new Covid-19 cases, we pray for unity as we work together to keep each other safe and not spread this virus. Help us Lord not to become complacent

Prayer at the Anniversary of the Uniting Church from our Moderator, Bronte Wilson:

Gracious and loving God, we remember our calling, a calling to bring our diverse heritage into union, a calling to work together for you. We heard, and continue to hear your voice, reminding us to care for the marginalised, to proclaim your message, and to share your love for all. We saw, and continue to see, suffering in the world, racism in many forms, greed and corruption and we remember your teaching. We seek to act, guided by those who went before us and by those showing the way at this moment. May you continue to speak to us through your scriptures and those who lead and guide us. May we remember the principles set out in the Basis of Union and the Statement to the Nation as we seek to do your will in our lives. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Let us take another breath of Spirit as we say another "Amen" together.

We know that God sends out our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward, as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence.

Song

Let us sing **'Here I Am Lord'** *(Sung again by the Notre Dame Folk Choir)*

Play this link if you are able <https://youtu.be/odHsov9jOTo>

Lyrics here: <https://genius.com/Dan-schutte-here-i-am-lord-lyrics>

Have Goodwill

As we think of how we can respond to God's call to us, let us think about what action we can take for those we hold on our heart? How can we offer love and support to others?

Uniting Communities Eastern Services Emergency Relief Food Appeal

Please continue to give to the Uniting Communities Eastern Services Emergency Relief Food Appeal.

Please continue to gather food and other grocery donations. Brenton Summers can either collect them from your front door or they can be left on his front doorstep. Cash donations will also be received with great thanks. Thank you to all those who have so generously been donating goods and cash.

Community art project



As part of this new series, we have started an “unraveled” community art project at the Church. We invite you to add and weave into our art project... not just a strip of fabric or yarn but you may also like to write on your strip of fabric and weave in your hopes, dreams and prayers as well... Take a strip of fabric (or some yarn) and tie it to the end of the previous fabric strip, or tie it to one of the ribbon spokes, and continue the weaving pattern of going over and under in a circular pattern. Please use the sanitiser provided.

“This project helps us embody the promise of the great weaver - that our loose ends can be woven into something new, something beautiful.”⁷

Offering

All that we are, and all that we have is first a gift from God. Our offering to God is from the fullness of all we have received, from the depth of our hearts. Let us give of our offering with grateful hearts.

Pray: Generous God, you reach out to us with hands of love. We offer these gifts and ourselves and ask that they be used to extend that offer of love and care for all of creation. Amen

Benediction

Go in difference and unity, in diversity and wholeness, to discover that God belongs to each and to all, and, in that discovery, to find the peace of Christ.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.. Amen!

⁷ Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Candle

Extinguish the candle and watch the light change from a flame to smoke, like God's Spirit that we carry with us now.

Spreading Joy

For those of you who are on social media, please take a photo of your lit candle and post it online.

#churchconnected #churchungathered #unraveled

Worship Playlist

Here is a collection of songs you may like to listen to as you continue on in worship this week

The Church's one foundation	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg
Filled with the spirits power	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYqTk_4T08
Christ be our light	https://youtu.be/5g0c4YeABTs or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJq3bhdgQoc
Come people of the risen king	https://youtu.be/oflAD-UGdYE or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j07fbld3uY
Community of Christ	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXBxzs2Ftlk
Here I Am Lord	https://youtu.be/odHsov9jOTo

Further Worship Ideas

Here are some more ways that you can connect with God's Word and respond:

- The Synod of South Australia has published a **full list of online congregations and resources**.
<https://sa.uca.org.au/documents/resources-board/Being-the-Church-in-Ungathered-Times.pdf>
- The Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts has a **collection of Resources** available here:
<https://www.cmla.org.au/resources/worship-in-times-of-isolation/>
Including **Prayers, Poems and Guided Meditations** and
Worship with your backyard: <https://www.cmla.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Worship-With-Your-Backyard.pdf>
Worship on the sofa: <https://www.cmla.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sofa.pdf>
- The Assembly are **live-streaming services**: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/3158-livestreaming-on-assembly-platforms>
- Tune in to **radio station 1079 Life Together on Life**, Sunday 10am. Join 1079 Life's Kit for music and a message or two from great local pastors each Sunday. <https://1079life.com/>
- **Songs of Praise** – a TV show with inspiring hymns and songs, together with uplifting stories of faith from around the UK and beyond is available on ABC TV and ABC iview

Contemplative resources

- You might like to try going for an intentional prayer walk around your community:
<http://www.gungahlinuniting.org/?p=5369&fbclid=IwAR28tWeqlqfxcNPazMlpYJ99AUGapmXrMVQPMiOiSQKeT-y8fVsf4rnOfKI>
- Prayers and Meditation Resource from Stillpoint Community: <https://stillpointsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/11/Living-from-the-Stillpoint-Oct-17-mod.pdf>