



Lent 3 Yr A – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Leader:** Alison Burnett

**Meditation Hymn:** Approach, my soul

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat,  
Where Jesus answers prayer;  
There humbly fall before His feet,  
For none can perish there.

Thy promise is my only plea,  
With this I venture nigh;  
Thou callest burdened souls to Thee  
And such, O Lord, am I.

**Welcome:**

**Greeting:**

On this third Sunday of Lent  
May the Lord be with you

## **And also with you**

*Let us have a Moment of Stillness and be aware of the Spirit's presence within us and all around us.*

### ***Lent Candles:***

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

*[Three candles are blown out]*

In our walking we know that we are not alone,  
for Jesus has walked this road before us,  
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

### ***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

**We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.**

### ***Call to Worship:***

We gather together—  
**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,  
in hopes of seeing God.**

We gather together—  
**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,  
in hopes of finding peace.**

We gather together—  
**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,  
in hopes of finding justice.**

So come to the well,  
come to the table.

Come, let us worship God.

***Opening Prayer:***

God of conversation,  
We come to you today thirsty—  
thirsty for hope,  
thirsty for good news,  
thirsty for a glimpse of you.  
So today we pray,  
move in these words like a current.  
Give us the courage to wade into your story  
with open eyes and open hearts.  
Give us the courage to drink this moment in.  
We are listening.  
We are grateful.  
**Amen**

**Hymn: TiS 422 Come, Holy Spirit, Come**

**1. Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
in flame our souls with love,  
transforming every heart and home  
with wisdom from above.  
O let us not despise  
the humble path Christ trod,  
but choose, to shame the worldly-wise,  
the foolishness of God.**

**2. All-knowing Spirit, prove  
the poverty of pride,  
by knowledge of the Father's love  
in Jesus crucified.  
And grant us faith to know  
the glory of that sign,  
and in our very lives to show  
the marks of love divine.**

**5. Give us the tongues to speak,**

**in every time and place,  
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,  
the word of love and grace.  
Enable us to hear  
the words that others bring,  
interpreting with open ear  
the special song they sing.**

**6. Come, Holy Spirit, dance  
within our hearts today,  
our earth-bound spirits to entrance,  
our mortal fears allay;  
and teach us to desire  
all other things above,  
that self-consuming holy fire,  
the perfect gift of love.**

### **Prayer of Confession:**

In today's service we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman. A story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink. When was the last time we drew water for someone? When was the last time we drew water for ourselves?

With this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.

Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray:

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.

We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion,  
and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.

So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbours?

How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?

How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.

It was you. It is still you.

With hope we pray

**Amen**

***Words of assurance:***

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:  
we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could  
pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.

This is the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace is deeper than any well.**

**We are seen, loved, and forgiven.**

**May this realisation change and inspire us.**

**Amen.**

***Peace:***

The peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Hymn: TIS 531 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,**

embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

*Moment for the young at heart: Heather Thompson*

**Commissioning of Liesl Homes as Student Minister:**

***Welcome (Marian Grills, Chairperson)***

The church has resolved to commission Liesl Homes into the role of student minister in St David's Uniting Church Haberfeld Congregation.

Liesl, we rejoice that God has called you by the voice of the Church to serve Jesus Christ in this place.

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

In Jesus Christ we are children of God through faith.  
**All who are baptised into Christ are clothed with Christ.**

There is no longer Jew or Greek,  
there is no longer slave or free,  
there is no longer male and female;  
for we are all one in Christ.

**Claimed by God in baptism, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ, share his ministry in the world and grow to maturity, awaiting with hope the day of our Lord Jesus.**

***Presentation (Rev Joy Steele-Perkins)***

Sisters and brothers, the Church is God's covenant people, the Body of Christ and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism into Christ's Body initiates people into Christ's life and mission in the world.

Through baptism we are united in a communion of love, service, suffering and joy, in one family of the Creator of all in heaven and earth, and in the power of the one Spirit.

We thank God that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts.

**There is no gift without its corresponding service, for all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.**

The Uniting Church in Australia affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant.

It seeks to encourage people to discover and develop the gifts which God's Spirit has given them.

The Sydney Presbytery, United Theological College, and St David's Uniting Church Haberfield Congregation have discerned God's call of Liesl Homes to the role of student minister, a ministry to offer support and leadership, in the areas of community engagement, worship and pastoral care.

### **The Questions to Liesl**

Liesl, we rejoice that you have come today declaring your willingness to participate in Christ's ministry in this particular way.

In serving as a student minister in the Uniting Church, you are reaffirming your baptism, declaring your allegiance to the crucified and risen Lord and seeking to be obedient to God's will. And so, I ask you now:

Liesl, do you confess Jesus Christ as Lord?

**I do.**

Do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to this ministry?

**I do.**

Do you receive the witness to Christ in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; and do you undertake to proclaim from these, the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed?

**I do.**

Will you seek to live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church as described in the Basis of Union?

**I will.**

In your life and work within the Uniting Church will you be guided by its Basis of Union, and will you submit yourself to the Church's discipline and the oversight of the Sydney Presbytery?

**I will.**

Do you affirm and commit yourself to the covenant made between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church and accept the obligation to serve both First and Second peoples?

**I do.**

Will you endeavour to show love and compassion in the name of Christ to all among whom you serve?

**I will.**

*The people stand. The Minister addresses the congregation:*

Will you accept Liesl, as she serves among you in her capacity as student minister?

**We will.**

Will you encourage her in love and support her in this ministry, serving with her the one Lord Jesus Christ?

**We will.**

May God give you strength to fulfil these promises; and to God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Act of Commissioning**

*Those appointed to join in the laying on of hands come forward.*

The Minister says:

Let us pray in silence for Liesl, as we commission her to serve in this Congregation.

*After a time of silence hands are laid on the head of the candidates and the Minister continues:*

By the Holy Spirit, Lord, strengthen your servant, and set her heart on fire with love for you. Increase in her your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and wonder in your presence, the spirit of joy and delight in your service, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

## **Declaration**

*Liesl stands and faces the people.*

The Minister says:

In the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of his church, I declare that Liesl Homes is commissioned into the role of student minister in St David's Uniting Church Haberfield.

## **Doxology (?sung)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above you heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

Liesl may briefly respond.

## **Bible Readings: Marie Thompson**

### **Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah<sup>[a]</sup> and Meribah,<sup>[b]</sup> because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **John 4:5-42**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[b]</sup> you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[c]</sup> give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one

you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir,<sup>[d]</sup> I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you<sup>[e]</sup> say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you<sup>[f]</sup> will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You<sup>[g]</sup> worship what you<sup>[h]</sup> do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he,<sup>[i]</sup> the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,<sup>[j]</sup> can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving<sup>[k]</sup> wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Liesl Homes**

**Moment of Stillness:**

**Prayers of the People: John Read**

**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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen

**Community News:**

8<sup>th</sup> March: International Women's Day  
15<sup>th</sup> March: Children's Activity- Rev Carolyn Thornley  
16<sup>th</sup> Women's Spirituality Group  
29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday  
3<sup>rd</sup> April: Good Friday  
5<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Sunday

**Offering Prayer:**

Creator God,  
Take our Lenten offerings  
and make them radical;  
Grow their actions,  
enable their impact.  
As we prepare for tomorrow,  
may your will be done.

On earth as it is in heaven.  
**Amen.**

**Song: Garment Of Praise**

**Ch: Put on the garment of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Lift up your voice to God  
Praise with the Spirit  
And with understanding  
Oh magnify the Lord!**

**1. All you that mourn in Zion  
I have authority  
To appoint unto you in Zion  
Oil of joy that will set you free**

**Ch: Put on the garment of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Lift up your voice to God  
Praise with the Spirit  
And with understanding  
Oh magnify the Lord!**

**2. Lift up the hands that hang down  
Lift up the voice now still  
Give unto God continuous praise  
Sing forth from Zion's hill**

**Ch: Put on the garment of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Lift up your voice to God  
Praise with the Spirit  
And with understanding  
Oh magnify the Lord!**

**3. Sing to Yahweh, alleluia!  
Worship and praise our God  
Praise and adore Him**

**Bow down before Him  
Oh, magnify the Lord**

**Ch: Put on the garment of praise  
For the spirit of heaviness  
Lift up your voice to God  
Praise with the Spirit  
And with understanding  
Oh magnify the Lord!**

***Benediction & Blessing:***

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God,  
who is always seeking us,  
go now in peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers:**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Living Water by Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by John 4:5-42*

*Acknowledgement of Country: [pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au](http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au) - Using words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution*

*Other liturgy: Sanctified Art*