

Glen Waverley Uniting Church 格兰韦弗利联合教会

Sunday 21 June 2026 | 圣灵降临节后第四主日 | Pentecost 4A — UCA 49th Anniversary

Prelude | 前奏

前奏 — Make Us One (Twila Paris)

Band / 乐队

*Make us one, make us one
Make us one, undivided body
Make us one, make us one
For the sake of Your name make us one*

*Make us love, make us love
Make us love so the world will know we love You
Make us love, make us love
For the sake of Your name make us love*

*Make us pure, make us pure
Make us pure and righteous, make us holy
Make us pure, make us pure
For the sake of Your name make us pure*

*Make us one, make us one
Make us one, undivided body
Make us one, make us one
For the sake of Your name make us one
For the sake of Your name till You come
For the sake of Your name make us one*

前奏 — Make Us One (特维拉·帕里斯)

乐队

*使我们合一，使我们合一
使我们合一，成为不分裂的身体
使我们合一，使我们合一
为了你名的缘故，使我们合一*

*使我们相爱，使我们相爱
使我们相爱，好让世界知道我们爱你
使我们相爱，使我们相爱
为了你名的缘故，使我们相爱*

*使我们圣洁，使我们圣洁
使我们圣洁公义，使我们成为圣洁
使我们圣洁，使我们圣洁
为了你名的缘故，使我们圣洁*

*使我们合一，使我们合一
使我们合一，成为不分裂的身体
使我们合一，使我们合一
为了你名的缘故，使我们合一*

为了你名的缘故, 直到你来临
为了你名的缘故, 使我们合一

Welcome and Notices | Ian | 欢迎与通知

Greeting and Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Acknowledgement of Country

We gather on ancient land created and sustained by the Triune God we have come to know in Jesus Christ.

In our constitution, the Uniting Church declares that God has nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country through these lands and waters since time immemorial.

The Uniting Church recognises that the First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers; the Spirit was already in the land revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways.

And so here in Glen Waverley today we acknowledge the Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, and pray for justice, peace and unity in this land.

Welcome

问候与欢迎

愿我们主耶稣基督的恩典、
上帝的慈爱、
圣灵的感动与交流,
与你们众人同在。

也与你同在。

承认原住民土地

我们聚集在这片古老的土地上——这土地由我们在耶稣基督里所认识的三位一体上帝所创造、并持续维系。

联合教会在其宪章中宣告：上帝自古以来就透过这片土地与水域，哺育并维系着这国度的第一民族。

联合教会承认，第一民族在殖民者到来之前，已经与创造主上帝相遇；圣灵已在这土地上，透过律法、习俗与礼仪向人民启示上帝。

那在耶稣基督里最终完全彰显的爱与恩典，也曾支撑第一民族，并赐予他们对上帝道路的独特洞见。

因此，我们今天在格兰韦弗利承认库林民族的武伦杰里-沃伊乌鲁人和班纳容人，并为这片土地上的公义、和平与合一祈祷。

欢迎

Welcome to those in the room and those joining us on the livestream (all wave to camera), as we celebrate the birthday of the Uniting Church in Australia. We are 49 this week.

A special welcome and blessing to those who are visiting with us today and to those who are also celebrating birthdays this week.

Notices

Bible Study — Final session this week

欢迎在场的会众，也欢迎透过网络直播加入我们的朋友（大家向摄像机挥手），我们今天庆祝澳大利亚联合教会的生日——本周我们迎来了49周年！

特别欢迎今天前来探访的朋友，也祝福本周正在庆祝生日的弟兄姊妹。

通知

圣经学习——本周为最后一节课

Call to Worship | 敬拜呼召

Jesus prays to God, saying:

*The glory that you have given me, I have given them,
So that they may be one, as we are one.*

*I in them, and you in me,
That they may become completely one.*

*So that the world may know that you have sent me,
And have loved them even as you have loved me.*

Come, people of God — let us be the answer to that prayer.
Our unity is in Christ.

We worship the God who makes us one.

耶稣向上帝祷告说：

*你所赐给我的荣耀，我已赐给他们，
使他们合而为一，正如我们合而为一。*

*我在他们里面，你在我里面，
使他们完完全全地合而为一。*

*叫世人知道你差了我来，
也知道你爱他们，如同爱我一样。*

来吧，上帝的子民——让我们成为那祷告的答案。

我们的合一在于基督。

我们敬拜那使我们合一的上帝。

Song of Praise — TIS 179 | 赞美之歌 | Praise with Joy the World's Creator | 风琴

TIS 179 — Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Organ / 风琴

1

Praise with joy the world's Creator,

TIS 179 — 以欢乐颂赞世界的创造者

风琴

1

God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

2

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence —
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

3

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure —
foolishness none dare deride.

4

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

以欢乐颂赞世界的创造者，
公义、慈爱与和平之上帝，
人类知识的源头与终点，
无尽伟大的力量。

颂赞造物主的荣耀，
拯救与释放的大能。

2

颂赞那喂饱饥饿者的圣子，
释放被掳者，寻找失落者，
医治病者，挑战宗教框架，
无惧命运与代价。
颂赞基督永恒的同在——
朋友与陌生人，客人与主人。

3

颂赞差到我们中间的圣灵，
从骄傲中解放真理，
在种族、性别、
年龄与国族分裂之处建立连结。
颂赞圣灵的宝贵——
那无人敢嘲讽的愚拙。

4

颂赞造物主、圣子与圣灵，
在团契中合一的上帝，
呼召基督徒活出

合一与多元。

如此，当世界看见基督充满活力的合一时，
终将相信。

Introduction to Theme | Chris | 主题介绍

Today we gather on this very special occasion to celebrate the anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia.

It is a milestone that is personally easy for me to remember, as I happen to be just one single week older than our denomination!

Today, we reflect on the incredible journey of a church born out of a courageous vision for unity, bringing together different traditions to achieve something far greater together than we ever could apart.

We will hear from members of our congregation on how they came to the Uniting Church.

More than just looking at the past, today we are reminded of the living, breathing fire that continues to burn in the bones of our faith and our community.

Whether you have been part of this journey since 1977 or have found your way to our congregation much more recently, you are a vital part of this story.

Let us worship God together.

今天，我们聚集在这特别的时刻，庆祝澳大利亚联合教会的周年纪念。

这是一个对我来说特别容易记住的里程碑——因为我恰好比我们的教会大一个星期！

今天，我们回顾这间教会令人惊叹的旅程——它诞生于一个关于合一的勇敢愿景，将不同的传统汇聚在一起，共同成就任何一个传统单独无法实现的更伟大事工。

我们将听到会众分享他们如何来到联合教会。

今天不仅是回顾过去，更是提醒我们：那团活生生的、在信仰与群体骨子里燃烧不息的火焰，仍在继续。

无论你是自1977年起便踏上这旅程，还是近年才加入我们的会众，你都是这故事不可或缺的一部分。

让我们一同敬拜上帝。

Interview 1 | Daniel Wojak | 见证一

Daniel Wojak

丹尼尔·沃亚克

Prayers of Adoration and Confession | Ian | 赞美与认罪祷告

Including: TIS 432 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (vv. 1 & 3) 包含: TIS 432 基督是坚固的磐石 (第1、3节)

Organ / 风琴

1

*Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen by the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.*

3

*Here among us, where we call you
come, O Lord our God, today;
with your gentle lovingkindness
hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction
pour upon us here today.*

God of Methodist field-preachers and hymn-singers,
God of Presbyterian elders and covenant-keepers,
God of Congregational gatherings and shared discernment,
we praise you that you are one God,
weaving many threads into a single cloth,
many voices into a single song,
many streams into a single river flowing toward your future.

We adore you,
for you do not ask us to erase our differences before we can be united —
you take the particular colour of every thread
and weave it into something more beautiful than any single strand could be
alone.
We praise you for the act of holy courage,

风琴

1

*基督是坚固的磐石，
是教会的头和房角石，
被主拣选，宝贵无比，
将全体教会连合为一，
是圣洁锡安永远的帮助，
是她唯一的倚靠。*

3

*在我们中间，当我们呼求你——
求你今日降临，主我们的上帝；
以你温柔的慈爱
垂听你子民的祷告，
将你丰盛的祝福
倾注在我们今日聚集之处。*

你是卫斯理旷野传道者和颂歌吟唱者的上帝，
你是长老会执事和守约者的上帝，
你是公理宗聚会和共同分辨者的上帝，
我们颂赞你是独一的上帝，
将许多线索编织成一块布，
将许多声音编织成一首歌，
将许多溪流编织成一条奔向你未来的河流。

我们敬拜你，
因为你不要我们在合一之前先抹去彼此的差异——

that brought three traditions together as one people forty-nine years ago,
as the Uniting Church in Australia.
And for every act of faith since
that has kept this weaving going.

Holy God, even as we praise you, we confess.

We confess that we have sometimes treated our union
as a finished thing of the past
rather than a living thing still being woven today.
We confess that we have, at times, let old threads fray —
holding too tightly to "the way we've always done it,"
or too quickly forgetting the gifts of those who came before us.

We confess the times we have failed to welcome the new threads you bring
us:
new generations, new languages, new cultures, new questions,
each one offered to be woven into this same tapestry.

Forgive us, weaving God.
Where the fabric of this church has worn thin,
mend us.
Where we have pulled away from one another,
draw us back.
Where we have forgotten that we belong to one another
across every generation and every culture represented in this place,
remind us, and weave us together again.

We ask this trusting in your grace,
through Jesus Christ, in whom all things hold together,
and by your Spirit, who still weaves today.

Amen.

你拿取每一根线独特的色彩，
将它编织成比任何单一线条更美丽的织物。
我们颂赞你那神圣的勇敢之举，
四十九年前将三个传统合为一个子民，
成为澳大利亚联合教会。
也为此后每一个信心之举，
使这编织得以延续。

圣洁的上帝，即使当我们颂赞你，我们也要认罪。

我们承认，有时我们把我们的合一视为过去已完成的事，
而非今日仍在编织的活生生的事物。
我们承认，有时我们让旧线条磨损——
过于执著于『我们一向的做法』，
或过快遗忘了前人留给我们的恩赐。

我们承认，有时我们未能欢迎你带给我们的新线条：
新的世代、新的语言、新的文化、新的问题，
每一条都是为编入这同一幅挂毯而献上的。

饶恕我们，编织的上帝。
这教会的布料在哪里变薄，就在那里修补我们。
我们在哪里彼此疏远，就在那里将我们拉回。
我们在哪里忘记，跨越这地方所有世代与文化，我们彼此相属，
就在那里提醒我们，再次将我们编织在一起。

我们存着对你恩典的信靠祈求这一切，
透过耶稣基督——在他里面万物都联结在一起，

并藉着你的圣灵——他至今仍在编织。
阿们。

Word of Grace | Ian | 恩典之言

Hear the good news.

The God who began weaving us together
forty-nine years ago
has not finished with us yet.

In Christ, every loose thread is gathered up.
In Christ, every torn place is mended.
In Christ, our brokenness is healed,
and the weaving continues.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

请听这好消息。

那在四十九年前开始编织我们在一起的上帝，
对我们的工作尚未完成。

在基督里，每一根松散的线都被拢聚。
在基督里，每一处破损都得修补。
在基督里，我们的破碎得到医治，
编织继续进行。

朋友们，请相信这福音的好消息：
在耶稣基督里，我们得蒙赦免。
感谢上帝。

The Peace | Ian | 平安问候

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

愿基督的平安常与你们同在。
也与你同在。

Interview 2 | Michelle Smith | 见证二

Michelle Smith

米歇尔·史密斯

Gospel Reading — John 17:20–26 | John Hurst | 福音书读经 — 约翰福音17:20-26

20 "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, 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. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given

20「我不但为这些人祈求，也为那些因他们的话信我的人祈求，21使他们都合而为一。正如你父在我里面，我在你里面，使他们也在我们里面，叫世人可以信你差了我来。22你所赐给我的荣耀，我已赐给他们，使他们合而为一

them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

For these words of wisdom and for Christ the living Word:

Thanks be to God.

，正如我们合而为一；23我在他们里面，你在我里面，使他们完完全全地合而为一，叫世人知道你差了我来，也知道你爱他们如同爱我一样。24父啊，我在哪里，愿你所赐给我的人也在那里跟我在一起，叫他们看见你所赐给我的荣耀；因为创立世界以前，你已经爱我了。

25「公义的父啊，世人没有认识你，我却认识你；这些人也知道你差了我来。26我已将你的名指示他们，还要指示他们，使你爱我的爱在他们里面，我也在他们里面。」

感谢这些智慧之言，也感谢基督这永活的话语：

感谢上帝。

With the Children | Chris | 儿童时间

(Children's time with Chris)

(克里斯带领儿童时间)

Song — Tapestry | Band / 乐队 |

Tapestry

Band / 乐队

There's a tapestry you're weaving
from the tangle of our lives,
O God, bring us together.
When we feel our colours clashing
and the weave is wearing thin:
O Love, weave us together.

There's a song that you're composing
from the babble of our voice.
O God, bring us together.
Though our choir feels unsteady
you unite our joyful noise.
O Love, weave us together.

挂毯

乐队

你正在编织一幅挂毯，
从我们生命的纠缠中，
上帝啊，把我们聚集在一起。
当我们感到色彩相撞，
织物变得越来越薄，
爱啊，将我们编织在一起。

你正在谱写一首歌，
从我们嘈杂的声音中，
上帝啊，把我们聚集在一起。

**Weave us together,
O God, bring us together.**

*There's a story you are writing
from the fragments of our days,
O God, bring us together.
Every journey finds its meaning
as you work your saving grace,
O Love, weave us together.*

**Weave us together,
O God, bring us together...**

*虽然我们的诗班感到参差不齐,
你却将我们欢乐的喧嚣合而为一。
爱啊, 将我们编织在一起。*

**将我们编织在一起,
上帝啊, 把我们聚集在一起。**

*你正在书写一个故事,
从我们日子的碎片中,
上帝啊, 把我们聚集在一起。
每一段旅程都在你救赎的恩典中找到意义,
爱啊, 将我们编织在一起。*

**将我们编织在一起,
上帝啊, 把我们聚集在一起.....**

Interviews 3 & 4 | Yan Emms & Bill Norquay | 见证三与四

Yan Emms

严·埃姆斯

Bill Norquay

比尔·诺奎

From the Prophets — Jeremiah 20:7-13 | John Hurst | 先知书读经 — 耶利米书20:7-13

*7 O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me*

7耶和華啊, 你曾勸誘我, 我也受了勸誘; 你比我有力量, 你勝了我。我終日成了人的笑料, 人都嗤笑我。8我每次講話, 就得喊叫: 「強暴啊! 毀滅啊!」 因為耶和華的話使我終日受辱蒙羞。9我若說: 「我不再提耶和華, 不再奉他的名講話」, 耶和華的話在我心中就像火燒, 閉塞在我骨中; 我因按捺不住而疲倦, 不能忍耐。10我聽見了許多人的謠言: 「四面都有恐嚇! 你們去告發他! 我們去告發他!」 與我要好的人, 都在等候我跌倒, 說: 「他或者受騙, 那時我們必勝他, 從他身上報仇。」 11然而, 耶和華以大能的勇士與

*a reproach and derision all day long.
9 If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.*

*10 For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."*

*11 But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.*

*12 O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.*

*13 Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.*

For these words of wisdom and for Christ the living Word:

Thanks be to God.

我同在，因此，那些逼迫我的人必绊倒，不能胜了我；他们没有成就，必大蒙羞惭；他们永远不会忘记的羞辱必临到他们。12万军之耶和华啊，你试验义人，察看人的肺腑心肠；求你使我见你向他们所行的报复，因我把我的案件向你表明了。13你们应当唱歌赞美耶和华，因他救了穷乏人的命脱离了恶人的手。

感谢这些智慧之言，也感谢基督这永活的话语：

感谢上帝。

Free Spirit — Be Joyful and Sing to the Lord | Choir / 诗班 |

Free Spirit — Be Joyful and Sing to the Lord

Choir / 诗班

《自由的灵——喜乐歌颂主》

(Reflection / Sermon by Chris)

(克里斯讲道)

A Fire in My Bones

骨中的火

The Tupperware Drawer | 保鲜盒抽屉

I want to talk to you about the Tupperware drawer.

我想和大家谈谈保鲜盒抽屉。

You know the one. Every household has it. It is the drawer that, when opened, just stares at you. It contains approximately forty-seven containers and, at any given moment, the matching lids for perhaps three of them. The rest of the lids are from containers that no longer exist — lost to picnics, to school lunches, to the great mystery of where Tupperware lids actually go when they die.

你知道我说的那个。每个家庭都有这样一个抽屉。打开它，它就那样看着你。里面大约有四十七个容器，而在任何时候，配套盖子也许只有三个。其余的盖子来自早已不存在的容器——遗失在野餐途中，遗失在孩子的午餐盒里，遗失在保鲜盒盖子究竟去哪儿了这个永恒的谜题之中。

I have spent actual, non-refundable minutes of my life standing in front of that drawer trying to find a lid that fits. Sometimes I try to force a lid that is clearly wrong — it's a round lid, the container is square, but I am committed and I have things to do. It does not work.

我曾在那个抽屉前站着，花了真实的、无法追回的宝贵时间，试图找到一个合适的盖子。有时我硬要把一个明显不对的盖子压上去——明明是圆盖子，容器是方形的，但我已经下定决心，而且还有很多事要做。当然，这行不通。

But here's what I've also discovered. Sometimes, yet sometimes, you reach into the chaos of that drawer and you pull out a combination of lids that you would never have chosen deliberately. Different brands. Different sizes. One of them might technically be from a yoghurt container. And yet somehow, together, they work. They seal. They hold. They do the job better than you had any right to expect.

但我也发现了另一件事。有时候，就是有时候，你从那堆混乱之中伸手进去，拿出一组你绝不会刻意选择的盖子组合——不同品牌，不同尺寸，其中一个可能严格来说是酸奶盒的盖子。然而不知为何，它们放在一起就是行得通。它们密封住了，它们盖住了，它们完成的工作远比你预期的要好。

And I thought, that is one of the most profound thoughts the kitchen has ever offered me.

我心想：这大概是厨房给过我最深刻的启示之一。

Because the best things in life are rarely a perfect match straight out of the box. Sometimes God takes a drawer full of unlikely pieces — different shapes, different origins, different traditions — and makes something that holds together better than anyone expected.

因为生命中最美好的事物，鲜少一开始就是完美的配套。有时候，上帝从一个装满了不可能搭配的零件的抽屉里取出东西——不同形状、不同来源、不同传统——然后造就出比任何人预料都更紧密契合的整体。

The Birth of the Uniting Church | 联合教会的诞生

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia, born on 22nd June 1977, when the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Congregational Church of Australia came together in an act of extraordinary, Spirit-led courage.

今天，我们庆祝澳大利亚联合教会的周年纪念。1977年6月22日，卫斯理宗、长老宗与公理宗在圣灵带领的非凡勇气中合而为一，这间教会由此诞生。

Three denominations. Centuries of separate history. Distinct worship styles. Different governance structures. Different hymnbooks — which for some people is the most important thing.

三个宗派。数百年各自独立的历史。不同的敬拜风格。不同的治理结构。不同的赞美诗集——对某些人来说，这才是最重要的事。

But they did it. They came together. Not because they were dying, but because they saw a better way. A way of unity — a way of achieving something bigger, much bigger than they could achieve on their own.

但他们做到了。他们聚合在一起——不是因为濒临死亡，而是因为他们看见了一条更好的路：合一之路，一条能成就比任何单一宗派独自所能成就的更宏大事工之路。

They reached into the drawer and found that the lids fit. Different shapes. Different histories. And together, they held.

他们伸手进入那个抽屉，发现盖子竟然合得上。不同的形状，不同的历史，放在一起，却紧紧相扣。

From those brave beginnings, the Uniting Church has never been afraid to step out ahead of the culture to seek justice and display Christ's love. We became the first church in Australia to ordain women to the ministry, recognising that the Spirit's call knows no gender bounds. We boldly stepped into a covenant of reconciliation with First Nations people, seeking truth and healing together. And we have continually fought to open our arms wider, building a deeply valued relationship with the LGBTQ+ community to ensure that all God's children have a place to belong.

从那勇敢的开端起，联合教会从未惧怕走在时代前面，追求公义，彰显基督的爱。我们成为澳大利亚第一个按立女性为牧师的教会，承认圣灵的呼召不受性别约束。我们勇敢地与原住民立下和好的盟约，一同寻求真相与医治。我们也持续敞开双臂，与LGBTQ+群体建立深受珍视的关系，确保上帝所有的儿女都有一个归属之所。

A Fire in Your Bones — Jeremiah | 骨中的火——耶利米

Jeremiah was not having a good week when he wrote these words. He had been thrown into a cistern, mocked by his neighbours, and denounced by people he thought were friends. He was, by any reasonable measure, done. He tried to quit. He actually tried to stop speaking. He wanted to walk away from the whole thing.

耶利米写下这些话的时候，日子并不好过。他被投入水牢，被邻居嘲弄，被他以为是朋友的人控告。从任何合理的角度看，他都已到了尽头。他试图放弃。他甚至真的想要停止开口说话。他想要离开这一切。

But he couldn't. Because there was a fire in his bones.

但他做不到。因为他骨中有火。

And here's the thing about fire in your bones — it is deeply inconvenient. You can't schedule it. It doesn't care that you're tired. It doesn't care that the critics are loud. It doesn't care that the institution looks shaky or that the numbers in the pew have changed since the 1970s.

而骨中之火的本质，就是极度令人不便。你无法为它排定时间表。它不在乎你已经疲惫。它不在乎批评者的声音有多大。它不在乎这个机构看起来是否摇摇欲坠，或者自1970年代以来会众席上的人数发生了多大变化。

The fire burns anyway.

火，依然燃烧。

That is what I see in the story of this church. Not an institution that has coasted comfortably through five decades. But a community of people who kept showing up, kept speaking, kept serving, because something in them simply wouldn't let them stop. A fire in the bones of a community — a fire in the bones of a church — the Uniting Church.

这正是我在这间教会的故事里所看见的。不是一个在五十年间安逸滑行的机构，而是一群不断出现、不断开口、不断服事的人——因为他们内心有某种力量简单地不让他们停下来。这是一个群体骨中的火——一间教会骨中的火——联合教会骨中的火。

The Church Is Still Alive | 教会仍然活着

Now, I'm going to name the elephant in the room. Or perhaps more accurately, the elephant who keeps being loudly introduced at dinner parties by people who haven't been to church since 1987.

现在，我要直接说出大家都知道、但不一定会公开说的那件事。或者更准确地说，就是那头不断被自1987年起就没再踏入教会的人在晚宴上大声介绍的大象。

"The church is dying." You've heard it. Maybe you've thought it. You hear it in conversations with people at work, you hear about it in news articles or some random Facebook post. Attendance is down. Buildings are being sold.

「教会正在死亡。」你听过这话。也许你自己也这样想过。你在职场的对话中听到，在新闻报道里看到，或者在某篇随机的Facebook帖子上读到。出席人数下降了。建筑物正在出售。

And some of that is true. Some forms of church have declined. Some models built for a different era have not made the transition. That is real, and we shouldn't pretend otherwise.

有些说法是真的。某些形式的教会确实在衰退。某些为不同时代而建的模式未能完成过渡。这是真实的，我们不应该假装无事发生。

But here's what the obituary writers keep missing: the church has been dying for two thousand years and it is still extraordinarily alive.

但是，那些撰写讣告的人一再忽略的是：教会已经「死亡」了两千年，却依然非凡地活着。

People have been saying for many years that the church can't survive, yet it still survives. It still ticks on, saving people's lives. Buildings might close, congregations might die off — but the church is alive.

人们多年来一直说教会无法存续，它却仍在存续。它仍在默默运行，拯救人们的生命。建筑物可能关闭，会众可能凋零——但教会是活的。

The Uniting Church was built, from the very beginning, not on a grand vision of growth, but on a commitment to faithful presence — to being the church together, in the name of the one who prayed for our unity. That is a different measure of success. And by that measure, there is still a fire burning.

联合教会从一开始就建立于此：不是建立在宏大的增长愿景上，而是建立在忠实同在的委身上——在那位为我们的合一祷告的主名下，一同成为教会。这是不同的成功标准。而以这个标准来衡量，火仍在燃烧。

The Prayer of Jesus — John 17 | 耶稣的祷告——约翰福音17章

If we turn to the prayer that Jesus offered in John, we learn some interesting things about the church.

若我们回到约翰福音中耶稣献上的祷告，我们可以从中认识教会的一些面向。

This is Jesus, in the garden, on the night of his arrest — praying for us. For the church that doesn't exist yet. For the communities that will form in his name across centuries and continents.

这是耶稣在园中，在被捕的那个夜晚，为我们祷告——为那尚未存在的教会，为将在他名下跨越世纪与大陆而形成的群体。

And what does he ask for? Unity. Not uniformity — Jesus knows human beings far too well to pray for uniformity. But unity. A deep, costly, Spirit-held oneness that reflects the love shared within the Trinity itself.

他求什么？合一。不是一致——耶稣太了解人类，不会祈求一致。而是合一——一种深刻的、代价高昂的、被圣灵持守的合一，映照着三位一体内部所共享的爱。

The Uniting Church was an attempt to answer that prayer in a specific place and time. It was imperfect, as all human attempts at divine things are. But it was faithful. And fidelity, it turns out, is its own kind of fire.

联合教会是在特定时间与地点回应那个祷告的尝试。它是不完美的，正如人类所有对神圣事物的尝试都是不完美的。但它是忠实的。而忠实，事实证明，本身就是一种火。

What I See in This Church | 我在这间教会所看见的

When I look at what this church is doing today, I don't see a community in retreat. I see a community that is, as Jeremiah would say, unable to hold it in.

当我看见这间教会今天所做的事，我看见的不是一个在退守的群体。我看见的是一个如耶利米所说、无法将其压抑的群体。

This morning, we have heard beautiful stories of how the people sitting right here in our own congregation have found their way to the Uniting Church, each travelling a unique path to find their home among us. And if I look at our church, I see people running programs for kids who need to know they are loved. I see a community doing activities for recent arrivals to our country. I see pastoral care that shows up in hospitals, in nursing homes, in difficult conversations around kitchen tables. I see our welfare team change the lives of people within our community. I see community outreach that serves people both here in our community and overseas.

今天早上，我们听见了坐在这里的会众们美丽的故事——他们各自走过独特的旅程，来到联合教会，在我们中间找到了家。当我望向我们的教会，我看见有人在为需要知道自己被爱的孩子们运营着各种计划；我看见一个群体在为新来到这国度的人开展活动；我看见牧养关怀出现在医院里、安老院里、厨房餐桌旁那些艰难的对话中；我看见我们的福利团队改变着社区内外人们的生命；我看见伸展到本地与海外的社区关怀。

I see a congregation that has weathered conflict and disagreement and change, and is still here. That is not nothing. That is, in fact, everything.

我看见一个经历过冲突、分歧与改变，却仍然在这里的会众。这不是小事。这事实上，是一切。

And I think about what the founders of this denomination would say if they could see us. I think they'd say: yes. Keep going. The fire is still burning. The prayer of Jesus is still being answered — imperfectly, stumblingly, humanly — but answered.

我想到这个宗派的创始人，若他们能看见今天的我们，会说什么。我想他们会说：是的。继续前进。火仍在燃烧。耶稣的祷告仍在被回应——不完美地、磕磕绊绊地、以人性的方式——但确实在被回应。

The Lids Still Fit | 盖子仍然合得上

I still have the Tupperware drawer. It is still chaos. But every now and then I reach in, pull out what seem like entirely mismatched pieces, and discover that, somehow, they fit together and hold something that matters.

我仍然有那个保鲜盒抽屉。它依然一片混乱。但每隔一段时间，我伸手进去，拿出看似完全不搭配的零件，然后发现——不知为何，它们契合在一起，盛住了真正重要的东西。

That is the Uniting Church. Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational — different shapes, different origins, one drawer. And by the grace of God, the lids fit.

这就是联合教会。卫斯理宗、长老宗、公理宗——不同形状，不同来源，同一个抽屉。而在上帝的恩典里，盖子是合得上的。

There is a fire in these bones — in the bones of this congregation, in the bones of this denomination, in the bones of the Uniting Church. The world may not always see it. The headlines may not always reflect it. But we know that there is a fire of the Holy Spirit in this place.

这些骨中有火——在这会众的骨中，在这宗派的骨中，在联合教会的骨中。世界可能不总是看见它。头条新闻可能不总是反映它。但我们知道，圣灵的火在这里燃烧。

And for that we praise God.

为此，我们颂赞上帝。

Offering Song — TIS 442(ii) | Organ / 风琴 | All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

TIS 442(ii) — All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

Organ / 风琴

1

*All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,*

TIS 442(ii) — 颂赞我们救赎的主

风琴

1

颂赞我们救赎的主，

together seek his face.

2

He bids us build each other up;
and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

3

The gift which he on one bestows
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

4

Even now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus' name,
in perfect harmony.

5

We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

6

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet.

他以恩典将我们联合，
命我们彼此得着恢复，
一同寻求他的面。

2

他命我们彼此建立；
被聚集合而为一，
朝着我们崇高呼召的荣耀盼望，
我们携手同行。

3

他赐给一人的恩赐，
我们都欢喜见证；
恩典流经每一个器皿，
在最纯洁的爱的溪流中。

4

如今我们思想言语相同，
彼此诚心同意；
因耶稣的名，众心合一，
在完全的和谐中。

5

我们共同分享那合一的喜乐，
同感那共有的平安，
这是属肉体的心灵所不知道的平安，
是说不出的喜乐。

若我们在世上与耶稣的团契已如此甘甜，
当我们聚集在他宝座前时，
我们将认识何等高峰的喜乐！

Offering Dedication | Chris | 奉献祷告

God of the weaving,
take what we offer this day:
our money, our time, our service, our love,
and weave it into the work of your church.
Use these gifts, and use us,
for the sake of your name,
that all may see your people made one
and know the love you have for the world.
Amen.

编织的上帝，
接纳我们今日所献上的一切：
我们的金钱、我们的时间、我们的服事、我们的爱，
将这一切编织进你教会的工作中。
使用这些礼物，也使用我们，
为了你名的缘故，
使众人都能看见你的子民合而为一，
并知道你对这世界的爱。
阿们。

Prayers of the People | Margaret Fraser | 会众祷告

(Led by Margaret Fraser)

(玛格丽特·弗雷泽带领)

Sending Song — Oh, How Good It Is | Band / 乐队 |

Oh, How Good It Is

Band / 乐队

*Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence*

啊，多么美好

乐队

*啊，多么美好，
当上帝的家人
在灵里同住，
在信心与合一中。*

Here among us.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord...

Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another
Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord...

那平安的纽带，
接纳与爱的纽带，
是他同在的果实，
就在我们中间。

所以我们要同声向主歌唱，
同心活出他的话语，
直到全地看见救赎者已来临，
因为他住在他子民中间。

啊，多么美好，
在这共同的旅程上，
与快乐的人一同喜乐，
与哀哭的人一同哭泣。
因为软弱的人找到力量，
受苦的人找到恩典，
当我们献上那归属的祝福。

所以我们要同声向主歌唱.....

啊，多么美好，
去遵行他的命令，
彼此推让尊重，
如同他饶恕我们一样饶恕人。
当我们合而为一地生活，
我们都分享圣子与圣父、圣灵之间的爱。

所以我们要同声向主歌唱.....

Blessing and Sending | Chris and Ian | 祝福与差遣

Chris:
Go now, carrying fire in your bones that will not be held in.

Ian:
A flame of love passed down through three traditions,
now burning as one.

Chris:
May that fire burn through you this week:
in your words, in your witness, in your love for one another.

Ian:
And may the blessing of God —
Source, Word and Breath of Life and Love
go with you,
a fire that cannot be put out.

In the name of Christ.
Amen.

克里斯：
现在去吧，骨子里带着那无法压抑的火焰。

伊安：
那爱的火焰历经三个传统传承而来，
如今合而为一地燃烧。

克里斯：
愿那火焰这一周在你们里面燃烧：
在你的言语中、在你的见证中、在你们彼此相爱中。

伊安：
愿上帝的祝福——
生命与爱的源头、圣言与圣灵，
与你同行，
那无法熄灭的火焰。

奉基督的名。
阿们。

Organ Postlude | 后奏 | 风琴

Organ Postlude

风琴后奏